



Clearspring Middle School

PAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 1, 2022 @ 12:00pm

Present: Wendy Bergen, Sara Richards, Jasmine Dyck, Darlene Siemens, Cara Duerksen, Mel Fast, Kali Dyck, Merrilee Plett, Sherri Trinh

1. Adoption of Minutes from November 3, 2022
  - a. Moved by Darlene Siemens, 2nd by Mel Fast
  
2. Adoption of Agenda
  - a. Moved by Sara Richards 2nd by Kali Dyck
  
3. Treasurer Report – Melissa Thiessen
  - a. Financials
    - i. Current balance: \$2 029.80
    - ii. Profit lower this year due to inflation with PAC BBQ food prices vs. ticket sales
  
4. Principal Report – Merrilee Plett
  - a. Parent Teacher interviews -very well attended
  - b. Report cards -December 2, 4pm on Parent Portal
  - c. Umbrella Project -Mental Health monthly themes / skills to protect against obstacles - October (gratitude), November (mindfulness), December (intrinsic motivation) d. November/December =can be a hard time for some -Mental Health Check, viewed by counsellors, admin, homeroom teacher, in to understand the big picture and start conversations
  - e. Significant increase in absenteeism -much higher than pre-COVID for November f. Volleyball -great season for grade 7/8 -middle school philosophy of inclusion and player development. Big teams this year. 2 teams made it to provincials. Grade 5 starting soon g. Lunch clubs -increasing -Rubik's cube, coding, Mini Mac, choir, yearbook, CMS News h. Munch-a-lunch -more predictable schedule for December -with salad and possibly frozen yogurt/gelato. Communication -email, newsletter, social media, papers sent home
    - i. Comment from Jasmine (parent/vendor) -Paul is doing very well with running it i. Early Years Communication -school → parent / Senior Years -school → student / Middle Years needs to find a balance between
  - j. Christmas concerts -Grade 7/8 band -December 6 / grade 5 concert -December 14 k. PCAP -Pan Canadian Test -grade 8s -not all schools nationwide are selected, but CMS was! 1.5 hour test online to get a sense of learning -science focus, with Math/ELA in

early May. Not all grade 8 CMS classes will be chosen. Communication to happen in April.

5. Questions/Response to Principal Report

- a. Invitation to PAC members to respond/ask questions
  - i. What happened to exams? -phased out of middle school 15+ years ago - changed to year end assessments. Students could exempt, who needed the exam practice for university and others who struggled had to write an exam. Other ways to show learning have been developed.
  - ii. Can a question be added to the mental health survey around performance anxiety (tests, speeches, sports)?
  - iii. Can we get more information about the absenteeism form letter that is generated? -CMS Admin ask for the letter to be sent out a few times a year. For September it was for any student who missed 5 days or more (out of 16 days). Admin will add a handwritten note when they know of special circumstances (long illness, family vacation, working with counsellor/social worker for attendance).
  - iv. Why doesn't PAC do more fundraising? Early Years -more moms available / Middle Years -more working parents plus middle school students are recruited to help and they love it.

6. Christmas CMS Staff Appreciation – Tanya Penner

- a. Date: Monday, December 19 (Note: date has changed)
- b. Tanya will take care of getting the sign up opened up by December 6 and sent out to parents
- c. Depending on the items/donations that come in, will depend what we do for food
- d. Possible Menu:
  - i. Christmas dainties
  - ii. Cheese tray
  - iii. Veggie/Fruit tray
  - iv. Variety of hot/cold beverages
- e. Room for 1-2 volunteers
- f. Another teacher appreciation for early spring and end of June, plus PAC BBQ in June

7. Meeting Adjourned at 1pm

8. Next Meeting:

- a. January 12 @12:00