

Nootka PAC Meeting

6:30pm, January 13th, 2025

Nootka Library

Present: 13 members plus three guests (Jesse Bemister, Amrit Hundal, & Michael Meroniuk)

1. Introductions

2. Admin Update (Jesse Bemister)

- ! Staff update:
 - ! Nancy Inthapanya has returned to Nootka as an SSA, working 1:1 with one student.
 - ! Ms Ella and Mr Blackwell (Grade 4/5) will continue to teach in Mr. Haynes' classroom through Spring Break 2025.
- ! The Adopt-a-School Program has awarded Nootka a \$6000 grant to support hot lunch. This will allow Nootka trial a pay-what-you-can lunch with one of our typical suppliers in February. In the 2023/24 school year Nootka was able to use the Student Family Affordability Fund towards affordable hot lunch, but this is not available this year.
- ! Early Development Index and Middle-Years Development Index (EDI & MDI): These data collection surveys explore social and mental health and are a partnership between the VSB and UBC. Done in Kindergarten and Grade 6, survey results provide a sense of where needs are on a holistic level. Consent is done via a passive consent form sent home to parents.
- ! Accessible Playground: Jesse has reached out to a few people, including the VSB Facilities and Director of Inclusion, to discuss costs of an accessible playground. Nootka has been put on a list for future discussion by the VSB Facilities, but this will take some time and it was felt that we should start the process on our own. The woodchip surface poses a problem but is not insurmountable.
- ! Nootka spirit wear is available. This fundraiser could be done by the PAC in the future. Jesse noted that these could be purchased by the school through the Student Affordability Fund for those who cannot afford to purchase them directly.
- ! EthosLab (<https://ethoslab.ca/>) is holding a Science Magic show for K-3, a STEM magic workshop for Grade 4-5, and hosting a blackathon for Grade 6-7. These programs celebrate Black excellence in STEM.
- ! To celebrate Chinese New Year, there will be a Lion dance on Jan 27th including a presentation after school in the courtyard.
- ! Grade 7 to 8 transition is in full swing. Counsellors from Van Tech and Windermere visit Nootka classes to talk to about the transition.

3. Tech Needs (Michael Meroniuk)

- ! The 15 Dell laptops in the Future Play Room are not performing well. These are used heavily by Intermediate classes, particularly those in Grade 6 and 7, as they focus on music technology. Michael is hoping to purchase at least 10 new laptops to replace the Dells.
- ! Michael has applied for a grant from the Vancouver Sun for \$10,000.
- ! Michael will pull together a budget for what new computers would cost. All computers need to be purchased through the VSB, which impacts costs.
- ! Jesse noted that a lot of the technology in the school is reaching the end of its life. The school has essentially no budget for technology.
- ! The PAC's technology budget has been earmarked for projectors. Jesse and Mike could discuss this and the PAC could vote to re-allocate funding.
- ! Spring Fair proceeds could be earmarked for this. The PAC can also promote a direct drive through our newsletters and point people towards the PayPal account for donations.

4. Budget (Jenn O'Sullivan)

- Legacy fund has been allocated for projectors.
- \$4000 of the gaming grant of \$8600 has been allocated.
- \$8000 was donated to the school for dance. A 2-week long dance workshop has been planned for all students later this year.

5. Fundraiser Update (Nori McMichael)

- ! Purdy's Chocolates was a success, earning \$1100
- ! Possible future fundraisers include apparel and "a-thons" (read-a-thon, walk-a-thon).
- ! Sarah suggested buying a few shirts from the current Spirit Wear sale to re-sell at the Fair.
- ! Hot lunch is our biggest fundraiser.

6. School code of conduct (Amrit Hundal)

- Currently: Respect this place, Respect yourself, Respect others.
- BRAVE Campaign moving forward with a goal of finishing AVE this year.
- There have been Brave Leaders, providing leadership experience to older kids.
- Amrit and Victoria Horner are working on other plans.

7. Hot Lunch (Johanna Suttor-Doerksen & Sarah Smith)

- ! Johanna is considering using SignUp Genius to manage volunteer coordination as it allows people to know how many others have volunteered. It was suggested that Grade 7s could help with sorting and distribution, which was well received.
- ! Sarah is coordinating the vendors, MunchaLunch, and billing.
- ! Hot lunch is currently one day/week and a sliding scale will begin in February.
- ! \$4000 so far this year.

! Please send feedback to Sarah.

8. Large Events

! Dances

! Jacob asked if there was interest in holding dances this year. Grade 7 committee could hold a concession. This is of interest if there are volunteers – Sarah will find her notes from the Bunny Hop.

! Spring Fair:

! Erin is planning the fair, which will be held on June 7th.

! More updates at the next meeting.

! Grade 7s will run the concession.

! Other schools have the Lions Club come in.

9. Grade 7 Graduation Committee

! Planning will start soon.

! Grade 7s will run the concession at the Spring Fair and are looking for other fundraising opportunities.

10. DPAC working group for inclusive education.

! Report coming to DPAC later this month.

Next PAC meeting Feb 24th.