

MINUTES
Deep Cove PAC General Meeting
November 18, 2009

Present: Chris Swain – Co-President
Grace Owen – COPACS Representative
Lisa Coulson – CPF Representative
Christine Kenwood – Past President
Martine Lunke – Special Events Coordinator
Julie Newman – Secretary
4 Class Reps

Absent: Cindy Greenway – Parent Education
Karen Gartside – Co-President
Suzanne Demers – Newsletter Editor
Tara Houle - Treasurer

Admin. Present: Rob Carere – Principal

Admin. Absent: Shelley Hardcastle – Vice Principal

Co-President Chris Swain began the meeting with a motion to adopt the October GM minutes. Christine Kenwood seconded, and the motion carried.

Parent Education

Kelly McDonald of VIHA's Infectious Disease Control talked on the H1N1 virus:

- She strongly encourages getting children (and adults) vaccinated against H1N1 to keep the virus from spreading further. Even healthy persons who can themselves effectively fight the flu are a risk to others in the community, who may have poor outcomes should they become infected.
- Children are infectious for at least 7 days and become infectious 1 day before symptoms are present. H1N1 germs can survive on a dry surface up to 48 hours.
- Incubation period following exposure to the virus is 4-7 days before symptoms appear.

Executive Reports

Grace Owen – COPACS Rep.

- BCCPAC membership needs to be renewed by December 15.
- A write-up on Individual Learning Centres is available on the Saanich COPACS website.
- The French program taskforce review is complete.
- Will know by January 2010 whether SD63 will begin all-day kindergarten next school year.

- A letter to media addressing funding concerns has been composed jointly between SD 63's board chair, Saanich COPACS president, the president of Saanich Teacher's Association & the president of CUPE Local 441.

Christine Kenwood - Past President

- In a discussion about how to approach funding cuts to public education, Christine expressed concern – the job is too big for a few people to do alone. Rob encouraged those who are addressing this issue to pace themselves, as the funding situation is likely to remain an ongoing issue.
- Martine suggested that keeping parents informed regularly about the funding situation is still an important part of the process.
- Superintendent Kevin Elder has suggested looking for funding in different areas. One example is that private schools receive 35-50% of the per-student funding that public schools get per student. Pushing for legislation to reduce private school funding could account for a large chunk of money to be applied to public education.

Lisa Coulson – CPF Rep.

- CPF is sponsoring 2 gift baskets and auctioning 2 CPF memberships at the Christmas Fair silent auction.
- No new kindergarten parents have signed up for CPF memberships this year. It was suggested that CPF be explained & membership forms given at the kindergarten orientation. A reminder will be placed in the next newsletter with a CPF web link.
- CPF will pay approx. \$500 to fund last year's Maple Man presentation at Deep Cove.
- Mme. Hayes is the faculty rep. for CPF in our school.

Administration Report

Rob Carere – Principal

- Report cards are underway. All of them should be sent home by the end of the 1st week of December.
- The PAC-sponsored pottery program is going very well.
- Author Eric Wilson will be visiting the grade 4's & 5's.
- The Indoor Soccer Jamboree will be held at Parkland in a few weeks.
- Tower Fence will be replacing the wall separating the covered area & courtyard with a large gate. This will provide easier access when work on the courtyard begins.
- The PAC fridge does not work. Rob will see to having it taken away and a new one put in (PAC/school payment details to be worked out).

Business

1. Christmas Fair

- There are 350 **volunteer** shifts to fill for the fair. Class Reps, please encourage families to sign up now for 1-2 shifts, rather than waiting till the last minute!
- Rob suggested having some Gr. 5's carry signboards at drop-off, saying "Mom/Dad, have you signed up for the Christmas Fair yet?"

- Christine will check with Leslie regarding media advertising and will let Chris know.
- Still collecting used books & Emporium items.
- Chris will check into laser game details.
- Keeping germs under control at the Fair was brought up (specifically with H1N1 concerns). Rob will check if he can get a large supply of hand sanitizer from the school district. Costco is a second alternative.

2. Lesotho Update

- Gr. 4's & 5's are making sock monkeys to sell in the Lesotho Room at the Christmas Fair. Mrs. Menzies still needs more knee-high socks for the project; a collection box is in the hallway.
- Children will be sent home with "Have a Little Sole" coupons. The idea is to supply one pair of running shoes to a student at Motati School, in lieu of a Christmas present (\$25 per pair).
- The water pump at Motati School was stolen and needs to be replaced.
- Martine did a power point presentation for our students, showing them the old Motati school and the new school Deep Cove raised money for. The children were very enthusiastic.
- Peg Herbert, founder of Help Lesotho, took the king of Lesotho to Motati School. Pictures to follow!

3. Transportation to Bayside

- Some parents have approached Lisa Coulson about busing to Bayside. A bus leaves Deep Cove for Bayside around 7:30 a.m. Parents are expected to get their children to Deep Cove for this bus, but some parents find this difficult due to work schedules.
- Bus service is not likely to expand without increasing fees to parents.
- Do existing bus routes correspond to where users actually live – this question is worth exploring further.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Newman
Secretary