

MINUTES
Deep Cove PAC General Meeting
April 21, 2010

Present: Chris Swain – Co-President
Karen Gartside – Past President
Carol Nelson - Treasurer
Grace Owen – Parent Education Coordinator
Susan Fidyk – CPF Representative
Lesley MacLaughlin – Christmas Fair Coordinator
Julie Newman – Secretary
7 PAC members

Absent: Suzanne Demers – Co-President /Newsletter Editor
Martine Lunke – COPACS Representative
Vik Peck – CPF Representative
Lisa Coulson – CPF Representative

Admin. Present: Rob Carere – Principal

Admin. Absent: Shelley Hardcastle – Vice Principal

Co-President Chris Swain began the meeting by motioning to adopt the minutes from the February AGM. Grace Owen seconded and the motion carried.

Administration Report

Rob Carere – Principal

- Deep Cove did well at the district cross country meet today. The final meet is next week.
- All classes will participate in several sessions with Dansko, funded by the PAC.
- “Growing Schools” was held in the courtyard today (teaching about planting). The new courtyard provides an excellent outdoor learning area.
- Grades 4 & 5 recently benefited from an interactive presentation on government & the principles of democracy.
- French Immersion students have been participating in classroom theatre workshops.
- Students will release salmon into Tatlow Creek on April 27.
- Initial planning is underway for next year’s class organization, as it relates to the number of children enrolled & staff allotment.
- Track & field is upcoming.

Executive Reports

Chris Swain – Co-President

- Chris welcomed our new treasurer, Carol Nelson, who is working with Tara Houle as she transitions into her new role.

- Suzanne Demers and Martine Lunke are attending the school district budget meeting tonight.
- Suzanne will include photos of the executive in upcoming newsletters.

Grace Owen – Parent Ed. Coordinator

- Plans for next school year include two parent education evenings with guest speakers (one in October & one in the spring). In addition, 2 PAC meetings will include a parent ed. portion with Deep Cove teachers speaking on curriculum.
- Susan Fidyk has some suggestions for possible speakers. Please let Grace know if you have any additional topic/speaker suggestions.

Susan Fidyk – CPF Rep.

- The French Immersion Kindergarten – Grade 12 Gift Exchange takes place next week.

Business

Special Funding Requests (SFR's)

- The PAC has a surplus of funds, accumulated over the last several years from excellent fundraising. This surplus is over and above our contingency fund. Over the last couple of months, discussion has led to the proposal of a one-time opportunity for Special Funding Requests (separate from the SFR's voted on each October).
 - Chris Swain made a motion to approve one-time Special Funding Requests, to a maximum of \$15,000. Tara Houle seconded and the motion carried.
- Parents and staff may submit Special Funding Requests until the May 5 deadline.
- Rob Carere noted 3 initiatives he plans to submit as SFR's:
 - Technology (document cameras)
 - Recycling enclosures for hard plastics & compost
 - Covering expenses from phase 1 of the courtyard revitalization

School District Budget

- Martine Lunke has made up an informative budget info. newsletter.
- SD63 has to cut \$3.4 million from its 2010-11 operating budget. The school district website lists the possible areas from which the cuts will be taken (\$3.7 million in potential cuts are listed). Please provide your input on the SD63 website.
- Parents are also urged to contact MLA's to express your concerns.
- Martine Lunke, Tara Houle, Grace Owen, Karen Gartside & Christine Kenwood have joined together to address what we can do about budget shortfalls. Anyone who is interested in joining, please contact them!

School In Need

- In response to a Special Funding Request in October 2009, our PAC approved the donation of \$1,500 to a school in need. Karen Gartside proposed that we adopt Vic West Elementary as this year's recipient of the School In Need donation. Tara Houle seconded, and the motion carried.

- The question was raised as to whether we could support 2 schools for \$1,500 each. In order to support a second school, another Special Funding Request would need to be submitted by the May 5 deadline, and then voted on at the May general meeting.

Shelving Library Books

- Proceeds from our English book fair were taken in cash. The library has new books (earned from previous book fairs) that have not yet been processed & put on the shelves, because the school doesn't have funds to hire extra librarian time to complete the job.
- Karen Gartside proposed that the PAC pay Bobby Turner to process new books, using book fair proceeds. All were in agreement.
- The question was raised whether the PAC could use its \$15,000 designated for one-time Special Funding Requests to pay for more librarian time (in view of budget cutbacks anticipated next school year). Discussion followed on the dilemma surrounding the private sector (i.e., the PAC) funding public education.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Newman
Secretary