

MINUTES
Deep Cove PAC General Meeting
October 20, 2010

Present: Chris Swain – Co-President
Suzanne Demers – Co-President /Newsletter Editor
Karen Gartside – Past President
Grace Owen – Parent Education Coordinator
Lesley MacLaughlin – Christmas Fair Coordinator
Martine Lunke – COPACS Representative
Carol Nelson - Treasurer
Julie Newman – Secretary
18 Parents

Admin. Present: Rob Carere – Principal
Warren Hamm - Vice Principal

Co-President Chris Swain began the meeting by introducing the executive committee. Chris made a motion to adopt the minutes from the May general meeting. Past President Karen Gartside seconded, and the motion carried.

Administration Report

Rob Carere – Principal

- Thanked PAC executive for their work on behalf of the school and thanked parents for attending the general meeting.
- Introduced our new Vice Principal Warren Hamm, who also teaches an English grade 3 class.
- The school year is off to a great start. The Terry Fox Run was a success. Other activities underway include the D.A.R.E. program for grade 5's, crossing guard training, indoor soccer, Halloween safety training, field trips and fire drills.
- Deep Cove will have a special focus this year on expression through writing and art. An art/writing fair is planned for sometime in the spring to showcase the students' work.

Executive Reports

Chris Swain – Co-President

- Plans are well underway with organizing the silent auction for the Christmas fair. As well, 1st and 2nd raffle prizes are in place, with 3rd prize soon to come.
- A volunteer is needed to coordinate the Thrifty's Smile Card program. The PAC receives 5% back on all purchases made on Smile Cards designated for Deep Cove. Please contact Chris if you are interested in this volunteer position.

Suzanne Demers – Co-President/Newsletter Editor

- One PAC newsletter has already gone out this school year.
- Content for the November newsletter is due by Monday, October 25.
- Suggestions for the newsletter are welcome from all parents.

Martine Lunke – COPACS Rep.

- Martine explained the function of COPACS, which represents all PACs in the district.
- A completely new COPACS executive was recently elected; all 10 executive members are new to their role, bringing a fresh start. It includes parents representing elementary, middle & high schools from all over the district, ensuring well-rounded representation.
- A COPACS Parent Involvement night is scheduled for Monday, November 8 at Bayside Middle School from 7–9 p.m. The topic is “How can COPACS better support the PAC?”

Karen Gartside – Past President

- The English book fair is being held this week and looks to be successful, bringing in approximately \$1,000/day in the first couple of days. 60% of sales will be returned to our library. Guidelines will be sent home prior to the next book fair regarding parents sending money to school, children lending money, etc.
- Sally Williams is planning to set up a sensory room. Items needed are a loveseat, bean bag, lava lamp, rocking chair, a swing that could be attached to a ceiling beam and a carpet. The list will be included in the next newsletter.

Business

1. Special Funding Requests (SFR’s) - please refer to attached:

- 95% of special funding requests received were from staff. Initially, staff requests came to \$33,000+. Rob met with staff to determine their priorities. This accounts for several of the items listed as “nil”, as they were not deemed as highest priority at this time.
- Sophie Johannessen asked if some items that are approved do not need the full amount, could the extra funds be used elsewhere for an item that was considered nil, i.e., yoga club. It was agreed that this would be acceptable.
- Chris Swain motioned to adopt the Special Funding Requests as presented, with the following 2 conditions:
 - Any money saved out of the digital camera allowance will go towards a projector/document camera.
 - Any money saved in the activities/events category will go towards yoga club, to a total of \$350.
- Rob will request that staff purchase all SFR equipment/supplies by Christmas, to ensure the money approved is spent and to make accounting easier for Carol.
- Kelly Tomer asked Rob about the school’s operating budget as it relates to SFR’s.
 - Deep Cove School has an operating budget of approximately \$235,000, which includes equipment, supplies & CUPE staff (not teacher salaries).

- The PAC's help with SFRs frees up approximately \$20,000 from the operating budget, which can then be put towards additional educational assistant time, a valuable asset to our students.
- Shelley Rebneris mentioned that the Sidney Community Arts Council has given money to Kelset and Sidney Elementary in the past to support arts/dance. This could be another avenue to pursue.
- Lisa Coulson noted that CPF may provide reimbursement for some activities listed on the SFRs, such as funding for the Maple Man.

2. Christmas Fair:

- A letter explaining the Christmas fair will be sent to families of kindergartners and students new to the school this year.
- Coordinators are needed for the Book Sale, Café Noel, Emporium and North Pole.
- Sign-up sheets will be posted in early November. Venue coordinators will be asked if they would be willing to have grade 5 students help out at their stands.
- Collection boxes will be put in front of the office after Halloween (for books, DVDs, stuffies, small toys and Emporium items).
- Sidney Community Music School will provide live music in the corridor, busking for donations to Deep Cove PAC.

3. Lesotho:

- Anyone interested in the Lesotho committee, please contact Martine Lunke or Chelsea Comber. They will be meeting next week.
- Deep Cove recently received a parcel of booklets from Motati School. Our students will make booklets to send back to Motati. It was suggested that the booklets be made available for parents to see in the library or at a PAC meeting.
- We will once again run a shoe campaign this Christmas to provide shoes for children at Motati School.

4. School Planning Council: discussion tabled until the November meeting.

5. Hot Lunch: Susan Williams is our new hot lunch coordinator. She accompanied Chris Swain and Suzanne Demers to Healthy Edge, an Esquimalt-based kitchen that prepares healthy lunches for schools throughout the CRD. Their impression was very positive. More discussion will follow at the November general meeting. For details, visit healthyledge.ca.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Newman
Secretary