



Hillcrest Elementary School PAC

PAC Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 9:00AM

Execs in Attendance

President- Tanya Burnsta

Secretary- Natalie Malyk

Treasurer- Curt Frinksie

Fundraising Coordinator- Gena T

Social Media Coordinator- Emily Morton

Hot Lunch Coordinator- Karen Callaghan Cullen

DPAC Representative- Jenn Buholzer

Regrets

Volunteer Coordinator- Carleigh Banford

Grade 7 Committee Liaison- Leah Funk

Admin in Attendance

Principal - Annette Keeper

Total Voting Members in Attendance : 11

Hybrid - In-person & on Zoom

Meeting ID & Passcode: please see hillcrestpac.com for link

1. **Call to Order: 9:03AM**, motioned and passed
2. **Approval of the Agenda**, motioned and passed
3. **Approval of the Prior Meeting Minutes**, motioned and passed
4. **Principal/Vice Principal Reports**
 - Family Day on Monday, February 17th. School will not be in session
 - Pro-D Day on Friday, February 21st

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- Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday, February 26th
- Spring Break from March 17th-21st
- School closure March 24th-28th
- The 3 week gymnastics unit for all classes just wrapped up and the feedback was positive.
- Jumpstart is starting up again this week, and select Grade 4, 5 and 6's are attending. The aim is to try to offer it to children who might not have an opportunity to attend sports outside of school. The youth worker also is trying to encourage sportsmanship and a sense of belonging. It takes place Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 and it is sponsored by Canadian Tire and our community school partnership department.
- Our IESWs have been undergoing extra training after school over the last while, taking Low Arousal Training, and the team has completed Level 1 and 2, and are completing Level 3 this evening.
- Grade 7's are heading to Salish on Friday for course selection, and the parent night was last night. Ms. Van Niekirk and our principal went for a tour and a discussion of how Salish will be supporting our most vulnerable students, and were pleased with what they saw and heard.
- Our school currently has approximately 21 students receiving daily lunches through the Feeding Futures grant. The lunches are delivered daily and will be a combination of hot and cold lunches. One of our lunch supervisors oversees the distribution in addition to Ms. Van Niekirk. So far, the students really like it, and the program may be expanding next year to offering it to families who would like to pay for it as a convenience. The lunches are more nutritional than the snacks we receive from the firefighters, which is what we were using for students who don't have lunches or access to food.
- Regarding a formal Christmas concert : The staff have been talking about the parents' queries regarding having a Christmas concert and they believe a formal concert at Christmas can be incredibly challenging:
 - It requires usually at least 3 weeks of practice which takes away from instructional time – usually at the most stressful time for teachers, reporting time AND it is during the first term
 - It requires at least one staff member to take on the role of coordinator/planner – which is a lot of work ON TOP of their usual workload
 - They are seeing more children in schools who do not celebrate Christmas, and they then have to find alternate places and supervision for them during practices and rehearsals

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- Some staff are concerned about having 300 people coming into an enclosed space at the height of cold and flu season – several staff members are either immune-compromised themselves or have family that are vulnerable, so they feel it is “safer” to have a concert in the spring instead;
- When we have evening concerts, staff say about 50% of students don’t show up – which compromises the performances
- Staff question whether this is the best use of school and instructional time – only the youngest students seem excited by the prospect, while the older students mostly are not interested and this creates a lot of management issues rather than excitement or enjoyment. This is discouraging for everyone.

Despite these concerns, staff have agreed to have a vote every September, when all new staff are present, to decide if we will do a Christmas or a Spring concert that year. Some teachers may decide to do a performance for Christmas on their own, as opposed to a school-wide endeavour, we will see how this unfolds.

- We have definitely seen an uptick in aggressive, disruptive, and disrespectful behaviour both in classrooms and outside on the playground. Recently a letter was sent home to the parent community to make them aware of the issue, what staff are doing, and to ask parents to renew their efforts at home to help students understand the behavioural expectations. This is something the school is committed to improving at Hillcrest, as it is interrupting learning, making some students feel unsafe at school and it undermines the general positive learning atmosphere for everyone.




Along with this, there has been a lot of vandalism/graffiti happening in the washrooms. Likely this would be intermediate students, but it is becoming almost daily that admin is called to try to clean it up.

- We had an attempted break in at the school sometime this last weekend. We also have had what appears to be BB shots taken at some of our windows, particularly at the back of the school. If you see or hear anything concerning, please call the RCMP to report it.

- We are now waiting for our staffing entitlements and projections for next year. We will likely see the same level of population and staffing as this year – 21 divisions, about 460-470 students.

- We have two teachers who either are on leave or will be going on leave, and at this time we are having a difficult time finding replacements. Many new teachers and TTOCs do not want to accept the full time contract, which puts us in the position of having to book TTOCs on a day to day or week to week basis, which is not ideal. If anyone in the community knows any teachers

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who would be willing to work for a term (March 3- end of June), please ask them to contact Principal Annette Keeper.

- The school will be sending out the links for the parent survey in the next few days to Grade 4 and 7 parents. We hope to have a good participation level, as these opinions do go to both the district and school level, and they do take these opinions into consideration.
- This month, teachers will be assessing student progress for the second term. These reports will go home after Spring Break, and the next Early Dismissal will be March 8.




5. PAC Executive Reports

a. President's Report

i. Connect the Dots: Collaboration and Learning for Stronger PACs (Feb.8/25)

- PAC President, Tanya, and Hot Lunch coordinator, Karen, attended a PAC executive conference, hosted by Surrey DPAC.
- Attendees exchanged operational experiences as a PAC exec, their progress, thoughts and ideas, as well as discussing community engagement with other parents
- DPAC explained the importance of succession planning, PAC continuity, and important practices for proper treasury. The PAC 101 course was also available, where they talked about Constitution and Bylaws, what PAC does, how to apply for a gaming grant, etc.
- It is important to invite K parents to the AGM so they can meet the PAC and understand the meaning behind it so they are familiar with when and where they can volunteer or participate when the new school year comes. It is also important for more primary parents to attend meetings as decisions made will impact their children more so than the intermediates.
- a suggestion was brought up about running fundraisers that ties in with more inclusive holidays
- The superintendent of the school district held a presentation about the government funding budget being a major concern, so they are looking into other sources and grants that they can apply for.
- The speaker from the curriculum department brought up the changes in the school program studies.

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- The director of Instruction in Indigenous Learning spoke out their vision, goals, and how to increase the number of success stories with indigenous students in our school system.

- If any parents from the Hillcrest community would like the opportunity to attend, DPAC had plans of hosting another conference in the Fall, and all PAC executives are welcome to attend.

ii. Valentine's Day

- PAC volunteers will be delivering Paint-Your-Own cookie decorating kits to every class this Friday. Students with food allergies will be receiving an allergy-friendly alternative and an email with the ingredients was sent out to the parents by our school secretary

iii. Salish Scholarship

- A scholarship application link will be open after spring break and the information will be sent to the Salish career centre. All grade 12 Salish students who attended Hillcrest are eligible to apply. Application closes May 19th, 2025

b. Treasurer's Report

- Please see attachment 1
- PAC needs to apply for a BCE ID this year to be able to apply for the gaming grant for the following school year in April.

c. Hot Lunch Report

- McDonald's hot lunch is on Thursday, February 20th. Volunteers, please sign in at the office and meet in the multipurpose room at 11am
- Last day to order StrEATS on Tuesday, March 4th through Munch-A-Lunch

d. DPAC Report

- Please see attachment 2

e. Grade 7 Parents Report




- Krispy Kremes fundraiser is now open and available to purchase on Munch-A-Lunch
- Gaming grant has been approved to run an online 50/50. More details to come
- Grads will also be running a bottle drive this year

6. New Business

a. Review and vote for approval of requests for funds

- Grade 7 year end trip to Playland requires **\$800** for bus transportation and would like to request for funding through PAC general funds. 8 votes in favour, passed with majority
- **\$1000** for Art Starts, requested by Principal Annette Keeper, as per previous PAC meeting. All votes in favour, passed unanimously

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- **\$935 + tax** to replace volleyball standards, as discussed in January PAC meeting. All votes in favour, passed unanimously

b. Spring fundraiser options

- Suggestions are as follow :

- Meridian Meats, in lieu of Neufelds in spring
- Planter baskets in April by Davan Greenhouses. Send out notification early to remind them to consider supporting the Hillcrest community before purchasing from elsewhere
- Pedalheads and First Aid Kits are also good candidates for passive fundraisers

7. Open Discussion



- The playground committee feels like they have hit a wall with their fundraisers. A lot of effort has been put in with not a lot of profit. The committee has reached out to Mr. Stewart, who previously applied for grants to confirm which ones they were and is anticipating a response. The school needs to hit a certain threshold in order to be able to apply for certain grants, so a more profitable fundraiser, such as raffling off a trip to Mexico, might be more ideal. If any families in the community have resources they are able to donate as raffle items or if they have any leads to businesses, please reach out to the PAC committee or the Playground committee.

- We are looking for :
 - tickets to sports events, such as BC Lions tickets, Canucks
 - dining experiences
 - concert tickets
 - Expedia travel vouchers or equivalent
 - Photoshoot experience
 - Etcetera

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9th, 2025 @ 7:00PM (Online)

9. Adjournment: 10:00AM

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