

 **Parent Advisory Committee**

**Minutes from October 11th, 2023**

1. Meeting called to order 9:09 am
2. Attendance: (teacher represented)
* (Treasurer) Dana Roch ~ Mrs. Doeleman
* (Chair) Vanessa Bullock ~ Mrs. Page, Mrs. Miller, & Mrs. Doeleman
* (Secretary) Dana Dodge ~ Mrs. Vandenberghe, Mrs. Candace Ivanco, Mrs. Miller & Mrs. Gardner
* (Vice Chair) Lauriane Mehrer ~ Ms. Smith & Mr. Blick
* (D-PAC Rep. & Breakfast Coordinator) Gelina Berg ~ Mrs. Feragotti
* Jenni Hunter ~ Mrs. Feragotti, Mrs. Miller & Mrs. Gardner
* Holly Dressel ~ Mrs. Cote, Mrs. Page, & Mrs. Candace Ivanko
* Leanne Winsor ~ Mr. Blick
* Sally Blick ~ Ms., Smith
* Brielle Bagnoli ~ Mrs. Miller
* Tara Sandoval ~ Mr. Percival
* Darryl Adams & Tanya Christenson (Staff)
1. Motion to approve agenda M (Holly)/S(Dana. D)
2. Motion to approve past minutes M (Gelina)/S(Lauriane)
3. ARES PAC FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER

General Account: Funds on hand as of August 31, 2023 $25,562.59 Expenditures: Blue Sky Interpretive Centre $100.00 Service Charges (September) $4.00 Total Expenditures: $104.00 Revenue: No Revenue this Month $0.00 Total Revenue: $0.00 Funds available as of September 30, 2023 $25,458.59 \*\*ARES PAC FLOAT held at the school $150.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gaming Account: Funds on hand as of August 31, 2023 is $395.65 Expenditures: No Expenditures this Month Total Expenditures: $0.00 Funds available as of September 30, 2023 is $395.65 Received letter for Gaming Grant –just waiting for it to be deposited -$5840.00 -------\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising Committee (monies held in General Account) Funds raised as of September 30, 2023 $1,227.44 (designated for playground) Eco-Space (monies held in General Account) Funds available as of September 30, 2023 $716.33 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Breakfast Program (School-Based Account) Account Balance as of August 31, 2023 $15,030.20. Expenditures: Dana Roch-Breakfast Supplies-$ 85.67 Total Expenditures: $85.67 Revenue: Donation Credit Union $1000.00 Total Revenue: $1000.00 Funds Available of September 30, 2023 $15,944.53

$2,500 anonymous donation was made to ARES to put towards the breakfast program.

Financial Report approved M (Dana.D)/S(Holly)

6**.** Principal’s Report

We have completed our First month of school and it was a busy month to say the least. We have been fortunate to have such a dedicated parent group and were able to get our breakfast club up and running after the second week of school. The students are thankful for this program and the difference it makes in our school and our children’s lives is massive. Over the month we had our first school wide community challenge in building 14 scarecrows that represented each of the 14 classes. These scarecrows were displayed at the Corn Roast and Community Picnic and were great conversation starters. During the picnic and corn roast we welcomed our school families and happily ate 200 pieces of corn. A huge thanks to Riehl’s Farm for their generous donation. To finish the month, we honored Residential School Survivors with our annual Orange Shirt Day. This year we continued with our theme of being visible with our community walk, listened to the Eagle Bear Spirit Drum Crew from the Lower Kootenay Band, and officially opened our Reconciliation Garden with a new sign and entrance parallel to the new playground. Lastly, we have welcomed our newest Staff Member to our ARES team. Ms. Candace Ivanco will be teaching the grade 4/5 class for the remainder of the year. Ms. Candace has most recently been working in grade 3/4 in various schools in Cranbrook and is looking forward to this yearlong opportunity. We are extremely thankful for the work Amanda Leblanc did with the class for the first four weeks and we know the class will miss her, but also embrace their new teacher.

7. Discussion Items:

1. Funding request:
* $477 Mrs. Hamm & Ms. Sonntag May 24th, Wildlife Centre $9 per student. approved M (Sally)/S(Tara) Funds will come out of gaming account.
* $1027 CAN ($740USD) Mrs. Hamm Musical License & materials, for April 19th & 20th show (ongoing rehearsals prior) Approved M(Gelina)/S(Leanne) Funds will come out of gaming account.
1. Breakfast Program:
	* Feeding Futures mandate of healthier eating is underway, many will notice slight menu changes, such as implementing a 60% whole wheat requirement.
	* If you are interested in volunteering, there is an A.R.E.S. Breakfast Program Facebook messenger group we would be happy to add you to.
	* PAC was looking for someone to pick up Kootenay Meadows milk, Holly has graciously volunteered to take on that task Tuesdays or Wednesdays.
	* Darryl has set up an E.A. who will do some grocery shopping and/or food prep. (2.5 hours above regular hours)

c) Hot Lunch VS Funding Ideas ~ All ideas welcome!

* Gelina is working on getting an email to forward concerns/complaints to. The mandate is going off the Canada food guide, which is outdated, and that is where a lot of the concerns derive.
* Due to the new cap on the mark-up for hot lunches, the frequency will decline. To keep things fun for the kids PAC said perhaps once per month we would do a multigrain Panago pizza option, PAC has weighed the options and feels getting burnt out for such little profit is not in our best interest.
* Dana R volunteered to speak with Vern from Panago for Mid November hot lunch options.

d) Lunch time clubs will start open registration, Lauriane volunteered to chaperone a book club in the school library, it will be a pre-registered event and all adults must be screened.

8. D-PAC

PAC Collaboration Meeting: ARES x CLES Oct 4, 2023 Attendees: Christy Fell - CLES PAC Chair, Vanessa Bullock - ARES PAC Chair, Gelina Berg - ARES DPAC Rep Discussion items below. New nutrition guidelines & markup restrictions - Are we at SD8 alone in rolling this out? Per Christy Kelowna and Prince George districts are currently not aware of, possibly not Lower Mainland → how to find out? ACTION: Gelina - email Nadiya and/ or ask at next DPAC meeting (Oct 19) - Christy looked for clarity from DPAC & BCCPAC around the program → DPAC alluded to the purpose being phasing out food as a fundraising option; BCCPAC has not yet replied ACTION: Christy - update if/ when gets a reply from BCCPAC ACTION: Gelina - can bring any Qs to next DPAC meeting (Oct 19) - Parents as a general group do not appear aware of what has changed and what the new guidelines are (nutrition and markup cap/ fundraising limitation) → do our PACs as a group feel that this communication is something that would help/ should be done? ACTION: Chairs - discuss at next PAC mtg, if agreement then to (1) ask Principals if they can send out to inform parents or (2) draft an email to parents to send out from PAC - 20% mark-up restriction causing questions of whether to continue hot lunch programs or not → who higher up in the chain can we talk to? Kelly? Deanna (SD8 Director of Instruction - Inclusive Education), Superintendent? Direct to Ministry?; Christy has not found clarity through DPAC and no reply through BCCPAC. ACTION: Gelina - start process reach out to Kelly, then Deanna, then Superintendent, then Ministry Hot lunch - “Round-up donation” to PAC Fundraising option on hot lunch order form allowed? (e.g. allowed pizza slice charge is $2.57, can parents pay $3 if they choose, with the additional $0.43 going to general fundraising effort?) → do we need to find out if PACs can directly ask for parent donations first? ACTION: Vanessa - discuss at next ARES PAC meeting (Oct 11) - CLES: email has been drafted to inform parents that program will not be rolling out due to lack of volunteers and new ministry restrictions → message yet to be approved by CLES Principal (Jennifer Adams) ACTION: Christy - let Vanessa know what outcome of email is - discussion around how to prevent volunteer burnout, use resources wisely for best ‘return on investment’ (e.g. one hot lunch uses 4 volunteers x 2-4 hours day-of, another number of hours to prepare tallies, communicate info to vendor, count $ ahead of time → used to be able to raise a lot of funds with hot lunches, with new 20% cap, for ex. a pizza 1 lunch at ARES will make less than half of what it used to, ~$170) → CLES has already decided to put hot lunches on hold, should ARES consider same? Stepping back up front preventatively and spending time focusing on other ways to engage parents and fundraise for $ for field trips etc. ACTION: Vanessa - discuss at next ARES PAC meeting (Oct 11) Breakfast program - CLES to share menu with ARES ACTION: Christy - send to Gelina - CLES - where does funding come from? Was PC Grant applied for by someone else? ACTION: Christy - find out and let Vanessa know - if not through PC Charity grant then Vanessa will forward this information - CLES - grocery shopping done by staff using the 2.5h per week newly allotted through Feeding Futures → can ARES use this resource for their program? ACTION: Vanessa - discuss with ARES Principal (Darryl Adams) Food Hub donations - CV Food Action Coalition offered food donations (contact: Tanya Wall) ACTION: Vanessa - connect and find out more; available to all schools? FoodSafe - $33 option available per Christy; Gelina found $88 as lowest ACTION: Christy - send information on lower priced option to Vanessa Non-food fundraising - Winlaw & Brent Kennedy doing well, per DPAC chair, Natalia → Look to them for ideas? - Children’s Good As New sale - ++ successful in Prince George per Christy,? one of Winlaw/Brent Kennedy successes (Vanessa) ACTION: Christy - ask Prince George PAC friends re: complete logistics ACTION: Vanessa - bring up at next ARES PAC meeting (Oct 11) for discussion Parental engagement in PAC - Do parents know what PACs do? Consider: bulleted list email of what purpose is and what it isn’t (e.g. venting against Ministry policies etc that PAC cannot help on); additionally, what it means if there is no PAC (e.g. field trip costs funded independently by each parent) → SD8 AP1104 1.5 “To assist parents, principals will facilitate, encourage, and promote involvement in and awareness of PACs.” ACTION: Chairs - discuss at next PAC meeting 2 Collaboration with other PACs - ‘Family of schools’ approach e.g. for a united front in asking for restaurant provision of hot lunch options per new guidelines, to ensure local businesses aren’t being bombarded, to help prevent overlap of events which could ultimately improve community support, possibly for larger joint fundraising efforts ACTION: Chairs - discuss possibility at next PAC meetings - Connect with other two school PACs: KRSS - ARES has Jennifer Felitsyn’s contact (treasurer); Erickson - Vanessa has chair contact ACTION: Vanessa & Gelina - reach out to Erickson & KRSS, respectively - Possible collaboration fundraiser: Children’s Good As New sale (see Non-food fundraising) Constitution - ARES’ in process, Canyon’s completed last year but Christy feels it needs work ACTION: Vanessa - share most recent ARES Constitution with Christy - Christy - question about PAC Quorum (minimum number of people to vote) - could it possibly mean at least three people per meeting to allow for a majority vote? If so, even if not a member of executive, any parent, rotating or same each time, would work → how to find out? Has asked DPAC and not received answer. Ask other PACs? ACTION: Gelina - get Jennifer F’s contact for Christy BCCPAC - what does paying this membership provide us? ACTION: Gelina - email DPAC rep (Natalia) and/or ask at next DPAC meeting (Oct 19)

9.Open Discussion

* Questions arose around fundraising; a side committee will be started. Gelina, Vanessa, Leanne, and Holly will form this committee, please reach out if you would also like to partake in this side committee. (Topics of school wide garage sale ex.)
* Next meeting Wednesday November 8th @ 9:00 am Art Room

10. 10:07 am meeting adjourned.

A.R.E.S P.A.C. Meetings in advance: (always second Wednesday of Month) Dec 13th, Jan 10th, Feb 14th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, & June 12th.