

ÉCOLE PAULINE JOHNSON PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 10th, 2023 6:30pm-8:30pm

Present: Claudia Chavez, Barry Nguyen, Rowena Veylan, Fatemeh Noorhukhuh, Sarah Yassami, Rodrigo G de Queved, Nikolai Hungr, Susie Joe Droner, Mohsen Haghbin, Stephen Scali, Reza Saeli, Reza Saeli, Diego Arroyo, Rosharak Sarkardeh, Sabham Shamsoketabi, Sara Alavi, Mark van Marksfield, Robin Turnhill, Luiza Alton, Kelly McIntyre, Lan Want, Melanie Mzao, Davinder Daraee, Bartek Kienc, Michelle Morgan, Tayo Adeniyi, Tara Zielinski, Olivia Zishiri, Devika Ahuja, Cindy Stevenson, Sarah Yosami

1. **Welcome and call to order:** Claudia Chavez and Barry Nguyen

Motion: 1st: Bartek Kienc, 2nd: Michelle Morgan

Approve last meetings minutes: Claudia Chavez and Barry Nguyen

Motion: 1st, Bartek Kienc, 2nd, Sarah Yosami

Introduction: Claudia and Barry

- i. Invitation for parents to join in and become more involved, lots of volunteer opportunities
- ii. Review of the PJ PAC website <https://www.ecolepjpac.com/>: volunteer opportunities, new events, financials, past meeting minutes.
- iii. The new Whatsapp group - we hope parents are using it and having a good experience.
- iv. Claudia: What is PAC and who are we?
 1. We are all part of the PAC.
 2. What do we do? We advise and communicate. We are your voice. Kudos, requests, feedback. We are liaising with the admin of the school. The principle and all the way to the district. We are here to listen to you, and that's what we want to do.
- v. Introduced Executive

2. **Principle's Report:** Tara Zielinski

1. Welcome back!

2. New and exciting times at PJ!

- Start-up – almost back to 'normal'!
 - Start up went really well. Off to a great start.
- School Organization: 409 students attending PJ
- 18 Divisions/Classes
 - There is limited room at Sentinel, so PJ has to be conscious of enrolment.
 - Some families had to leave to commitments in other countries (they couldn't move during covid, so now they have been able to).

- Around 75 new families to PJ.
- Staffing
 - There is always ongoing change; and the task is to find the **right** replacements.
 - We are in a great district. The highest performing in North America. The highest graduation rates in North America.
 - We have 3 new Teacher Candidates from UBC; they know we have very high expectations.
 - Recruitment and retention is ongoing. Creative and innovative ideas are coming forward so that we are getting the very best.
 - Staffing changes do happen and are unavoidable, but we are actively pursuing the very best people to keep the standards very high.
- Staff Illness and Protocols: Temporary Teacher on call (TTOCs) and patience
 - TTOC's are also hired to a very high standard.
 - Thank you for your understanding and patience when we have TTOC's.
 - Tara and Cindy support TTOC's and students to have a successful day in teachers' absence.

3. Curriculum Night

- Your feedback is welcome – please email Mme Zielinski.

4. Staying Positive and Connected

- It is so great to see people connecting in person again making connections here and, in the community.
- For the students it is positive because of meeting many people to learn different perspectives which contributes to them becoming critical thinkers.
- Please read through the e-bulletin and PJ online calendar/update.
 - Please do your due diligence to check these modalities to answer any questions you may have.
 - All of the information parents need is sent out via our communication formats.
 - School Messenger
 - PAC Website
- Respect and Trust
 - Our staff care deeply. We are always coming from a place of open-mindedness, equality, and diversity.
 - Please ask questions to teachers in a kind and respectful way.
 - Sometimes kids' information may be inaccurate.
 - Please check with staff first regarding incidents at school.
 - Patience and respect are necessary for open and thoughtful communication.
- Parent Invites and Assemblies
 - Assemblies will be separate: primary and intermediate. There will be many opportunities for parents to attend.
 - There will be an open house in November; we are embracing opportunities to welcome parents into the school as much as possible to experience what it is like here during the school day.

- New parent liaison
 - This will be organised by PAC Executive
- International Celebrations and Cultural Education Opportunities
 - Suggestions are welcome; parents to liaise with Tara and the PAC Executive
- Principal's Corner – Nov 8, Dec 8 (12 noon, virtual)
 - This is often exploring more high-level educational work that administrators and teachers do.
 - Talks will be about topics that give parents a bigger lens into educational issues and developments that affect your children.

5. Miscellaneous

- Budget – thank you for Class Funds to make special projects possible!
- Terry Fox – thank you for the snacks and support!

6. FSAs (Foundation Skills Assessment)

- Grade 4 and 7 only (provincially; grade 9).
- Not for the report card, but the results do guide our instruction of your children.

7. Questions?

3. Financials: Bartek Kienc

- Line by line review and explanation of the budget.
 - We are currently closing off the previous school year budget and will provide a fresh budget document online soon. Waiting on a few updates on school spending.
 - Review of balance sheet.
- *both documents posted online before the meeting.

4. Our PAC website: Claudia Chavez

-A walk through of the PJ PAC website and upcoming events

5. PJ Park: Michelle Morgan

- Parent involvement is so important and makes such a big difference
- The PJ park is a flagship park within West Vancouver and went through a major transformation a few years ago. Parents fundraised a considerable amount to turn a muddy hill into what we have now which includes:
a beautiful amphitheatre, an indigenous healing circle, a wetland environment which has been an opportunity for education of wetlands and more
- The new Kindergarten area is new and is nature-inspired and designed thoughtfully whereas it was concrete before
- Students take pride in these areas when they are involved in the clean ups and learn more about what it takes to maintain them
- The district maintains these areas minimally, so it is up to the parents to keep these areas functioning and beautiful. Please attend the PJ Park clean ups - they are always posted in the newsletter and in the calendar. They are a lot of fun and the kids get involved as well. We need dads too!

6. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC): Tayo Adeniyi,

- Tayo is the liaison between the PJ PAC and the west van district. She brings info back from the district to the PJ PAC, and vice versa.
- The DPAC is comprised of representatives from all of the schools in West Van

- It is great for sharing best practice ideas
- ANY parent can attend a DPAC meeting

7. Canadian Parents for French (CPF): Tara Zielinski

- The Canadian Parents for French now has a West Vancouver chapter
- Tara and the PAC Executive work closely with them
- To find out more visit <https://bc-yk.cpf.ca/en/>

8. Meeting close: Claudia Chavez

- How do you become involved?
 - Please let us know if you are interested!
 - Volunteer area on the website
 - We want to hear from you!
 - We need more dads!

9. Motion to adjourn: 1st Rowena Veylan, 2nd: Robin Turnhill

Second Part of the Evening: Wine and Cheese

Special Presentation from Mme Cindy Stevenson: Supporting Your French Immersion Student from Home

[PAC Presentation - Mme Stevenson - PJ 2022 \(seureserver.net\)](#)