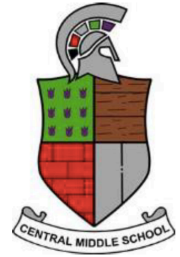


# École Intermédiaire CENTRAL Middle School PAC

## October 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 Meeting Minutes – 7pm



Attendance: 15 parents, Gillian Braun, Tania Singh

### 1. Welcome and attendance

- Affirm executive members:  
:Jessica PAC chair, Kris -Treasurer, Sherry- Vice Chair, Laurel- Member at Large, Kristine- Secretary, Chandrima- Member at Large, Edan- Member at Large ‘  
:Please let Jessica know if you would like to be a Member at Large: email or speak to her in person
- Declaration of quorum-  
Jessica proposed 7 is quorum – Edan 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote: unanimous for.

### 2. Approval of September minutes and October agenda

Approved – unanimous, no additions to Sept. minutes

### 3. Introduce Guests/Presenters

- GVTA Winona parent, Pres. of GVTA, presenting the GVTA position with bargaining. The contract ran out on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. They are working with the old contract until a new contract is reached.
  - Teacher shortage – Nov 2016 – language for class sizes back in the agreement, 500 failure to fill (no-one to fill) teacher absences in 2018/2019 school year. Specialized programs are suffering. 100 classes being taught by people on letters on permission, not teachers.
  - Education funding is issue – lowest funding in the country. 1800 less than average per student. Teacher salary is 9<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 10 provinces. Huge impact on French Immersion and other special programs due to cost of living in this province and recruitment and retention. Learning support teachers, Librarians are so important.
  - Workload – local variation in provincial language in the School Act for class size and ratios. Set a provincial standard for everyone’s workload. Provincial wants to do an averaging – This would be good for some but it would bring Victoria down as Victoria has excellent workload class sizes and ratios. GVTA wants to bring all schools up to Victoria’s standard.
  - GVTA asks families for their support. Reach out to your MLA’s - Carole James, Rob Fleming, John Horgan,
  - Support us on Social Media
  - Send letters through the PAC
- Career fair & Financial Literacy- Sherry, PAC exec member
  - Hands on experience Lifeskills. Financial Literacy. Educate children early. Allowance- struggle with kids with on what they should earn for their “work”.
  - There are a number of programs available for building financial management skills, save, invest, small budget. One is “Dollars with Sense” – kids start saving to use money towards education or whatever goal they choose. Interaction with teachers and support from parent volunteers.

- Gain hands on experience: Craft Fair, entrepreneurial - handout presented
  - Career Day – introduce to different careers in the community. Role modeling – workshop.
  - Gillian, Principal stated that there are programs in the system. Pathways and partnerships with the administration and teachers. There is a Career Day for the grade 8's and career education. Gillian will connect Sherry with these programs in the school and district
  - Craft Fair – lunch time session, inclusion dealing with cash
- French Immersion Program at Central – Angela George Jay PAC pres, Central parent
    - Teacher shortage – evident in LFI – advocating for inner city school – district
      - Son is in LFI – she and a group of parents fought for it last year. For her son's Education Plan, she feels its valuable to read and write English first but he would like to be Prime Minister. She wants to give him the chance to be allowed to learn French in his catchment.
      - Taking LFI out of Central, means in a bilingual country, the board is taking away access to all kids, especially the marginalized ones. Spoke to the district at the Meeting Monday Oct 7<sup>th</sup> regarding the importance of the program at Central. The other advocates were from two other Central catchment schools.
      - At this time, there are 26 families who are in catchment, who have signed up and guaranteed that their child will come to the program in 2020-21
      - The issue with overcrowding was the argument for closing down the program. The parents argued that the district was counting the catchment kids twice. That there was actual space. This argument won at Cedar Hill first, and then Central.
      - Last June the District called a Climate Emergency – how does having to drive our kids to Shoreline or Landsdown help when we can walk to Central – especially for the marginalized families with no access to this type of transportation.
      - There are representatives meeting with all of the PACS of the grade 5 students affected. Support through social media and word of mouth is very important.
      - By the proposed closures of Cedar Hill and Central LFI last year, the board was essentially decreasing the amount of seats. Their argument was that the numbers were dwindling. The parents of Central and Cedar Hill students proved them wrong.
      - There is a huge issue finding French teachers in the district and perhaps this was the reason for the closure. Whatever the reason, spread the word. Advocates will be at the school board meetings until the issue is resolved.

#### 4. Reports

- Chair - nothing to report at this time
- Treasurer
  - See the attached budget- gaming money came in at a little less than expected.
  - the PAC has decided to honour the 827.46 for Athletic equipment even though the teacher requesting it did not follow protocol – Gillian stated that it is working out well as each class has own supply and has to take responsibility by signing out the equipment.

- Water fountain – one left to go on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Rotary grant for one and PAC paid for second one last year) :Kris proposes the PAC pays for the 3<sup>rd</sup> one as outlined in the budget, Jessica 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote: unanimous for
  - Move fiscal year end from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>: Kris propose, Angela 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vote-unanimous for.
  - PAC gives each classroom \$100.00 for start up – all classes, DIV's and other
  - VOTE on Budget – Kris proposes to accept the budget, Jessica 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vote: unanimous for
- Principal/Vice Principal
    - Tania Singh: parent education nights - the Learning Support teachers want to run some parent learning nights after lots of discussion with the Central community. They would like to do something interactive as staff are willing to share their expertise. Learning support teachers understand how we support our families not just the kids. They would like to do a survey of the community for topics – looking at the practical ones such as “How to use Google Tools”
    - Gillian – very busy month in October – Parent teacher interviews Wed-Thurs with early dismissal. Music program to Camp Pringle. Book Talk: happening at VIC High, 1:20-2:20 on Friday with author “Alex A.” photo retakes and the Mock Student Vote
    - Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Curriculum completion day – go home early at 1:21, those who need to complete the work or need extra support stay behind. Handout coming home a few days before to let you know if your child is eligible to leave early.
    - Parent Education Math night – Tues Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Grade 6 Immunizations Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Looking for volunteers. Please contact Carrie, vice principle through email.
    - Concerns around the school – car vs kids on Fort Street. Closed entrance and exit for 20 min of each day and this seems to have solved the issue of cars in the parking lot with kids on bikes . Kids are riding in packs of 3 and 4 going down Moss Street. Gillian asks that parents have discussions with their kids about bike safety.
    - Climate Change – lots of food waste here. What can do as individuals and understand food waste and food security. Being respectful of the food that is provided.
    - Spirit wear order coming up. Great way to bring community together. Idea of how we act outside of the school on sport, music and field trips – all part of Central.

## 5. Unfinished Business & Updates

- Volunteer efforts and communication
  - Evolving and ongoing process– emails are coming? Group stated: Yes.
- PAC Poster needs updating
  - Files from last year, edit, reprint and post. Chandrima and Jessica will work on.
- Music PAC
  - Lauren’s Report: PAC has been dactive for 8 years, no scheduled meeting dates, usually 8-9 attendees, have about \$20,000, hold 4 concerts a year, sell baked

goods and samosas at all of their concerts and make between 800-900 per concert. "Musical Desserts" in Feb with Silent Auction biggest fundraiser. Not going to further meetings because grandson is not in music. Fundraiser – thrifty cards, poinsettias, Christmas tree chipping, coffee fundraiser, hanging baskets for mother's day. Kids get credit for sales – into their own account, offset own costs of band trips. Super Saturday – kids just starting out, go out and learn about their instrument intro lesson – about 200 + students in the music program.

[CentralMusicNews@gmail.com](mailto:CentralMusicNews@gmail.com) to contact the music program.

- Indigenous Night
  - Student leaders from Indigenous leadership group ran the event , 50 family members, John Flash one man band, drumming, lots of food, great event on Orange Shirt Day

## 6. New Business

- Upcoming Events
  - Parent Education Nights
    - October 22, 2019 : Math Night – PAC members to bring cookies
    - Christmas Craft Fair – December 7, 2019
  - Team approach – had a one hour run through just before this meeting with 7 volunteers, need parent volunteers – want to be involved, please contact Jessica need volunteers for Concession, entry table, bake sale. Set up a sign-up genius page for tasks etc.
    - Staff Appreciation – December 13, 2019 tabled for next meeting
    - Holiday Hampers - tabled for next meeting
- Communication with parents re: sports, Central Weekly, lunch program, enrichment, etc...
  - Request that Central Weekly would be a lot more useful on Friday – we acknowledge that it is one person's task – we are willing to assist with putting together. Feel like it is a rushed document – bit more head's up information.
  - Daily Announcements – go on website and they are available there.
- VPAC Report
  - Inclusion a big issue, EA shortages, inclusivity spaces, de-escalation areas, many voices from all schools speaking to these issues, Inclusion Committee – push continuing the stories forward to the board – every school just signs up and goes – lots more stories coming from elementary level than middle.
    - Gillian – Central has a sensory room, learning centre is available when students have trouble self regulating- meet with a Intensive Behavior Specialist, sometimes they don't want to go – take a "where does that child need to be" support style. There are organized spaces but also cafeteria. We can always advocate for more.
    - Website school cash online button – donate to school get a charitable receipt, it goes into a district account – PAC is not alerted when funds donated– this is not school cash online – treasures asking admin if there have been donations. PAC has to apply to use it. Just to be aware that it exists and there is a process.

7. Date of next meeting: **November 12, 2019**
8. Adjournment *8:30pm*