



CANYON FALLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

C/O 1211 FROST ROAD, KELOWNA BC, V1W 5M1

Minutes of CMS PAC Meeting

Date: September 21, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom following Roberts Rules 11th Edition – recording available on the CMS website

Call to Order at 7:06 pm

1. **Adoption of Agenda** – moved by Tanya Cunanan, seconded by Kendal Shaw
2. **Administration Update** – Jim Laird and Ryan Ward
 - Thank you* – to all parents for your support and understanding during this challenging time
 - 2020/21 Goals* – continue building our communities, work on personalized learning, a modified Canyon Cup, focus on student-centered and social-emotional learning
 - COVID Safety* – continue to encourage students to wear masks when not in classrooms, parents and students please don't congregate on school grounds
 - Intramural Sports* – currently on hold to try to keep students with their cohorts
 - Distance Learning* – offered by the district for families not wanting to send their children to school just yet, only about 20 students have signed up
 - Road Safety* – encourage students to use sidewalks and crosswalks, parents please don't drive into the cul-de-sac unless absolutely necessary to keep traffic moving
 - Communications* – watch for the WAAG every week, Canyon Crew videos will be included in the WAAG, teacher conferences will be done online – face-to-face meetings may be possible by appointment
 - Alternative Reporting* – we will be using the same proficiency scale as last year
 - Early Dismissal* – all SD23 will be having early dismissal October 1st and 2nd
 - Logo* – the school logo has been unveiled, this was a cooperative effort between students, staff and parents

3. **President's Report** – Tanya Cunanan

Thank you to the Executive and all our volunteers last year, it was a great start for the PAC. This year we will be focusing on fundraising; thank you Daniela for organizing the first fundraiser, Basil Cooper Photos, which is nearly sold out. We are waiting to hear when we can start Hot Lunch again, the committee is eager and ready to go. In an effort to get to know the new teachers, since we can't visit school in person, we will be featuring a "Teacher of the Week" on our PAC Facebook page. It's been great to see the students adapting to their new normal, thanks to the teachers and staff for their guidance.

4. **Treasurer's Report** – Kendal Shaw

For the 2019/2020 school year - Hot Lunch brought in \$9,300 in profit; other various fundraisers also brought in \$900; and we received a gaming grant of \$8,700. Using the staff's wish list we have spent all but \$1,600 of these funds. We estimate our gaming grant for 2020/2021 will be approximately \$12,000. Still lots of items on the wish list to fund.

Treasurer's Report attached

Motion to approve - moved by Daniela Hamm, seconded by Inga Wheeler

5. **Fundraising**

Basil Cooper Family/Pet Photo Sessions – only 1 spot remains, session are in September and October at either Dilworth Mountain or Tug Boat Beach

Mom's Pantry – online shopping for household pantry items such as spices, cookie dough, frozen foods, teas, beans and more – order forms and dates coming soon

Spirit Wear – hoodies, masks, shirts, etc with the brand new school logo

Christmas – we are brainstorming a Christmas fundraiser, please let us know if you have any suggestions

Magazines – many families have requested this fundraiser, we are looking into it and hope to have the details out soon

6. **Nominations and Elections**

The following positions are open – Events Coordinator; Fundraising Coordinator; COPAC Rep, Members at Large

The following members were nominated and elected to the executive council:

Member at Large – Joanna Carter (*moved by Tanya Cunanan, seconded by Gwynn Kirk*)

7. **Questions/Discussion**

What is the current enrollment – approximately 700 plus about 20 in distance learning

Will there be extra math help available – in person math help has been put on hold as we don't want students mingling outside their cohorts, but Lisa is working on some ideas to get extra help for students

Daily COVID screening – Dr Henry has recently updated the symptoms to watch for, a new screening form will be issued tomorrow

How can we engage parents – Jim and Ryan continue to work on parent info sessions, we might move them online, please forward any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm – moved by Tanya Cunanan, seconded by Rosie Poyntz-Wright

Next meeting date October 19, 2020



1. Thank You

- a. We could not be happier despite the challenges and timelines of opening. Our learners have been doing a really great job, our staff has been amazingly positive, our PAC and parent/guardian community have been supportive and understanding, and the weeks of planning in the summer seem to be paying off.

2. School Focus and Goals 2020-2021

- a. We are lucky that the government stage 2 startup plan allows us to continue focusing on what matters most at Canyon Falls for our learners
 - i. Multi-age, three-year communities
 - ii. Personalized, inquiry learning
 - iii. Teachers deeply collaborating to design rich learning experiences
- b. Canyon Cup will be continuing. What it will look like we are not certain as of yet, but if the Stanley Cup can have an asterisk this year and still make things happen, so can we.
- c. Our two learning goals, as started by staff last year. We will be engaging in the scanning of parents and guardians as part of the process as our year gets underway.
 - i. **Student-Centered Learning:** *How do we design richer learning experiences for our students around the OECD 7 Principles of Learning, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Inquiry learning, and the integration of specialty teachers into classroom learning?*
 - ii. **Community and Social-Emotional Learning:** *How do we better focus on connections across communities by keeping social-emotional well-being, wellness, and connections between learners/teachers and learners at the forefront?*

3. September Startup Summary (Points to Highlight)

- a. We are so incredibly fortunate
 - i. Despite the many logistical challenges of startup, our multi-age, community approach has been a real strength for our school. Those returning saw continuity in nearly all communities, knew a core group of teachers and friends from 2019-2020, and knew routines and priorities. For learners who were new, they were welcomed into our school family by friendly mentors. Things were so comfortable and familiar, that our startup didn't have nearly the degree of anxiety and uncertainty for students that schools normally have.
 - ii. Our building allows so easily for larger learning spaces, touchless sinks, multiple entry points, etc.

b. COVID Safety

- i. There are many safety regulations (found [HERE](#)) that have been implemented for the past three weeks.
- ii. As stated in last week's WAAG, we're hoping to see masks on more often during our staggered dismissal, until learners are off property.
- iii. Thanks to parents/guardians for not congregating in the parking lot or on property during dismissal. Thank you for your efforts – it's noticeable in reducing congestion and much appreciated.

c. Sports

- i. As of right now, inter-school and inter-cohort sports are on hold. BC School Sports are looking at how best to safely move forward. Luckily for us, our Athletic Director (Trevor Taylor) is the VP on the OVSAA and is involved in many regional and provincial conversations.

d. Distance Learning

- i. We had roughly 20 learners opt for distance learning this year (we had a couple return last week already). We are obligated to hold these spots in cohorts for these learners until mid-November.

e. Placement Change Requests

- i. We are so grateful for the community teachers and the elementary schools from last year and for parents who provided input prior to September for cohort building. This is a year unlike any other, and there are many additional parameters to cohort size limits that are tricky. Ryan has done over 100 hours of placement work, and in the third week of September our cohorts need to solidify. We will only be considering placement requests for unique educational reasons.

f. Road safety, traffic congestion, and busing

- i. We have asked community teachers to discuss road safety with all cohorts last week. We don't want learners getting hurt, so we appreciate you talking with your children about using sidewalks, using crosswalks appropriately, looking both ways and making sure that cars stop, etc. when going to and from school.
- ii. We have been in contact with the City of Kelowna and the school district related to traffic congestion and the intersection of Frost and Steele. Both will be coming to do observations. We recommend that parents/guardians do not enter one-way cul-de-sac to pick up if at all possible to reduce congestion.
- iii. On a related note, our busing has been running behind schedule due to not being able to get out of the parking lot/cul-de-sac due to congestion. Thanks to Mr. Tonn for helping to direct traffic, enabling the buses to get out sooner.

4. Communication from CMS

- a. Week At A Glance (WAAG) – for new families, we try to keep all our communication to one email per week as much as possible. PAC will have an attachment in these emails with all their info as well. Obviously, things come up and one email a week is not always doable. For information about the coming week and other info, please check your inboxes on Thursday evening, or early on Friday.
- b. Canyon Crew Videos – Mr. Tonn is leading the work toward more fun Canyon Crew videos, much like in the Spring. They will be coming out every two weeks and we will post links to the videos in the WAAG.
- c. Appointments with teachers – if you'd like to connect with teachers, the first step is emailing or phoning them at the school. Meetings will be virtual as much as possible to limit adults coming into the building. In circumstances where a face to face meeting is necessary, appointments must be made in advance with staff, and health and safety protocols need to be followed.

5. Alternative Reporting

- a. Same as last year, we will be using alternative reporting (proficiency scales, etc.) across our school. We made a video for our website under Resources, and then Assessment and Reporting (linked [HERE](#))
- b. And if you're curious, in the Resources section there are articles, videos, research, blog posts, etc. about many topics (assessment and reporting, middle schools, Inquiry and Design Thinking, and 21st Century Learning) that helps to explain many of the modern, pedagogical approaches we are taking at Canyon Falls Middle School.

6. Parent/Guardian-Teacher / Learner-Led Conferences Update

- a. An email went out today explaining the changes to the early dismissal dates and the format. Schools have an immense amount of work to do to prepare in short order, so we appreciate your patience. When we have a format designed, we will be communicating out as soon as possible.
- b. **Most importantly, your children will be dismissed at 12:15pm on October 1 and October 2 for these conferences, and watch your inbox for details related to the online process we will be designing and using.**

7. School Logo Finalized

- a. What an amazing, collaborative process. It took a year to pick our mascot with learners, staff, and parents involved. And it took four months to finalize our logo/font. Clothing sales will be coming up soon!



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8. Questions?