MINUTES
Deep Cove PAC General Meeting
April 18, 2012

Present:
President: Lisa Makar
Secretary: Susan Adam
Parent Education: Kim Bull-Chambers
Christmas Fair: Lesley MacLaughlin
Special Events Coordinator: Kim Bull-Chambers
Special Events Coordinator: Shealyn Jackson
Volunteer Coordinator: Stacey Rees
Volunteer Coordinator: Shealyn Jackson
Principal Erika Moser
Vice Principal Warren Hamm
8 parents

Absent:
Treasurer: Monica Copeland
COPACS: Melissa Drolet
CPF: Susan Fidyk
Newsletter: Deborah Rogers

1. Call To Order:
President Lisa Makar called the meeting to order.

2. Additions to Agenda:
Parent Tara Houle to speak re: extra-curricular activities.

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting:
Stacey Rees approved; Shealyn Jackson seconded.

4. Business from previous meeting:
None.

5. New Business:
a) Emergency/Earthquake Supplies –
* 3 parent volunteer team (Henry Howell, Lisa Griffin, Megan Soellner) has provided a detailed inventory report.
*Replacements, restocking, repairs required.
*$500 in budget – proceed with immediate priorities and cost analysis.
*new volunteers requested every Fall
*continuity necessary.

b) Extra-Curricular Activities –
Re: School District 63 decision, parent Tara Houle read a letter (attached) she wrote reflecting her reaction to the decision make and its impact on our students and families.
*Parent: Administration made a decision that impacts our children without parent consultation.
*Vice Principal Hamm: This is not a school-based decision.
*Tara: Feels the parent voice is not welcomed or considered; the PAC should be the parent voice.
*VP Hamm: Parents need to share with the PAC, then the PAC shares with COPACS, and COPACS shares with District Administration.
*Parent: Feels there is an alienation of parents this school year.
*Parent: What's next? Consult with COPACS?
*Lisa Makar: Parents need to share their frustrations more with the PAC, so we can move forward as a whole, instead of one or two parents speaking out.
*Tara: Not all parents have time to attend meetings or write emails or have the confidence to voice their concerns; PAC needs to be more approachable & identifiable, and seek out parent opinions; not enough dialogue between parents and PAC; class reps need to participate more.
*Parent: Can't parents volunteer?
*VP Hamm: Teachers and admin. run extra-curricular activities due to the legalities of adults vs. young children; all our extra-curricular have proceeded this year until recent District decision; feels until now parents haven't been affected.
*Tara: Yes, our families were greatly affected and inconvenienced by the strike.
*Lisa Makar: How do we move forward amicably? Ask for guidance from other schools and PACs? Special meeting for parents to voice their concerns? The PAC is a conduit for the communication of information, feedback, concerns, etc. from and to parents - Class Reps exist to help facilitate this.
*Parent: Solicitation of parents as to their goals for September.
*Parent: If Administration won't participate, perhaps PAC needs to step up and take it on.
*Lisa Makar: I will look into what we're allowed to do, maintaining mutual respect, with COPACS guidance.
*Parent: Any parent has the right to visit the SD63 Super-Intendant Keven Elder at any time to voice their concerns.
*Principal Moser: No one on any side thought this would go on this long: Gr 4&5 activities will proceed at no cost to parents, and track training will proceed.
*Parent: Why aren't more class reps here? Aren't the class reps supposed to attend the meetings and report back to parents in the class? This is an example of communication breakdown.
*Lisa Makar: Yes, it is an ongoing challenge to get class reps to the PAC meetings.
*Tara: It has always been an issue.
*Lisa Makar: We as a PAC try not to overwhelm parents with too many emails. Yes, class reps could be better utilized to communicate between anonymous parents and PAC, and PAC back to parents.

*Tara: a lot of parents are anonymously complaining about Teacher Appreciation Day. Class Reps need to be a more important face of PAC-Parent communication.
*Parent: suggested anonymous parent emails be read at PAC meetings.
*Tara: not every parent is comfortable to stand up infront of a group and share their sincere feelings, especially if it's against a school or PAC decision.
*Stacey Rees: and not everyone shares the same opinion; we need a better description of what a Class Rep does.
*Lesley MacLaughlin: there's been a big change in the last 3 years in fewer parents staying home, so this PAC is different than what Deep Cove parents have been used to; several PAC members have jobs and therefore can't be at school during the day to chat with parents at drop-off and pick-up and aren't as visible as previous years; and parents have less time to get involved and keep up on emails and newsletters.

5. Reports:

Principal Moser –

- Appreciates SFR funds for Earth Week musician.
- Louise Boutin's courtyard thank yous in pictures on school website.
- District News: budgeting has started for next year; need new ideas for income; SIDES and international students are our District's primary sources; District website invites parent input.
- Declining enrollment – currently 344, may be down to 330ish by September.
- 2nd Super-Intendant is retiring.
- May 7 Pro-D Day will have a math focus ie. "math tiles" and "math facts".
- School Planning Council will meet re: growth plan.

VP Hamm –

- Successful workshop with book author Michael Bartolotto (who lives with cerebral palsy) gives effective bullying workshops in schools.

Principal Moser –

- Gr 5 transition to Bayside is underway.
- Bike Safety with our RCMP this week.
- New "Kindies" here on May 3.
- Earth Week: music performance May 1.
- Salmon Fry Release coming up.

President Lisa Makar –

- We have re-evaluated the school supplies lists.
- Earth week volunteers needed.
- Deborah Rogers did a great job on first PAC newsletter.

Christmas Fair Lesley MacLaughlin –

- Used, unwanted, working Christmas lights wanted! Preferred small, white variety.

Parent –Education Kim Bull-Chambers –

- Kindergarten Tea needs organizing.
- Moving next Parent Ed Night to May 23 with speaker Steve Newlove "Restorative Justice".

6. Upcoming Events
Earth Week – April 23-27
Walk to School Day - April 27
Salmon Fry Release - May 1
Kindergarten Welcome – May 3
Lesotho Community Event – May 17
Parent Ed Night – May 23

6. Next Meeting
Executive Meeting May 23/12
General Meeting May 23/12

7. Adjournment
Lisa Makar adjourned our meeting.