

## Minutes of the PAC Meeting held on 16 January 2025

### Present:

Cheryl Feduniak	<a href="mailto:tcfeduniak@gmail.com">tcfeduniak@gmail.com</a>	Treasurer
Natosha Correira	<a href="mailto:tcor24@yahoo.com">tcor24@yahoo.com</a>	Director
Gord Correira		Parent
Lisa Medynski	<a href="mailto:lisamedynski@hotmail.com">lisamedynski@hotmail.com</a>	Director
Michelene Hall	<a href="mailto:neilandmichelene@gmail.com">neilandmichelene@gmail.com</a>	Secretary
Frank Verde	<a href="mailto:frankandesther@oitlook.com">frankandesther@oitlook.com</a>	Chair
Alex Grant	<a href="mailto:alexgrant0822@gmail.com">alexgrant0822@gmail.com</a>	Co Vice Chair
Ogaga Agbaragu	<a href="mailto:ogagazebs@yahoo.com">ogagazebs@yahoo.com</a>	Co Vice Chair
Lori Riley	<a href="mailto:lorissariley@gmail.com">lorissariley@gmail.com</a>	Director
Julia Jacobs		Principal
Karen Jonkman	<a href="mailto:karen.jonkman@cmsd.bc.ca">karen.jonkman@cmsd.bc.ca</a>	School Board Trustee
Anna Rego		Curling club
Dave Durrant		Curling Club

### Apologies:

#### 1. Welcome

Frank welcomed everyone in attendance, meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

#### 2. Quorum

Sufficient attendees for a quorum.

#### 3. Acceptance of Minutes of the previous meeting

Accepted by Lisa seconded by Tosh.

#### 4. Reports

##### Trustee's Report

- New Trustee - Angela Maitland (unable to attend) and Karen Jonkman.
- In bargaining with teachers' union at the moment
- Angela newly sworn in trustee – good addition lots of experience
- Mandate from the new Minister of Education Lisa Bear – allegedly money to be made available for schools through the Ministry of Family – additional supports in classroom for teachers, expansion of EA's and more counselors, working on Indigenous graduation rate and infrastructure improvements.
- Fully aware of the infrastructure issues, all advocating every chance we get. Decisions are made at Victoria. Letters have been sent to the Provincial Government requesting funding.

- Ministry of Education did a tour last year to do a needs analysis (before structural issues were discovered) – touring with maintenance Director.
- Question to Karen from PAC – **how are other schools being successful with funding – what are they doing differently that we are not doing?**
- Question from PAC – **is it a lack of maintenance that caused problem, or is the plan to do no maintenance because the school is to be replaced.** Julia reported it is difficult to find maintenance staff for the wage rate CMSD offers.
- **Karen will request the historical information regarding infrastructure issues that have been raised.**

## **Principals Report**

- 475 students enrolled
- February will do the 1701 headcount for MoE. Students that are not attending cannot claim for them
- A lot of new Grade 8 and 9's registering – struggling to find placement in courses for them – created new Art classes to spread out numbers Gr 8,9,10 and Gr 11,12
- Getting go-ahead to start process of moving back into the middle school. First move will be the class out of the library, then rest will follow. Grateful to teachers for accommodating this move while teaching full courses – appreciate their patience and understanding.
- Literacy and Numeracy assessments will be done soon.
- Student Learning Survey for all students, parents etc to provide input – need to say what we think of the education system. This is an opportunity for everyone to have their say.
- Carrie Brousseau – Exec Secretary is retiring 31 Jan – replacement has been hired.
- New Grade 7 schedule is going very well. Teachers teach to their specialties, lesson planning much easier and they are collaborating to make it work.
- RTI block – response to intervention for resource teacher to assist reading, homework catch-up etc.
- Senior Girls Team heading to Provincials end of February
- Fast-track Capstone fair tomorrow in cafeteria for Grad requirement.
- Parking Lot situation – staff parking out of bounds for student drop off and pickup – starting to see improvement.
- Students leave school during school time for extended periods (3 weeks for some) for vacations and extra-curricular activities – teacher requests for homework is putting a lot of strain on teachers. Miss out on instructional time and teacher support. Rule will be if you miss an exam, you miss it – you cannot take it. (Vacation – not medical or school sport absence). If a family wants extended absences, then should opt for Distance Learning. Letter will be coming out to address situation

- Question from PAC on Retirements – Julia does not have line of sight on this – succession planning is done by HR – they are currently at job fairs recruiting.
- Question from PAC - Do we receive feedback from Province on surveys to feed it back to the parents. This would increase participation rates in future? Julia to follow up to see if feedback can be given to parents.
- Question about School Bus App – my bus stop.com – MEMSS does have it and is using it.

### **Treasurers report**

- General account - \$ 12,179.74
- Term deposit - \$ 2,892.00
- Gaming account – \$ 15,237.18
- Total \$ 30,308.95

### **DPAC representative report**

- Meeting last night - Lisa reported they have applied for funding to tear down old wing – structurally unsafe – asbestos etc cost more than \$1 million just to take the old wing down.
- Tracey and Rob attended meeting and suggested letters be written.
- Old wing rotting columns around front and in courtyard area – all been repaired and cross braced. 8 x 8's put in classrooms along the walls to strut the walls. Lateral bracing.
- Submitted for funding to have old wing torn down and hasn't heard back yet
- Concern new school may lose facilities – 2 gyms, 2 food rooms, dedicated sewing rooms – but this school is a high school and a middle school combined - is there a way to keep some infrastructure that is still viable. Will we lose workshops, will we lose the theatre?
- DPAC willing to write letter to Ministry of Education.
- Teacher sponsor for sport teams – Tracey Superintendent said there is no policy but affects liability insurance.
- DPAC recommended MEMSS PAC write to Ministry of Education – and Ministry of Infrastructure and DPAC will also support with letters. Raise as an equity issue too – we have a large population of Indigenous students.
- From Grade 4 aim to bring AI like Chat GPT and Co-Pilot into schools.
- Next DPAC meeting Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – all welcome to attend.
- Update on Indigenous learning – plans to have Land based learning – 'week without walls'
- Mental Health plan – meeting with BC Children's Hospital to work on initiatives.

### **5. New Business**

## Curling

- Provincial championship entry – travel costs have escalated – 5 girls + 2 chaperones = \$15000 to attend in Kimberley. Asking for assistance with travel. They have raised \$5000 in past 3 months. (LNG traditionally donated \$5000 but have turned request down.) Request is for \$1000. Also have plans for future fundraising and parents will also cover costs. We have won two Provincial Championships in the past. Gaming licence requested from PAC. Cheryl will assist.
- Propose Frank \$1000 – all in favour. **Frank to send email to let them know it is approved.**

## 6. Old Business

**Wish list items** - Volleyball posts – cost of posts plus shipping is \$2450.00.  
**Frank to respond and say that at this time we will not be funding this wish list request.**

### **Senior and Junior Boys basketball urgent call for teacher sponsor:**

- Emailed principal and Superintendent. Superintendent asked Philip Barron – Director of Instruction to respond and he said that permission would be granted for a parent coach to practice without a teacher sponsor, but they cannot travel with the school teams. Interest from students wanes if they don't get to compete. Ogaga and Alex to request a meeting with Philip to be shown a policy. **Frank to provide contact details to Ogaga and Alex.**

### **Concerns re facilities and infrastructure**

- Alex Grant reached out to MLA office – email was read but not responded to
- Concern that children have been exposed to mold or asbestos – how will we know? We have written to the Board and we have not had a response.
- Grant suggested we bring to Local Kitimat Council and Haisla Nation council – **Alex Grant will approach with Frank and Ogaga.** Dave Durrant will be willing to attend and speak to the issues too as a retired teacher – **Alex to co-ordinate with him.**
- **Suggestion to invite the Student Council to address the District at the Council meeting.**
- Can the board provide information of what has been done with a timeline – **Karen to follow up.**
- Use Karen's input and write up concerns and submit them before the school board meeting. **Next school board meeting is 28 January in Terrace.**

- **All to attend the 26 February school board meeting is at Nechako School at 5pm.**

### **Banking authorisation**

- Frank Verde to be added as a signing authority to bank account. **Frank to open an account at Envision.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next DPAC meeting is 19 February – speak to Lisa for details to attend

**Next school board meeting is 28 January in Terrace**

**Next PAC meeting is 20 February 2025 at 7pm.**

**School Board meeting in Kitimat on 26 February**