



MINUTES – Claremont Parent Advisory Committee (Approved 10/17/23)

September 19, 2023 – 7:00PM – 8:00PM

1. Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Introduce: Principal Aaron Buckham, CPAC Exec Team:

- Co-Presidents: Marian Greco & Richard Anthony
- Vice-President: Kelly Perry
- Secretary: Jennifer Magnusson
- Treasurer: Don Mellings
- COPACS Rep: Stacy Finer
- Gr. 12 Liaison: open
- Members at Large: Jenny Eastman, Josie Pucci-Cocco, Carol Pesce

2. Approval of agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Kelly Perry, seconded by Jenny Eastman – Approved

3. Approval of last CPAC Minutes

A recap of the May 2023 meeting was provided by Marian Greco.

Motion to approve minutes by Kelly Perry, seconded by Carol Pesce – Approved

4. Administration Update

- Smooth start-up this year**; students now settled into S1 classes; high level of excitement
- Admin team**: Wendy Laws M O'Brien
- Year at a Glance**: [link on front page of website](#); trying to improve the website at the district level but there is not a lot of money or time allocated to that
- Admin will use the email system for communication, but will try not to overwhelm parents with info; Message to Families every 2-3 weeks
- Grade Wide Assemblies**: Core Value, Code of Conduct, Recycling (grant \$3K by social justice class last year) – 4 different trucks come to pick stuff up, Elements (continuing from last year to sort kids in to “houses” based on birthdates, fun competitions at events like Terry Fox run), etc.
- Continue to reinforce positive routines, working together, proper use of social media
- Clubs / Athletics / Field Trips** – need for parent volunteers (notices will come from teachers, coaches, etc.); “school never sleeps” – we do a lot!
- Meet the Teacher** – 5:30 pm, Thurs Sep 21; bring a picture of your child’s schedule; there is also the Glanford and Cordova Bay Meet the Teacher, so there might be a time conflict
- Canadian Universities Event** (60 universities from across Canada) – Tues Sep 26, 1-3 pm in Sm Gym – grade 11/12 and some grade 10
- Terry Fox Run / Spartan Day** – Thurs, Sep 28

- **Nat'l Day of Truth & Reconciliation** (Orange Shirts) – Fri Sep 29
- **Goals for the year** – Continue to address racism, promote diversity & inclusion, and unveil school plan
- There is a protest against LGBTQ+ tomorrow; district will not be sending anti-protestors but will make an announcement tomorrow to say that they don't condone it and don't support it.
- COPACS hosted an anti-racism event here last year – students were able to give live feedback during the event and that info will be used this year to plan

5. Executive Updates:

President –

Fostering Parent Participation at CPAC meetings – great attendance tonight! We hope to continue this as we get better ideas and collaboration when more people attend and participate. We will brainstorm some ideas to encourage participation at the end of the meeting tonight.

Budget Next Steps – Two times a year we need to make important financial decisions \$40K+ budget, we need input on how to spend the \$; Formal process in October re: the large grant from BC, so the Oct meeting is a longer meeting since we go through individual requests and vote on how to fund them. Requests mainly come from the teachers, but parents can bring requests to the table as well (e.g., last year we brought in Dr. Gunderson). Another meeting in the spring to spend any remaining funds. Please join us!

Student Cell Phones – Aaron addressed the protocols for cell phone use in school (esp WRT AI). (e.g., SD62 Belmont has chosen to do no cell phones in classes); staff brought this issue to the table to discuss and has worked together with admin since May/June; it's a multi-layered issue with passionate folks on both sides. Our district has said they will not be a no-cellphone district, but schools and classes may make different decisions. Many teachers are already restricting use by collecting phones at the beginning of class, but this can have negative repercussions due to the cost of the tech. TL;DR: there's not one overall policy at Claremont but many teachers do have a policy: e.g., I don't want to see it, you can play music but not be on it, etc. We will be following the situation at Belmont to see what happens. One school in SD61 tried it a few years ago and it failed.

Seeking an additional Member at Large – ideally 1-2 more people to volunteer to be on the team

Claremont Communications – biweekly newsletter is only one piece of communication; other methods include Claremont Instagram (@claremontsd63), daily email will be coming back soon (Andrea Martin is on sick leave); CPAC email is sent out when there is important news about upcoming meetings or events.

Treasurer – 2022/23 Financial Year in Summary

See attached Year End Treasurers Report 2022/2023.

- The financial situation of the Claremont Parents Advisory Council is healthy with available funds of over \$15,000: \$6,357.87 in the General Account and \$10,152.85 in the Gaming Account
- In the past fiscal year, we brought in revenues (gaming + parent donations) of \$39,651.32 and we spent \$38,957.36 of our budgeted \$45,998

- ROMSPAC donated the Grade 8 funds from 2020 (\$2274.13) to the Grade 12 Grad committee this year
- Balance of funds between gaming/regular accounts should be addressed

COPACS Representative –

Highlights from Sept 14th COPACS meeting – district admin was there to let everyone know what’s going on in the district:

- COPACS would love for parents to sit on district committees to provide a parent voice
- Feeding Futures program** for vulnerable students – socioeconomic-based program; schools are given funds to disburse to families in need, all based around food
- Transportation** – in review (not in final draft); small registration fee for transportation and also a late registration fee on its way for next year
- Back to School** – everyone who registered was placed in a class; no uncertified teachers in SD63; all teaching positions filled; some staffing challenges but doing well overall;
- Reporting** – Fresh Grade was not widely used much at secondary; Brightspace will now be used as the online portal for reporting; district is giving teachers the autonomy to use as they see fit; will roll out over the next few years; parent access to report cards
- Accessibility** – mandate to have schools/districts putting in policies the help bring barriers down WRT education;
- PAC websites** – we need to speak with Cody if we want to do that (we lost website last year)
- COPACS looking to sponsor more events and is looking for parents at large coming to them and letting them know what they want to hear about
- COPACS website** – parents can register and get communication directly by signing up on the website.

6. Miscellaneous topics

Brainstorming with Parents – topics/issues of importance, how can CPAC support?

What would bring parents out to the meeting? Treats, coffee, guest speakers? Send an email if you have ideas! claremontpacSD63@gmail.com

- Bring-a-friend night
- Pizza for parents ½ hour before
- Begin with an activity that doesn’t involve the meeting (like a BBQ on the field)
- Occasional guest speakers on timely topics (superintendent of schools was a big draw in the past)
- Best attended meeting was with police liaison re: drugs (maybe Dane – major crimes unit, or someone from online safety)
- More unstructured time for hearing parents’ ideas and suggestions – come ½ hour before for social hour
- Grade 9 parents given a welcome/orientation to this community

7. Date of next meeting

Next Meeting Tuesday, Oct 17, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Motion to adjourn by Don Mellings, seconded by Kelly Perry – Adjourned

Attendance

In person (27): Aaron Buckham, Marian Greco, Jenny Eastman, Kelly Perry, Stacy Finer, Don Mellings, Josie Pucci-Cocco, Carol Pesce, Demi Du, Lee Taal, Aloysuis Kahindi, Hong Tao Tian, Tynke Landsmeer, Tanna Mellings, Eagle Su, Gary Zhao, Nenetta Veenstra, Jennifer Furtado, Krista Lister, Katie Hennessy, Kathy Henderson, Adam Spivak, Brigitte Diemand, Ana De la Campa, Shawn Stewart, Sarah Gulbrandsen, Ben Gulbrandsen

Online (3): Leanna, Reece, Alice

Reminders

Please remember to send in your Country Grocer receipts to the school as we receive a percentage back as gift cards to support school programs.

Year End Treasurers Report 2022/2023

Don Mellings, Treasurer, CPAC

September 19, 2023

Healthy Balances

The financial situation of the Claremont Parents Advisory Council is healthy with available funds of over \$15,000:

Available Account Balances

\$6,357.87 General Account

\$10,152.85 Gaming Account

Revenues

In the past fiscal year, we brought in revenues of \$39,651.32

Expenses

In fiscal 22/23 we spent \$38,957.36 of our budgeted \$45,998 (84.7%).

Moving Forward

- Provincial Gaming Funds 2023-24 Request submitted. Funds will be confirmed by the end of October 2023 (usually late September)
- Provincial Gaming Funds 2022-23 End of Year report to be completed by September 30th

Financial Commitments

- CPAC received funds from ROMSPAC from the 2019-2020 Grade 8 graduating class to be put towards the Grade 12 Graduation for this group of students. This money (\$2274.13) was paid by cheque from ROMSPAC to CPAC in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. This money was intended to be provided to the 2024 grad committee on top of regular funds provided by CPAC.
- There are no financial commitments placed upon us by our Constitution.

Final Thoughts

Moving into 2023-24, CPAC are in a healthy financial position.

A challenge facing this group is the larger amount of funds in the "Gaming Account" relative to the funds in the "General Account". Funds from the Gaming Account are more restricted in their use.