

Sorrento Elementary PAC Meeting Minutes - 23 January 2025

Attendees:

Heather Anderson

Kari Puffer

Paul Rosman

Quinn Kermack

Caitlin LeDuc

Sarah Palmer

Britt Gifford

Mandy Hammerston

Rebecca Taylor

Corryn Grayston

1 - Rebecca motion to approve meeting minutes from November 2024; Kari second; minutes approved.

2 - Principal Update

- Staff would like to do the waterslides field trip again this year in June
 - PAC has annually approved to fund this field trip in the budget vote at the AGM
- Sorrento is not participating in the Pirate Loppet this year as there hasn't been enough snow for students to practice, contact Paul Rosman for details if your student is set on attending
- Grade 5 fundraiser coming soon to support a year end Sunnybrae overnight trip
- Staff is enjoying the \$200 PAC budget per teacher for student enrichment
- Winter concert fireworks were well received and hoping to be an annual event
- School is considering adding a spring concert as well for families to enjoy when the weather is warmer
- Playground grant expected for 2025
 - Parents encouraged to share ideas with PAC for any playground equipment that may enhance the outdoor experience
 - Current plan is to add a flat court area where the existing swings are, and move the swing area/add more, improve general accessibility outdoors
 - Possible for local contractors to bid on pieces of the plan or offer to donate certain portions
- Corryn Grayston will inquire if people/companies donating to the district/school are eligible for tax receipts
- Anyone who is considering cross boundary for their students based on the new catchment areas is encouraged to apply as soon as possible to get their students on the list

3 - Financial Update

- Most teachers have claimed their \$200 allotment from the PAC for field trips etc

4 - Fundraising Update

- Jungle mania is on now
- Purdy's is cancelled for Easter, a lot of effort for minimal funds raised
- Sip Sip Hooray is Saturday April 12
- Grillers fundraiser coming in the spring, hoping to reoccur annually in May for consistency
- Library will do a read-a-thon in February

5 - Sip Sip Hooray Update

- Event is April 12
- Timber may sponsor the food/time to provide dinner - TBC
- Looking into purchasing alcohol soon while there is no tax
- Considering increasing the ticket price so we can provide a more upscale event such as appy/cocktail party starting at 7pm
- Class baskets are usually a hit and will happen again, basket items will be gathered in March prior to spring break
- Silent auction is a lot of effort, considering removing it from the event to focus on baskets and 50/50 sales
- If you have any ideas or desire to help plan the party, please reach out to Rebecca Taylor

6 - DPAC Update

- DPAC feels that field trips aren't equitably distributed due to teacher interests, looking into ways DPAC and PAC can aid in this area
 - Please send feedback to Rebecca Taylor on this subject
- Some district field trips have been cancelled due to lack of bussing
 - Sorrento has had some field trips scheduled solely around bussing schedules and availability
 - Sorrento needs more parents with criminal record checks in order for more successful field trips
- PAC suggested the school look into field trips to Blind Bay Resort for swimming
- DPAC has submitted a letter to the District asking for equal application of the rules around smart devices as many schools are enforcing them differently

7 - Food Security Committee Update

- Many families find hot lunch is out of reach financially
- Shuswap Food Action Society offers a soup program, Sorrento is hoping to operate it out of the Sorrento Centre for next school year
- Paid hot lunches widen food insecurity inequities

- Other district PACs are funding 1 or 2 hot lunches throughout the year and finding corporate sponsors for more lunches
- Hot Lunch needs to be mindful of the school nutrition guidelines for providing free foods vs offering foods for purchase
- Possible to use Sorrento Hall to cook food?
- Heather motion to end paid hot lunches at Sorrento Elementary, Rebecca seconds the motion
- Rebecca to lead the changeover from paid hot lunch to free hot lunch, any interested families, please contact Rebecca directly

8 - Staff Appreciation

- PAC is providing Wanda with a retirement gift

9 - Next meeting is Thursday, 20 February, in the school library