

# Minutes



## Homma PAC Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Hosted on Zoom: <https://ubc.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 623 8237 7389

Passcode: 042022

### PAC Executive:

Anna Reithmeier, Chair

Penny Leggo, Vice-Chair

Marcie Beggs, Treasurer

Jennifer Tham, Secretary

In attendance: Anna Reithmeier; Penny Leggo; Jodie Weiler; Kathryn Garforth; Sharmila Lakhani, Jennifer Tham, Kevin Vines (Admin Vice Principal), Derek Cherry (Admin Principal); Carrie Elder; Cathy Sichewski; Marcie; Isabel Chan

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
6:30 to 6:45 PM	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anna: Land acknowledgment</li></ul></li><li>Review of agenda</li><li>Approval of this list of items to become our agenda.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jen approves, Sharmila seconds</li></ul></li><li>Approval of minutes from January<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jen approves, Penny Seconds</li></ul></li><li>RDPA representative?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anna: Still looking for Homma representative for RDPA if anyone is interested in filling this role.</li></ul></li><li>Isabel Chan organizes staff appreciation lunch and is looking for volunteers to organize lunch for Homma staff as her youngest is in Grade 5 and looking to train someone to take over the role when her child graduates from Homma.</li><li>May AGM plans<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anna: Vote on positions for Homma PAC and approve budget for next year. We REALLY need more parent participation to work with PAC as many of the involved parents are aging out of Homma soon.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Derek: Can send out a newsletter about having more people involved. An idea is to provide an information flyer during the Welcome to Kindergarten event on Apr 25/26. This may be a good way to get new families interested in joining the PAC.</li><li>Kathyrn: Felt that a Welcome to K facebook group which was started when her kids were in Kindergarten was very helpful as the group was introduced to the school, suggested the PAC could organize something like this.</li><li>Marcie: Suggested some PAC members could highlight some benefits for being in the PAC. Personally she found it as a good way to be involved with the school and to find out what was going on when she couldn't physically be there at drop off/pick up.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	Anna Reithmeier and Isabel Chan Derek Cherry Kathryn Garforth

	<p>Sharmila: Suggested parents from the PAC speak at the Welcome to K event to introduce themselves and to ask any questions they might have about PAC.</p> <p>Jen: Suggested it would be helpful for new parents coming in to have a job description on what the PAC needs help with and an estimation of the time commitment associated with this as a way to bolster having more parents on the PAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing books for primary classes based on Ontario’s Right to Read public inquires recommendations? (Kathryn G.)</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report/appendix-1-list-recommendations">https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report/appendix-1-list-recommendations</a></p> <p>Background: Kathryn has a PhD in Educational psychology and is a Homma parent with 2 kids at Homma and 1 incoming Kindergarten child.</p> <p>Kathryn: Shared the report from the Ontario Human Rights commission’s right to read inquiry. The report looked at best practice recommendations for reading and up with 157 recommendations. Kathryn highlighted that best practice is to use decodable texts for teaching kids to read. Suggests the decodable texts are costly for teachers to supply and suggests that the PAC sponsor them to benefit struggling readers. Available in French and English. Canadian publisher is more expensive but there are also inexpensive programs such as “I am Sam” and “Dog on a Log”. Watermelon works is by Scholastic which we already have a relationship with and the author allows digital licenses and rights to reproduce for teachers to photocopy work to send home with kids.</p> <p>How to fund this? Part of money from the school’s RAZ kids subscription we are currently using because there are several other free reading resources that are similar to RAZ. RAZ is predictable and uses pictures to teach kids to read but decodable texts teach differently with the absence of predictable pictures.</p> <p>Derek: When it comes to adding material to classrooms feels the need to support the autonomy of the teachers as it is their choice on whether they will use decodable texts. Also would need support from the Richmond School district and the BC Ministry of Education. Richmond school district is currently looking at reevaluating the literacy program.</p> <p>Kathryn: This inquiry and the results have been approved by BC school psychologists as well as the Ministry of Education from other provinces Ontario being one of them. Will ask Derek to bring up Decodable texts to teachers and see if there is interest in having them in the classroom? Derek agrees.</p>	
6:45 to 7:00 PM	<p>Update from the Homma School Admin Team</p> <p>Staffing Update</p>	Derek Cherry Kevin Vines

**Derek:** We would like to welcome back Kindergarten Teacher Giovanna Freston who has returned from maternity leave. We would also like to welcome Sandy Estrada to Homma. Sandy has accepted the Professional Assistant position that Tara Chan held. Sandy is excited to be joining the Homma community.

#### 1. Covid 19 Health and Safety Protocol Update

**Derek:** We want to thank the Homma community for their patience and understanding since the beginning of the pandemic. It has been a real journey of resilience, flexibility and constant change which we know hasn't always been easy. We recognize that protocols are shifting, but members of our community are at different comfort levels with these changes so we are being mindful and careful on how we proceed with term three events. We want to do our best to make everyone feel safe and included so many events typically done in term three may look different. At Homma we are continuing to make decisions with the health and safety of students in mind. We are continuing to:

\*Encouraging a mask friendly environment. It is personal choice to wear one and we are asking all members of our community to respect individual choices

\* Practice regular hand washing and sanitizing when needed

\* Asking parents, staff and students to follow the daily health check and to stay home when they are showing symptoms

#### 2. Track Attack

**Kevin:** We will be doing track attack for our Grade 4 - 7 students starting in May. Students will be going through different stations and have an opportunity to try different events. Given the short time frame and the amount of preparation that goes into taking students to the Minoru track meet, staff felt that this year might not be the best year to take our students to Minoru. There are a lot of unknowns such as parking, dates (TBD), getting students to and from Minoru and possible increases in Covid cases. Staff wanted to do something for the students and felt that at least having track attack at the school sets us up to hopefully go to Minoru next year. 18 Other Elementary schools in Richmond have also made this decision.

#### 3. Rainbow Cross Walk and Gazebo updates

**Derek:** We have been approved to have a rainbow cross walk painted in our parking lot near the front entrance. We are very excited for this opportunity as it promotes equity, inclusion and belonging which is so important to us at Homma. The cost for the paint and labour is about \$2500 and we are wondering if the Homma PAC might want to split the cost with us?

Gazebo update - Maintenance crew was in adding bedding around the gazebo and benches to come. This should be completed shortly. There are plans to have a grand opening planned at a later date.

#### 4. Conferences

**Kevin:** Early dismissal on April 27th and 28th. Classroom teachers will be contacting about format for conferences this term

#### 5. Homma Basketball League

**Kevin:** Up and running - students are enjoying it. Lots of passing, teamwork and involvement by players (almost 60 students participating and 9 staff helping out). It is on Tuesday and Thursdays at lunchtime

#### 6. Ringette

**Derek:** Starting next Tuesday, instructors from Richmond Ringette will be coming to teach Ringette to Homma students during Gym class for a week free of charge

#### 7. Sikh Heritage Awareness Month

**Kevin:** The month of April has been designated as Sikh Heritage Month to “..provide an opportunity to reflect on, celebrate and educate future generations about the inspirational role that Sikh Canadians have played and continue to play in communities across the country”. Canadian Sikhs have made significant contributions to the public sphere of Canada while promoting equity, honesty and selflessness through charitable work, interfaith dialogue, and policy and political work. The ongoing conversation of Sikh Heritage Awareness Month aims to promote the inclusion of Sikh content and perspectives in schools across Canada while facilitating the awareness of the Sikh faith and Sikhs in the classroom.

#### 8. Ramadan

**Derek:** We want to honour and acknowledge Ramadan, the ninth month of the lunar calendar, when a Muslim fasts daily from any food or drink from dawn till sunset. Muslims fast to grow compassion, for physical benefit, spiritual benefit, a sense of community, and self-discipline.

#### 9. Gr. 7 Farewell Plans

**Derek:** We know that families are wondering what the plans will be for Grade 7 farewell this year. Staff will be meeting over the next two weeks to come up with a plan which will be shared with parents a long with dates for any planned activities.

#### 10. Adolescent Mental Health and Wellness Session

**Derek:** Families are invited to a free virtual discussion and presentation with internationally renowned experts in adolescent mental health. Andrew Baxter, Dr. Lisha and Dr. Yi Feng Wei will be presenting on a

	<p>variety of topics related to adolescent mental health. The sessions will take place on May 4th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom.</p> <p>Cathy Question: Requesting more notice for parents to take time off work for Grad celebration plans. If a cohesive grad isn't happening, please also let parents know so they can arrange celebrations in the student's cohorts.</p> <p>Cathy Question: Requesting an update on feminine hygiene product? Derek answered: 1 or 2 days when they were found in the garbage can or on the floor, but for the most part they are being used appropriately.</p>	
<p>7:00 to 7:15 PM</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising update</li> </ul> <p>Marcie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At beginning of the year, we decide on how funds would be allocated (examples such as year book, outdoor education, gazebo, RAZ kids etc.).</li> <li>• Money for gazebo came out of gaming fund. Money can come out of operating fund, however the goal is to use up the gaming fund entirely each year. \$10,500 is the rough estimate we will expect from next year's gaming fund which is based on student enrolment.</li> <li>• Currently RAZ subscription is \$1,000 and \$2,000 is being spent on library books, if we are looking at possible funds to move to decodable texts Kathryn was discussing earlier.</li> <li>• Breakdown of some successful fundraisers such as: Purdy's revenue = \$3300. The hot Lunch revenue is exaggerated as some parents prepaid for the entire school year, but \$10,000 for now.</li> <li>• Dairy Queen has been the biggest revenue generator followed by Pizza = \$750 earnings on average, Sushi and then Purpose Smoothie at \$460.</li> <li>• Roughly \$65,000 in bank account for next year. Part of AGM should be focused on how the PAC should be spending the money next year.</li> </ul> <p>Derek Question: Asked about the West Coast Seeds fundraiser. Anna answered: Linda said the revenue was roughly \$300 and said it went smoothly.</p> <p>Jodie had a question about the Taco fundraiser: How much we revenue was made? Anna answered: Unsure, Taco vendor to write a cheque at the end of the school year. Will send out a reminder about this fundraiser.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future plans</li> </ul> <p>Derek: Suggested using funds on Saleema Noon's sexual health courses and said it was a very good program which was well received by students and teachers at his previous schools.</p> <p>Marcie: Asking for other expected expenses and ideas from teachers/Derek on what they would like to see money being spent on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMath Scholarship (Anna R.)</li> </ul>	<p>Marcie Beggs</p>

	<p>Anna: We approved McMath scholarships \$250 x 3= \$750 annually to be awarded to Grade 7 students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession Planning</li> </ul> <p>Marcie: Asking about succession planning for treasurer role as her child is in Grade 5. Highlighted the fact that the parent does not need to be an accountant, she has set up the appropriate excel spreadsheets and can train them on how to use it and to take over the treasurer role.</p>	
<p>7:15 to 7:25 PM</p>	<p>Update on Hot lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future offerings</li> </ul> <p>Sharmila: Hot Lunch being offered weekly since Spring Break. Jodie will be taking over hot lunch program starting next year and Sharmila will support for succession planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotlunches.net vs. Munch-a-Lunch</li> </ul> <p>Sharmila: Wants to change system to Munch-a-Lunch. Cost is the same for Munch-a-Lunch and Hotlunches. This is the first time we have doubled the hot lunches and revenue (expected \$15k this year). However this is a lot of work and is not sustainable for weekly hot lunch in the future.</p> <p>Jodie: Will set up a demo for Munch-a-Lunch with Jeff and try to use that to see how user friendly the system is.</p> <p>Sharmila: Munch-a-Lunch issues a few years ago was that 2 fundraisers were not able to run simultaneously and this is why the switch was made to Hotlunches. Feels that Munch-A-Lunch system was far easier to use with less headaches than Hotlunches which has a lot of issues and problems.</p> <p>Sharmila: Update on hanging baskets: Only 37 baskets sold so far, doesn't feel it is worth the effort based on low sales and how much work it is. Will need to go the school for 3 consecutive days to deal with delivery and arrange parent pick up.</p> <p>Anna: Hot lunches are taking up so much of Anna, Jodie and Jeff's time as parents are emailing about refunds, questions about log in issues etc. and they are not reading the emails of the FAQ sent out in the Week Ahead newsletter. Worried about how much time is spent and parents not respecting that parent volunteers are taking the time to answer questions and deal with refunds etc.</p> <p>Jodie Question: Are we opening up May and June for ordering of hot lunches? Answer Derek: Suggest opening May for sure, advises on holding off on opening June orders as there *may be a Fun Day (AKA Sports Day) and there might be another opportunity for ordering food for that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising update – future plant sales (Cathy S.)</li> </ul> <p>Cathy: Has reached out to two garden suppliers to ask about prices and possibly supplying hanging baskets for fundraising opportunities for next year.</p>	

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<p>7:25 to 7:35 PM</p>	<p>Call for a vote on changes to the Homma PAC Bylaws and Constitution Document:  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u_nbA2aUSAn4P80rW8xQXzUa6-8vLiUx_6YlZfssM/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u_nbA2aUSAn4P80rW8xQXzUa6-8vLiUx_6YlZfssM/edit?usp=sharing</a> (Thank you, Linda W.!)           Anna: Will work on formatting it and will post it before the AGM.</p>	<p>Anna</p>
<p>7:40 to 8:00 PM</p>	<p>Other business and questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the PAC provide supplies for the buddy bench? (Penny L.)</li> </ul> <p>Penny Question: Kids aren't coming to the buddy bench because there isn't a lot of equipment there?          Kevin Answered: Prior to spring break we were running low on equipment, but recently have been restocked with new skipping ropes, frisbees, shovels, hula hoops etc.</p> <p>Cathy suggests PAC funding be used towards mental health education and technology use (cyber awareness) for next year's budget.          -Wants to incorporate Grade 4 kids into garden.          -Asking about when Emergency kits last checked and updated?          -Suggestion about whether we should update older section of the playground with PAC budget?</p>	<p>All</p>

