

MINUTES



Homma PAC Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

In-person, Homma library.

Attendance: Derek Cherry (Admin); Ginny Lee (Admin); Jeff (Grade 4 and Grade 1); Sophia (grade 4 FI parent); Beth Volpov (Grade 1); Melanie (K); Jen (K); Nabila (K); Andrea (K); Linda (Gr 6 and 3); Suzie (Grade 1 FI); Jarrod (Grade 1 and 5); Anna (Grade 7); Corrine (Grade 1 FI); Heidi (twins K); Sabrina (Grade 3); Yalda (Grade 2); Rush (K FI); Josh and Olivia (K) and Loti; Vicky and Bobbi (FI K); Marcie (Grade 7); Miranda (Grade 4 FI); Jen (Grade 3 and K) (Total 23 parents + 2 admin= 25)

Please send agenda items or questions to contacthommapac@gmail.com

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
6:30 to 6:45 PM	Update from the PAC Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome to a new school year and the Homma PACApproval of minutes from June 2023 meeting <p>Approved by Corrine; Seconded by Anna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of agendaApproval of this list of items to become our agenda <p>Approved by Beth; Seconded by Linda</p>	Jarrod Connolly
6:45 to 7:15 PM	Update from the Homma School Admin Team PAC Admin Report from Derek and Ginny: September 19, 2023 1. September Start Up and Staffing Update Welcome everyone to the first PAC meeting of the year. The Homma PAC has a long-standing tradition of involvement in the school and have made many contributions that have supported the educational experience for students both inside and outside of the classroom. They have also worked alongside the school to build community. Thank you for offering your time to be here tonight and hope that you embrace the opportunity for involvement. We are also grateful and appreciative to this year's PAC executive and to all PAC members who have made the commitment to be involved this year. We are looking forward to working alongside the Homma PAC this year. We have had a great start to the school year! The first couple of weeks can be a bit bumpy so we appreciate the community's patience and understanding with startup. We are fully staffed with 23 divisions, and we have welcomed several new staff who are very excited to be joining us. Joining us this year is	Derek Cherry Ginny Lee

Mlle Lee (Vice Principal) Mr. Hall (LRT/ELL), Ms. Domai (ELL/LRT – Grade 6/7 FI on Tuesdays), Mme Burt (Grade 4/5 FI), Ms. Yan (Band Teacher), Ms. Froese (Prep Relief and Grade 2/3 FI), Mr. Lin (ELL/Prep Relief), Mr. Dhollivar (Educational Assistsant), and Mr. Sargeant (Educational Assistant). Schedules are just being finalized and Resource support for students will begin shortly.

Derek wanted to acknowledge a special thank you's to the new Grade 1 students who had to vacate their K classrooms for the new K students and were bouncing around locations at the school for the first week.

One change of note this year is that we have a new break schedule. As communicated in the first WAAG of the year, the change occurred as a result of increased preparation time for teachers. Teachers now receive three 40 minute preps weekly. To accommodate the blocks needed recess and lunch times were adjusted.

Question Olivia: K kids don't seem to have enough time for lunch, only 15 min? Answer Derek: K kids get lunch ahead of time to prevent overcrowding on the playground. Eventually, they will get 25 min for indoor lunch. All K kids wear pinnies to identify them. The student leadership team from Grades 5, 6 and 7 are helping the K kids a lot at lunch.

2. As part of our Admin Report, we will be sharing information about upcoming events going on at the school as well as some of the initiatives staff are involved in.

a. Non- Instructional Day

This Friday, September 22nd, we will be participating in a district wide workshop with guest presenter Dr. Dustin Louie with a focus on transformative reconciliation and decolonization. We are excited to have an opportunity to learn from Dr. Louie. School will not be in session on Friday.

b. Terry Fox Run

On Thursday, September 21st, we will be having our annual Terry Fox Run. Thank you, Homma families, for your generous donations to such an important cause. So far, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised almost a billion dollars worldwide for cancer research. Students will be running with their buddy classes on Thursday. We are encouraging them to wear Homma spirit wear. Families are welcome to join us, please check with your child's classroom teacher to find out what time the class will be running.

c. Meet the Staff Night

We are looking forward to hosting our first community event of the school year. Meet the Staff Night is an opportunity for families to reconnect and for new families to be welcomed into the community. Families will also be able to connect with their child's classroom teacher. Teachers will be in their classrooms from 5:30 – 6:00 pm. Pre ordered pizza can be picked up in the gym from 5:00 – 6:15 pm by student division number.

Derek: A big Thank you to Jodie and to the PAC volunteers for helping with pizza ordering/distribution. Food trucks are hard to hire due to minimum orders.

d. Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day takes place on September 29th. This is a commemorative day that honors the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not. Schools will be closed on Monday, October 2nd to mark this day. We will formally recognize Orange Shirt Day on September 29th. We will be encouraging students to wear orange as a symbol of our sadness of the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem, experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

e. Student Photo Day
Student individual photo day is scheduled for Monday, October 23rd. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

f. Fun Run and Volleyball
Homma will be taking students to the Fun Run at Homma at Garry Point on Tuesday, October 17th. Practices will be held next week on Wednesday at 7:50 am starting next week. Volleyball for Grade 6/7 students will begin shortly. Students will sign up next week.

Fun Run is for Grade 1-7. Will need parent volunteers to drive.

g. Conferences and reporting
Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th and Thursday, October 26th. Students will be dismissed early at 1:45 pm on both days.

h. Leadership Jobs
At Homma, we have several students in Grades 5 –7 who will be participating in various leadership roles throughout the school. Students at Homma are always very enthusiastic about giving back to their school. These opportunities help create connection and community. A big thank you to Mlle Lee and our

intermediate staff for supporting this opportunity.

Ginny: A career fair will be held in the gym and it is recommended that Grade 5-7 students volunteer for leadership jobs. Grade 4 students can be involved in third term. Grade 4s can shadow older kids at the end of 2nd term.

i. Foundation Skills Assessment

Each year students in Grades 4 and 7 participate in the Foundation Skills Assessment. The assessment consists of a written and on-line component. Students are assessed in literacy and numeracy. The assessment provides a snapshot of student learning currently and provides the school with information about strengths and stretches in these areas. The assessment results are not used to determine report card comments but do provide families with another opportunity to see how their child is doing. The best source of information, however, continues to be your child's classroom teacher. The assessment runs from October 2nd– November 10th.

j. School Story

Over the past few years, Homma staff, students and families have worked to build a community where everyone feels like they belong. This important work will continue throughout the year. Belonging is essential to student success and is the foundation of a community. When I came to Homma, I wanted to learn from our students about their experiences at school. I have learned that our students are proud to be part of the Homma community and that most of them feel a strong sense of connection and belonging. We have also learned that some of our students are feeling more anxious towards their schoolwork and social relationships. This year staff are working with students to increase resiliency and help them with coping strategies and growth mindset. We are excited about this new focus for the school year

k. Communication

There is often a lot of communication that goes home. Most of this will be done electronically. Each week we will send home a WAAG. Another source of information is our school website. The school website has links to hot lunch ordering, past WAAG as well as information about our staff and school. We encourage everyone to have a look at the website when they have a chance.

l. Thank you's

Just wanted to say thank you for hosting the welcome back

	<p>muffins and coffee for families on the first day and also thank you for your help with Meet the Staff Night (handing out pizza).</p>	
<p>7:15 to 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget update <p>Marcie to answer questions about last year's financials in black. Miranda to give updates on this year's financials in red. Sheets handed out to each table.</p> <p>Marcie: Gaming income based on student per head based on things which directly benefit the students such as comic books (not educational); snacks for Sports Day etc.) \$5800 + 10000 = ~\$16,000. We look to admin and teachers on how to best use those funds. For example, sports equipment, funding the garden and the Grade 7 farewell.</p> <p>We are starting the gaming fund this year with \$7,178.</p> <p>The Operating account is funded by different fundraising activities. We have an active PAC. \$11,000 earned last year from Hot Lunch days (Pizza; DQ; Sushi); \$2200 (Purdy's) etc.</p> <p>Some events are not meant to make money and are put on by the PAC as community building events. Examples are Bingo night or the Craft fair.</p> <p>Popcorn (\$365) and Freezie fundraisers (\$1,600) were successful and required minimal effort.</p> <p>May Fair earned \$5785</p> <p>Each year the PAC Funds teachers' grants of \$300 x 23 teachers and Resource/Library teachers are \$200 x 10.</p> <p>Funded artists in residence \$4200</p> <p>Still have \$71,743 in bank account. Look to fund next year's expenses if we didn't fundraise at all in case something like COVID happened again.</p> <p>Question (Melanie?): How did hot lunches make so much? Answer Marcie: \$1-2 on each lunch x 500 students with 3-4 lunches a month.</p> <p>Question Nabila: How do we connect with teachers/admin about how to spend the money? Answer Marcie: We decide amongst PAC and vote. Heavily influenced by admin. It is very important to attend PAC meetings and for a school this large we have very few parents attending who make the decisions on how the money is spent.</p>	<p>Miranda Duffy and Marcie Beggs</p>

Derek: Any suggestions brought forth need to be supported by teachers/admin and benefit all students.

Miranda: (Red ink page)

- Almost \$18,000 in gaming fund.

-Increase sports equipment from \$1000 to \$2500. Derek commented that all cost of balls have gone up substantially (soccer balls; rubber balls; volleyballs). Outdoor equipment gets lost or kicked on the roof, left outside, so they need to get replaced often. Approved in May budget.

-Increased Grade 7 farewell budget due to large number of students graduating.

-Projected balance for gaming fund \$3,683.

- Questions

Beth asked: Where is Homma on the district's playground waitlist?

Corrine answered: We are likely 4-5 years on the waitlist. She emailed the School district about the broken spiral slide and the school district replied that the slide was irreplaceable. Anna commented: Playground section which is pink with tape is from the 1990's. Swing, slide and spider web section of the playground was new 7 years ago and was funded by the PAC and we raised ~\$70,000 with volunteer parents installing it. Ginny commented that most playground equipment installation needs to be done by the companies we purchase it from, and can be an added cost.

Corrine: Do we have updated quotes for the library commons project?

Derek answered: No. We are hoping for a January start on construction. We are a little behind schedule and new carpenters are being hired. Homma received a \$30,000 grant to renovate the library, but is asking the PAC to fund \$20,000-\$30,000 for furniture.

Derek: The Library is painted red and pink to honor the schools' Japanese heritage and are not being changed with the new library commons project.

Corrine: Asked if Karima Essa (Bollywood dance instructor (Artist in Residence)) booked? Derek answered: Karima Essa has been booked for two weeks this year instead of a winter concert. Staff suggested the winter concert only happen once every 2 years. Each student will receive ~2-3 classes of Karima Essa.

Question: fundraising from renting out the gym? Derek answered: rental process is through the school district and if people wanted to rent it for recreation purposes would need to contact the school district and get liability insurance etc.

Corrine: asked about community book share outside Homma School facing playground. Derek answered: He doesn't know the history and it's in disrepair. It has value, but who is going to maintain this? Anna

	<p>will send an email to old teachers and PAC to see if we can find answers.</p> <p>Miranda: Are there any changes to numbers we want to consider today? None raised.</p> <p>Ginny: Leadership fund for Grade 5/6/7 students to celebrate volunteer work at the end of the year (crossing guard; lunch monitor; office monitor; library monitor; recess monitor; morning announcement). Won't tell them until the end of the year to promote intrinsic motivation. Ginny plans to reward them with a pizza party/drinks/certificates. Approximately 209 students (not including Grade 4 students) \$1500 is the suggested budget and Ginny will organize this pizza/celebration.</p> <p>Motion suggested by Anna and seconded by Corrine for \$1500 allocated to leadership celebration. Motion carried and voted by majority.</p> <p>Question from Jeff: Asked if sports equipment spending was spent from last year. Marcie answered that they amalgamated the 2 sports equipment line items and increased sports equipment fund by \$500 from last year.</p> <p>Derek: We will need to replace jerseys in the future, but it wasn't in 2023/24 academic year budget.</p>	
<p>7:30 to 7:50 PM</p>	<p>PAC Planning and Participation Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Events <p>Anna: Asked if there was any interest in moving forward with events? Some examples of events in the past were: December craft fair; Bingo; Heritage Fair and Halloween Dance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fundraisers <p>Anna: A fundraising committee was established. Homma PAC has tried many different things, and we have to make money based on interest and be strategic on what we pursue based on limited number of volunteers. Please bring up your ideas for fundraising!</p> <p>Corrine: The fundraising committee communicates via the Whatsapp group. The only fundraiser discussed this year is Purdy's. Easy money, volunteer-friendly, and the same 2 volunteers from last year are willing to put this on again. Propose delivery for Wed., Dec 6.</p> <p>Anna: Can have meetings off cycle of the PAC meetings to plan larger events.</p> <p>Marcie: Halloween dance. Haunted Hallway was very popular. Good community building and one of her daughter's fondest memories of Homma.</p>	<p>Anna/Jarrood</p>

	<p>Anna: PAC owns 3 big bins of Halloween décor and are stored in the PAC kitchen.</p> <p>Miranda: Ask about involvement before committing. Don't refrain from asking questions as it doesn't mean you have to commit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers <p>Homma PAC is always asking for volunteers. Please share your email if you are interested in joining any 1 of the sub committees (Events/Fundraising/Engagement)</p>	
7:50 to 7:55 PM	<p>Update on Hot Lunch Program</p> <p>Anna: Jodie and Jeff run Hot Lunch program. Jodie does handing out hot lunches and coordinating with vendors. Jeff runs the website. Please order before the deadline which is Thursday 9 pm the week before hot lunch date. There are no late orders and occasionally we have concession items for cash purchase, but this is not a guarantee.</p> <p>Vendors (Pizza Factory; DQ in Steveston; Sushi Takeya; Olive lunch – catering).</p> <p>Everyone needs to create a new account for Hot Lunches as the accounts get reset every year. Term 1 ordering is now open, term 2/3 will open in January.</p> <p>Question from Andrea. Do they have enough volunteers for Hot Lunch Program? Jarrod answered: Looking for volunteers that have food safe. Currently PAC has enough volunteers.</p>	Anna Reithmeier on behalf of Jodie Weiler
7:55 to 8:00 PM	<p>Other business and questions</p> <p>Next PAC meeting Tues Oct 24 at 630pm Virtual.</p> <p>Anna: PAC meetings run Tu/W/Th and we will alternate to try to get as many parents attending as possible.</p> <p>Anna: call to adjourn meeting. Jarrod seconded. Meeting ended 8:03pm</p>	All

Homma PAC Executive:

- Jarrod Connolly, Chair
- Corrine Haer, Vice-Chair
- Miranda Duffy, Treasurer
- Jennifer Tham, Secretary

Next Homma PAC Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 (Virtual, hosted on MS Teams)