

Brackendale Elementary School  
2018-2019 PAC MINUTES

Wednesday September 19, 2018 – 7:00pm

**Attendance**

Stephen Fryer, President	Erin Shaber
Shawna Lang, Vice-President	Elaine Engelhardt
Heather Teasell, Treasurer	Angela Day
Tricia Duncan, Secretary	Elena Hutchinson
Linda Voordouw	Heather Buck
Janet Boa	Laura Laziridis
Krista Breu	Karen Saenger (Acting Principal)
Christine Staats	

**WELCOME** and call to order 7:10 pm by President, Stephen Fryer

- 1) Acceptance of Agenda – Shawna L. and Heather T.
- 2) Acceptance of June minutes- Elaine E. and Laura L.

**1. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT** Karen Saenger

**1. Student Enrolment** - How we have Growth! Here is our growth by the numbers: • Spring 2018 – 299 students – 13 Divisions • September 2018 – 321 students – 14 Divisions • New classroom – Kindergarten/Grade 1 - 54 Kindergarten students in 2018 versus 36 Kindergarten students in 2017

**2. Staff Update**

We have 3 new members of our Intermediate team: Selene Johnston, Conrad Lum, Alec Zigar. We have a new teacher-librarian, Natalie Mah, a new Learning Services Teacher, Katie McEwen, and two new teachers on our Kindergarten/Primary team: Jovanka Wong and Anthea Johnson.

**Selene** brings with her a wealth of knowledge and over 20 years of experience teaching at the intermediate and high school levels. She is a motivated and passionate teacher who is excited to bring her love of STEAM (science, technology, art and math) into the classroom.

**Conrad Lum** comes to us from Garibaldi Highlands. He has over 20 years of experience working with intermediate students. One of his passions is integrating technology into his lessons so that students have multiple avenues for creative expression and critical thinking. He enjoys challenging his students so that they reach and exceed their individual goals.

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**Alec** brings with him a wealth of experience, over 10 years of teaching experience and a passion for art and science. He recently earned his Master of Education Degree from SFU in science curriculum development. His desire to keep students emotional engaged, fascinated and maybe even “grossed out” by natural flora and fauna fits nicely with our work on authentic inquiry and projects that stimulate critical thinking.

**Anthea** brings with her a wealth of knowledge and over 20 years of teaching experience in varied and diverse settings including overseas, a densely populated downtown area of Vancouver, and last year filled a temporary assignment at Garibaldi Highlands. She has a passion for play-based learning, science and environmental studies and sparking childrens’ creativity and curiosity through inquiry projects.

**Natalie Mah** is our Teacher Librarian, co-teaches in Ms. Smith’s class (while Ms. Smith serves on the Instructional Leadership Team) and supports literacy development in our classrooms. Along with over 15 years of diverse teaching experiences, Nathalie is applying her expertise gained through the UBC Teacher Librarian Diploma program to co-create rich, dynamic learning for our students. Natalie brings with her a passion for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) and student driven inquiry.

**Jovanka Wong** moved from the library and is teaching one of our Kindergarten – Grade One classes. Ms. Wong is a highly experienced educator with over 20 years of teaching experience spanning. She brings with her expertise in the areas of reading and literacy, music, dance, and storytelling.

**Katie McEwen**, another experienced teacher of over 10 years, joins our team as one of our Learning Support Teachers. She has a Master of Education Degree in special education, was an Adjunct Professor at UBC and a District Mentor in Special Education for SD#38. Her expertise lies in positive behavior support, autism, behavioral disorders and learning disabilities.

### **School Learning Plan**

We have spent a number of years learning and living the 5 Growth Mindsets: Empathy, Flexibility, Persistence, Resilience, and Optimism. These strategies help students stay the course when things get tough and become better learners. These assets have become woven into our school culture which we believe has contributed to our sense of community. When adults and children share the same language and appreciate the same values, connected increases. Last year we celebrated some of our student data on school climate. Here are two charts that demonstrate, our positive school culture:

In the spring, we began wondering about the connections between growth mindsets and critical thinking. We believe that a growth mindset is essential for complex and inferential thinking. We believe that if we design for critical thinking, both in academic and social contexts, then students will: a. gain skills in reasoning, deducing, persuading, analyzing, interpreting, and debating, and b. become independent with thoughtful, insightful self-assessments that include perceptive evidence of critical thinking.

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**Parents Provided Feedback on these two essential questions:**

**1. How might we include students in developing our school learning plan and feeling connected to it?"** • Students brainstorm in classes to create ideas on how they can engage each other • Have students tell educators what they are most excited to learn • Student round table • Students make presentations and ask little for feedback on what is important • Ask Students to create a survey for parents • Provide flexible syllabus which allows for student lead exploration of subjects • Provide for multi-disciplinary projects and themes • Have children present a skit to parents showing ideas of what the learning plan is about • Letting kids develop plans and create visual learning opportunities like the outdoor classroom models • Student create "personal" critical thinking goals • Students create "class" critical thinking goals • Ask kids what they want to learn or expect • Use collaborative spaces and effective communication • Have kids work together in other classrooms

**2. How might we include parents/guardians in developing our school learning plan and feeling connected to it?"** • Assembly videos that parents could access online (via password) • Use social media page • Use web based tech to report, update, share • Ask parents what they expect • Update parents on classroom goals and school goals monthly • Showcase student work at PAC meetings (Parent University) • Use online group discussion forums • FaceBook – proven to be very informative for coming events • Parents talking to kids at home about the learning plan • Continue Parent University but film it and allow parents to access it online • Host a bring a parent/guardian to school day for a 15 minute brainstorm or problem solving experience • Email, social media, "check in" with parents at x-mas concert • Initiate class parent reps • Host Parent information night with a guest speaker on Critical Thinking • Host a Parent pub/beer/burger night and disseminate info

**School Improvement Plan Review**

Please contact Ms. Saenger if you would like to participate in the school improvement plan review with school trustee on October 16, 2018 from 1pm-4pm

**2. TREASURER'S REPORT** – Heather Teasell

**Pac Account: \$ 7,487.70**  
**Money Promised: \$ 10,000.00 (held for playground)**  
**Total: \$ 17, 487.70**

**Gaming Account: \$ 245.45**

Application for Gaming Funds has been completed and is in progress.

Still Owing: Missoula Theatre Balance \$2500US

Classroom funds \$2700

Please see detail of accounts and spending at end of minutes.

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### **3. PAC UPDATES:**

**Missoula Theatre** Janet B.

There are approximately 40 kids enrolled. The show times are at 2 and 6 pm with a bake sale at each. There was no luck in finding a last minute piano player replacement so they will use recorded music.

**Teacher's File** Heather T.

There were 110 orders of school supplies for this year. They are very good quality, and nearly \$500.00 was raised. There was a question of how kindergarten students could also participate in the purchase. This will be looked at and information will go out next year when they sign up for school.

**Book Fair** Heather T.

The book fair was a large success on the first day and \$1440.00 was raised in credit/debit alone. Thanks to Camille and Heather for organizing the event and volunteers.

**AED** Heather B.

The AED has been purchased and a work order has been submitted to mount it in the entrance foyer of the school. We are the first school in the district to have an automated external defibrillator.

The DPAC will bring this purchase to the attention of the other PACs in the hopes that it will be seen as a necessity for schools and perhaps one day be funded by the district. Thanks to Heather B. for spearheading this endeavour.

**Hot Lunch**

Stephanie A. left a great summary package for our new coordinators Kumi and Loreena. The first hot lunch will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>. They will still be needing volunteers to help deliver the lunch on this day.

**OPT for Sexual Health** Stephen F.

This year we will be proactive in choosing dates and getting this program in as many classes as possible. We also want to host a parent education evening as well. It was suggested that perhaps another school would like to host with us and share the cost.

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**Grant proposals – Laura L.**

Principal Saenger informed the PAC that we will not be getting the District playground grant until 2019. The submission date for the Whistler/Blackcomb grant is October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was believed that the “Global Motion” (spinning orb) would be the best fit if we can only get one piece of equipment. The choice between rubber tile or wood chips is a very large cost different so, we will submit for wood chips hoping the lower cost will increase our chances of receiving a grant. It is hoped that the excavation and site preparation might be able to be donated by local contractors.

**Motion:** The PAC authorizes Laura L. to submit a grant application to Whistler Blackcomb for the Global Motion equipment with a wood chip base. -Janet B. and seconded by Heather T.  
Majority approved, 1 abstaining.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Back to School BBQ** Shawna L.

This will be a “Burger and Beer” social mixer fundraising event that allows parents to network with other parents in their community. The Nest is prepared to host the evening and the suggested date is Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Invites will go out on social media and posters will be created. Tickets will be sold ahead of time.

**Outdoor Classroom** Heather T.

Letters were submitted at the end of last year to the PAC from some of the lower elementary classes; asking for help with the creation of an outdoor classroom. These students also wrote to the District, who in turn cleared and mowed an area for the classroom. They wrote to the “log sort” who donated rounds of wood for seats, and the students created two pollination hotels. The PAC will forward an invite to these teachers and their students to come to a PAC meeting and ask for what they might still need for their outdoor classroom.

**Recycling** Heather T.

Heather T. donates her time to do the recycling of paid items and the money goes back to the school, approximately \$20-\$30 every few weeks. She asks that parents and teachers remind and encourage students to remove their straws from juice boxes and to clean out any items that go into recycling.

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**Review of School Drop Off**

There are still many parents who drop off their children and leave their cars parked along the outside driveway closest to school, despite the availability of parking spaces in the lot. A suggestion was made to create more signs that read “No Parking, Drop off only” and put them along the fence.

**PAC Calendar** Stephen F.

Stephen will finalize the dates for events with Mrs. Saenger and a completed PAC calendar will be put out for parents as soon as possible. There are tentative movie night dates if someone is interested in becoming the coordinator for these evenings. They are a productive school fundraiser and allow kids the opportunity to see a movie on a larger screen, as there is no movie theatre in town. Anyone interested please let the PAC know. Also if anyone has fresh fundraising ideas, the PAC is always open to them, but also need volunteers to help take them on.

**Brackendale Spirit Wear** Stephen F.

Source for Sports is able to provide Brackendale logo imprinted clothing, such as toques, hoodies, t-shirts, etc. Samples should be available on October 1<sup>st</sup>. A school order bulk order can be organized for better rates, but also individuals would be able to approach Source for Sports on their own and order gear. The Grade 6 class also get a specific graduating year hoodie, it would be great if a parent (Grade 6) could volunteer to spearhead this initiative.

**Teacher Communication** Krista B.

It was suggested that a consistent and regular form of communication perhaps via email could be encouraged for all teachers in all grades. There are some teachers who communicate weekly via email and others who do not send any emails throughout the year. The weekly emails are greatly appreciated; perhaps all teachers could send at least a monthly email explaining classroom goals and expectations. Mrs. Saenger will share these thoughts with the staff and report back in October.

**Question and Answer period** Krista B.

Could a time be allotted for a “Question and Answers” period by parents during the PAC meeting? Some members felt that this may cause the PAC meetings to be very long and lose focus. A suggestion was made that any questions could be forwarded to the secretary before the following PAC meeting and they could be added to the Agenda, Thus everyone would be

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aware of the query or concern and be able to consider answers or solutions before the meeting. This in turn would hopefully make the discussion more streamlined during the meeting.

Another suggestion was made to create a “Classroom Parent Rep” who would represent each classroom and be a voice for them at the PAC meeting. This may encourage participation in the PAC and create more awareness of PAC initiatives.

**School "Wish List"**

Tabled to October

**Classroom Funds** Heather T.

**Motion:** To provide \$150.00 to each: classroom teacher (14 divisions), the music teacher, the librarian and two support teachers, for a total of \$2700.00. These would be awarded after the October PAC meeting.

Majority approved, 1 member abstaining

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm**

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BRACKENDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAC  
2017-2018

FUNDRAISERS		*PURCHASED THIS YEAR:	
HOT LUNCH:	Oct: 424.53 Subway & Start up costs	1st Day Welcome Parents treats:	No Volunteer this year
	Nov: 248.48 Sushi Sen	Teacher Classroom Funds	2,550.00 13 Div, 1 learning support, 1 music, 1 library
	Jan: 486.44 Panago	Dishwasher for PAC Kitchen	750.00 chq 1774 Jan 17 2018
	Feb: 393.28 Subway	STEM resources	1,000.00 chq 1774 Jan 17 2018
	Apr: 723.53 Bisla/Panago	Gym Equipment	700.00 chq 1774 Jan 17 2018
	May & June: 664.09 Subway then Panago	Outside Equipment	700.00 chq 1774 Jan 17 2018
Missoula	2,444.65 fees, tickets, concession	Missoula	4,905.92 Final - includes all expenses
Nesters GC	100.00 year to date	Options for Sexual Health	1,581.00 \$1350 for class \$231 for Mileage
Teacher's File	499.21	Grade 6 Hoodies	1,150.00 Fully paid by Grade 6 class
Art Cards by Kids	1,049.68	Grade 6 Luncheon	297.83 \$350 Budgeted each year for Grade 6 events
Christmas Shop	1,349.85	Teachers Luncheon	730.60 Centrepieces, Flowers (gifts), Caterer
Basket Raffle	-	Retirement Gifts/flowers	150.00 Donation to Orangutan Canada for Ms. Kelly
Coffee	528.00	Playground Money - on hold	10,000.00 For Future
Purdy's:	Dec: 948.97	Freezies for Sports Day	- Not paid by PAC this year
Purdy's:	Mar: 228.46	Last Day treats expenses	- Did not happen this year
Movie Night:	Oct: 635.35 Sing-movie returned (faulty)	Missoula Deposit 2017-2018	702.90 Paid: \$500 US
	Nov: 504.00 Baby Boss	Missoula Deposit 2018-2019	686.05 ACTUAL Paid: \$500 US
	Jan: -	AED Device for Foyer	1,932.63 Chq 1805 - Purchased July 2018 as per June mtg
BRE Gear	1,150.00 collected	PAC Sitter	160.00 For all 8 PAC meetings \$20/mtg
Sports Day Treats	-	Teacher's File Mailing of orders	20.06 Registered package Canada Post
FALL AUCTION	7,775.00	Admin: Bank Service Charges	288.65 July 30, 2017 - June 30, 2018 Chq & Gaming
SPRING DANCE	3,069.55	Admin: New Cheque Purchase	148.21 May 17 2018: new chqs for Chequing account
		Admin: Square Service Charges	16.34 For Auction Credit Card Purchases
<b>FUNDS RAISED</b>	<b>\$ 23,223.07</b>		<b>28,470.19</b>
<b>GAMING GRANT</b>		<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE:</b>	Pancake Breakfast
	Funds received Jan 2018 from Province of BC		<b>1,130.45</b> Donation to Christmas Community Cares
	\$ 5,940.00		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$ 29,163.07</b>		

\*All purchases are approved and undergo a vote at PAC meetings - all parents & caregivers are members of the PAC and are welcome to participate in all aspects of how funds are raised and where funds are allocated.  
PAC Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the each month, except December and March.

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