

## DeBeck PAC Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2022 at 6:30pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 827 9944 9462 | Passcode: DeBeck

### 1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair: Poonam

Treasurer: Kevin

Secretaries: Lisa and Sophia

### 2. Attendance

Poonam Kaler, Kevin Lim-Kong, Lisa K, Sandy Dhaliwal, Edmund Szeto, Audrey Lavers, Eva Poon, Jade Kwok, Kana Shorin, Sophia Shimada, Mohit, Theresa Wong, Tienne Schaub, Lisa Santos, Yenmi Yip, Vivian Poon, Carolyn Walsh, Wai Hang, Sophie Ching, Leona Zhuang, Flora, Jenny Chai, Joanna Pattullo, Rob & Kimara, Kathy Pantaleo, Cori Anderson

### 3. Updates from our Principal and Vice Principal

- **Seismic update:** Starting in Fall 2023, 100% of the school will be renovated to ensure it is up to code. School will be renovated in sections. Confirmation from the Ministry will be in late December or early January.  
**Parents:** Please provide feedback on “**What would be beneficial to be updated?**” (e.g., parking lot, bathrooms).
- **Support for children and families:** Families are needing more support. There are mental health challenges for families and children. We are grateful for various options to provide support.
  - **Backpack buddies:** They drop off non-perishable bags of food at school every Friday and families can pick up.
  - **Feed-U-Cate:** DeBeck applied for this Richmond School District based grant. The grant will be used to start a Breakfast Club. The initial aim will be to invite the grade 6 and 7 students (96 kids) on Tuesday mornings, hopefully starting before winter break. Later, the Breakfast Club will be extended to invite all students and families. This is a community building event. Table cloths, plates, etc. still need to be purchased. Donations to Feed-U-Cate can be made via the Richmond School District website:  
<https://richmondsd38.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/27280/125/false/true>.
  - **Snack bins:** This idea started with a grant that PAC got for the Meet the Staff night. Tupperware containers were bought to store snacks. More kids are needing food on a daily basis at DeBeck. We are trying to make sure food is easily accessible.
  - **Richmond Angels Network:** DeBeck is one of 10 schools identified by the poverty task force. They are matched with kids and deliver gifts at the school. The staff also contribute.
  - **Family Affordability Fund:** Helps with hot lunches, buying t-shirts, hoodies, photo orders, etc. Covered for some families to ensure they have access.

- **Student behavior:** There has been a shift to mischievous behavior. Students are toilet papering the bathroom, getting wet paper towels and throwing it, and not flushing the toilets. There is currently less custodian access, so clean up falls on Kathy and Cori. The state of the bathrooms is creating anxiety for younger kids. Younger kids do not want to use the bathroom.  
Thank you to parents for raising concerns about students talking about vape pens and about knowing where to get weapons. As a result, Constable Tammy Walker came to talk with Grade 6 and 7 students. Discussion included vape pens, what it means when spread rumors or talk about weapons, what it means for a school and consequences, what you can do if you hear these things, what happens if we find out if it is you that told, etc.
- **Starting up activities.** Activities were put on hold because of COVID-19 restrictions. Staff talked about re-starting additional activities. Kids are having big emotions (e.g., temper tantrums) at school. We would like to help kids with big emotions before planning an ice skating field trip. Swimming is a life skill, so lessons will be arranged for late May or June. The City of Richmond has changed guidelines for how many kids can be at Minoru pool. Previously, there could be 60 children per lesson with 3 lessons per day. Now, there can only be 30 children per lesson with 2 lessons per day. Swimming will be offered to all students in grade 2 and 3. Lessons will occur over 2 week periods.
- **Innovation grants:** DeBeck applied for 3 innovation grants. Got approved for all 3! Main topics: (1) Social emotional learning grant: to support students and learn how to make students feel more welcome; (2) JEDI club: Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion; (3) Pillars of literacy: Did literacy assessment at the beginning of the year. Most students are reading but there are challenges with comprehension. Would like to help students learn to make sense of what they are reading. These grants are used for resources and time for teachers to get together. Develop an inquiry question, get input from staff and students, and meet with others in the district as well.
- **Hiring a Santa:** PAC asked if they could hire a Santa to visit the school. We have a staff member who plays the role of Santa Claus. We would like to continue this tradition. Kids recognize and know this Santa so are comfortable.

#### 4. Treasurer Update

- Operating Account Balance about \$11.6k
- Gaming Account Balance about \$26k
- Munch a Lunch deposits about \$8k.
- Movie Night profit about \$300-\$350.

#### 5. DPAC Update

- Since our last PAC meeting, there have been DPAC meetings on Oct 4 and Nov 1.
- Discussions were mainly about the Student and Family Affordability Fund.
  - For families who require financial assistance related to school activities.
  - This is one time funding by the government.
  - It covers hot lunches, field trips, grad activities, etc. There is no official list of eligible items.

- It does not cover a photo day, book fair or computer. Submitting receipts for items that are purchased is not eligible. Gift cards are a way to work around such purchases.
- **Families can reach out to the principal directly to access the funding.**
- Can access more than once per year throughout the school year.
- Amount is determined case by case based on the need of the family.
- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022ECC0057-001290>
- PAC 101 workshop was held in October 2022.
- Sexual Exploitation workshop for parents/guardians on Nov 24 @ 7pm. May be geared towards parents/guardians of high school students but anyone is welcome to attend. For more information see post in DeBeck PAC Facebook group.

## 6. Grade 7 Committee Update

- Sandy Dhaliwal is chairing the Grade 7 Committee. There are currently 4 committee members. Please contact Sandy at DebeckGr7@gmail.com if you would like to join. Please include your name and phone number (for WhatsApp chat).
- Focus on fundraising for grad and planning activities.
- Aiming for another movie night in January with funds to go to Grade 7's.

## 7. Winter Treats for Students

- TCBY frozen yogurt for kids this year before the winter break. They also provide gluten and lactose friendly treats. Total cost is about \$750.
- Motion made by Kevin and seconded by Theresa.

## 8. Open Discussion

### a. How can parents support the school

- Parents can support the school by volunteering. Volunteers are welcome for Breakfast Club (e.g., buy food, make breakfast, clean up), movie night, hot lunches, etc.
- The PAC has an ongoing commitment to sponsor the iPad cart for the school. We are on a lease agreement. Cost is about \$5000.
- The PAC supports staff members, including band and library, by providing about \$100 for additional supplies for their classroom. Kevin will email Kathy with amounts approved at the AGM.
- Some parents are expressing the need for how to manage technology, how to deal with big emotions, etc. Staff would also like to know how they can help us. If the PAC identifies a need that would be helpful for the parent community, then please let Kathy or Cori know.

### b. This year's fundraising project

- Goal for this year is to expand the playground: Phase 2 is the addition of swings, and Phase 3 is the addition of musical instruments. The swings will be about \$29k. We are awaiting a quote from the District on the fill (i.e., logs, woodchips, etc). Once we get a quote, then we will ask the school community for donations. Phase 2 will aim to happen in the 2023/24 school year.

### c. Fundraisers

- Hot lunch is our main fundraiser.
- Movie night is meant for the community to come together and have a night out.
- Purdys fundraiser is open until Monday November 14. For more information see post in DeBeck PAC Facebook group.
- Spring fair (carnival games, food, etc) will aim to happen in May 2023.

- School Cash Online allows donations through the district to DeBeck. Tax receipts are issued. <https://sd38.bc.ca/our-district/donations>

## 9. Q&A

- **What is the view on Fraser School ranking of DeBeck? How can parents help to improve them?** The Fraser School ranking is based on how students do in the Foundational Skills Assessment. At DeBeck, the Fraser ranking represents a snapshot of a school which encourages all children to write. It is a snapshot because it does not reflect the entire learning. At our school, we want all children who want to write the test to take it. If you do not want your child to write, then parents/guardians can opt out. There are varying degrees of children who can write the test. Some schools do not encourage all students to write. To improve ranking, our school does things like apply to innovation grants. We do this not to increase the Fraser ranking but to help address what we notice our school or community need.
- **Does the school publish our own data?** We report data to the District. Findings from our data are reflected in our “school story” (<https://debeck.sd38.bc.ca/our-school-story>).
- **Would one consider having after school clubs for reading or math, where parents volunteer to help?** Mohit to share experiences with Kathy. Last year there was an after school homework club. It was started because kids wanted more opportunities to connect with each other. At the end of October, a new after school program for grades 4 and 5 was started with Canada SCORES. Volleyball was recently restarted. We are slowly starting to add more clubs. What is added depends on what teachers can volunteer for.
- The staff would like to work together with families.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:24pm.