

DeBeck PAC Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2025 at 6:30pm

In Person at the DeBeck Library

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Chair: Poonam
- Treasurer: Kevin
- Secretary: Lisa
- Call to order @ 6:32pm.

2. Attendance

- Poonam Kaler, Kevin Lim-Kong, Lisa Santos, Edward, Edmund, Tiffany, Sandy, Eva, Brian, Maloy, Theresa, Jade, Cori Anderson, Lisa Schwartz

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Motion to approve October minutes by Kevin. Seconded by Maloy.
- Motion to approve November minutes by Edmund. Seconded by Tiffany.

4. Updates from our Principal and Vice Principal

● Seismic

- Phase 3 (not including Room 110- Ms. Lau's room) is scheduled to be completed by March 15, 2025. Classroom moves to take place after spring break.
- Phase 2 Gym and Staff Room March 2025
- Room 110 can start once Ms. Emily's room is ready
- Phase 2a (Courtyard) scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2025
- Phase 4 (Room 107, 108, 111) March 16 th - June 30 th , 2025
- Phase 5 (Office/Medical Room and Staff Washrooms) July 15th-November 30th , 2025
- Phase 5a (washrooms near Room 113) Summer 2025
- Phase 6 (Library, Resource Rooms) July 2025- November 2025
- Jess Dance program postponed until April due to seismic upgrade.

● Basketball

- Thank you to the coaches- Ms. Bhardwaj, Mr. Loewen, Ms. Cheung, and Ms. Xie.
- Practices will be alternating Tuesdays @ Garden City and alternating Mondays @ Lee. Some practices at Dolphin Park.
- Away games only and Palmer tournament. Schedule has been sent to all players and is on our website and being sent home in the Week at a

Glance. The School District is evaluating all elementary athletics and created a working group with representation from different stakeholders.

- The goal of Elementary athletics:
 - maximize participation, everyone who wants to play is welcome
 - have fun with focus on joy, fair play, and teamwork
 - provide an opportunity for students to build skills and competencies through sport
 - stay healthy and build lifelong enjoyment of physical activity
 - respect others and build a connected community
- **Successful DeBeck Richmond Sockeyes Night**
 - Thank you to families who were able to attend our Richmond Sockeyes night.
 - We had a DeBeck student be the 7th person (Shane Strong) and carry the Sockeyes flag and stand with the players during the national anthem
 - An opportunity to connect as a community outside of school
- **Student Leadership/Connection Crew (Grade 5/6/7)**
 - This group discussed issues that are important to address at school. Students brainstormed and identified themes: language around problem solving; racist language and the meaning, power, and history behind words; and belonging. Actions to take to move forward include thinking about who we can invite to help us, what resources are available, how to measure if we are making a difference. The students also brainstormed values, like respect, belonging, safety, and connection.
- **PAC Classroom Funds**
 - 6 classrooms used their curriculum PAC funds to purchase document cameras.
 - Document cameras can show a close up view of smaller items and can make reading materials to a class easier. Can annotate items being shared with students
 - 2 classrooms went to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery to learn about salmon.
- **Fun/Sports Day** is planned for June 13.
- **SD38 Offering On-Line Workshops for Parents and Caregivers**
 - Cellphones: What's Healthy, What's Not, and What We Can Do to Support Our Kids was held on January 21. The presentation by Hannah Beach will be posted on the District website for the next 2 weeks.
 - Reclaiming Play: Revitalizing Childhood to Combat Anxiety and Aggression
Children are becoming more anxious and aggressive. The common thread? A stark decline in free play. We are now seeing the emotional side effects of the loss of play in the lives of children as aggression and anxiety

in young people is at an all-time high. The research is clear: children learn and develop best through play. And yet, children are playing less than ever. In fact, this is the first generation of children that does not have a play-based childhood. The side effects? Children and youth are struggling. It has become harder than ever to lead and care for kids. Join Hannah for a powerful workshop that will help you discover practical ways to transform your family culture and support your children in becoming their best selves.

Presented by Hannah Beach
February 25, 2025 | 6:30 – 8 p.m.

5. Treasurer Update

- Operating account is about \$23k.
- Gaming account is about \$17k.
- We apply for the gaming grant every year. It grants about \$20 per child. This year we received \$7500. These funds are for activities not related to the curriculum.
- Approved expenses from the gaming account include: September welcome back treats, pumpkin patch, dance program, White Hatter, \$15 per grade 7 student, Camp Jubilee transportation, \$10 per student for field trips.

6. New Business

- The school was approached by Elevate to teach ultimate frisbee to all students. The cost for 16 divisions is \$4900 (about \$13 per student). There would be three sessions for each class. The sessions would be held June 9–12, 16–18. If the PAC contributes \$3080, then the cost per student would be \$5. **Motion to contribute \$3080 for Elevate program.** Motion passed by Lisa. Seconded by Eva.
- A raffle would help to offset the cost of the Elevate program.
- We agreed to hold a **raffle this year**. Cash prizes will be identical to past raffles:
 - \$500, \$250, \$100 cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place;
 - \$50 cash prize each for the top selling primary and intermediate student;
 - \$150 gift basket or similar for a student or multiple students by random draw;
 - Ice cream party for each of the top selling primary and intermediate classes (about \$100).
 - **Motion for \$1200 for raffle prizes.** Motion passed by Brian. Seconded by Edward.

- Poonam, Edmund, Eva volunteered to be the core group to organize the raffle. We **need more volunteers**.

7. District PAC Update

- Other schools have reported on traffic safety concerns around school areas. Need to reduce speed. We noted that if traffic safety is a concern at DeBeck then we can contact the DPAC to ask for help monitoring traffic.
- The cell phone policy was discussed. In elementary schools, cell phones are not to be used during the day and should be stored away. We noted that DeBeck students are good at keeping phones in lockers or backpacks.
- Long term plans include adding air conditioners to all schools.
- There was a policy committee meeting. One parent reported changes to the complaint process through the District. This change will make it more difficult to track a complaint going through the system.
- The Richmond population is increasing so looking at long term plans: increasing school size; carving out catchment areas; adding a school in the Hamilton area.
- There is video surveillance in secondary schools (e.g., Palmer) around perimeter and outside bathrooms.
- There seems to be push back regarding sharing metrics (e.g., number of violent activities in a school year). Not readily given.
- There are different committee meetings that anyone can attend: policy, calendar, etc. Usually Tuesdays at 7pm.

8. Fundraising Updates

- **Pub Night** raised about \$500. We hope to hold another pub night in the future.
- **Purdys Chocolates fundraiser** raised about \$350. Next time, we may consider posting flyers in classroom windows earlier. We can also ask Purdys for catalogs to distribute to students.
- **Hot Lunch:** Thank you to Jade and the volunteers for coordinating our first hot lunch of the school year. A few more lunches are scheduled before spring break. We will add sushi in future. Please let us know of vendor suggestions.
- **iPads direct drive** has raised about \$3k. Families can still contribute. These funds raised will go to buying out an iPad cart.

9. Grade 7 Committee Updates

- **Fundraising** plans: **Egg tart sales** be held after school on Friday January 31.
- The Committee is planning a field trip, ceremony, décor, lunch, and yearbook.
- The Committee is looking for 4 **field trip ideas**. Ideas thus far are the Oval and 6Pack Indoor Beach.
- Yearbook. Lisa Schwartz current contact. To be discussed further.

10. Q & A

- None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.