
In Attendance:

PAC Members: Kim Leifso (Co-President), Jana Hikichi (Treasurer), Tyree Buchanan (Secretary), Kerri Sketchley, Tracie Fasullo, Angela Sawatzky

Staff: Mr. Harris, Principal

Guests: Abran Johnson (MCFD) Resource Social Worker with the BC Ministry of Children and Families.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Co-President, Kim Leifso

Welcome & Introductions

Minutes: The minutes of the October 2023 meeting were adopted.

Guest – Abran Johnson (MCFD) Resource Social Worker with the BC Ministry of Children and Families.

- The BC Ministry of Children and Families is recruiting foster care givers, both full time and part time (relief) care givers. They are looking for families with open homes and open hearts that can offer a safe and caring environment.
- When a child is going to enter into the care of the Ministry the Social Workers first look to family and friends, but if that is not available the child will enter foster care with the ultimate goal to return the child to their family as much as possible
- Social workers work to keep the children in their communities, or at least as close as they possibly can.
- To become a care giver it can take about a year from the start of the process to the end (refer attachment for steps)
- They do accept single parent families as well; you can work and use daycare if needed
- Primary Requirements: each child has their own room with their own bed, although siblings can share a room
- Commitment? If you aren't entirely sure that you are ready for the full commitment of full time fostering you can start with relief work
- Funding Supports are available as well.
- Refer attached FAQ also provided.

Principal's Report (J. Harris)

- The stall doors in some of the girl's washrooms have been beautified with positive messaging.



- Lots of participation on Hallowe'en, Mr. Penner dressed as Ken, the admin were Star Wars characters and the PE department was the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, to name a few.
- Remembrance Day ceremony was very well done with moving performances by students.
- Design & Assessment Day: staff spent the morning marking the Grade 8 Literacy Assessments, all staff take part in the grading of the assessments, they are used to identify students that may have a learning need but also to gain an understanding of the trends of the grade as a whole. In the afternoon staff focused on Professional Learning Collaborative work ("PLC's). PLC's are collaborative teams of staff members in groups of up to 6 called Learning Teams to:

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- Improve the practice & knowledge of staff and DWP through collaborative research, expertise exchange, and professional dialogue.
 - Improve the educational aspirations and achievement of DWP students through research-based pedagogy, leadership, and teaching practices
 - Learning Teams meet regularly on PLC days but also exist in a culture of learning & inquiry throughout the year, they report out to staff & affect the entire school community positively, and are cooperative, supportive and optimistic.
 - During PLC's some schools are able to send their students home early but given our location and transportation logistics our staff cannot do this so to facilitate PLC time they have to get creative. There will be 8 separate 1 hour blocks in Semester 2 for staff to meet with their PLC Group, and during that time the students will be with the admin, perhaps in assemblies, having guest speakers, pep rallies, etc. On Feb. 26th for example, the grade 8-10 students will take part in a 60 minute anti-racism presentation. For the grade 11 & 12 students a different presentation will be offered (still TBD)
 - Grad Cruise, nice night, the grads had a great time and were exceptionally well behaved
 - Power Outage – make sure you are signed up on School Messenger to receive all notifications from the school
 - Band concerts happened recently
 - Asst. Superintendent is coming to our January meeting, let's get together some questions ahead of time for him to be able to answer our questions fully
 - Another company is coming to quote on the fields to get them fixed up as soon as can be
 - Staff PAC funding requests, a couple more came in
 - Comment from a parent – let's encourage more student led projects to beautify the school to increase engagement and school pride
 - Wix-Brown music program – looked into why Wix does not have a Poppy teacher conducting the music program there, at some point during covid Wix decided to not have the Poppy teachers come to it. Now they are interested in adding it back so options are being explored to make this happen as all feeder schools should have equal opportunities.
 - The band program very much helps build those early attachments and friendships at the high school.

Co-President's Report (K. Leifso & S. Young)

- Heard back from the PAC's at North Otter & Peterson Road regarding having some of our PAC come to their meetings; North Otter is going to get back to us a date and Peterson Road is not interested at this time.

Treasurer's Report (J. Hikichi)

- Contacted the bank but have been unable to set up a time to change the signers, as such there have been no changes to the bank balances.
- Discussions were had regarding the Teacher Funding Requests and the following motion was put forward:

Motion made by Kim as follows:

To fund the following items for the various clubs and extra-curricular groups as outlined in their funding applications: 1) the 3D printer for \$2,518.92 requested by Ms. Li; 2) \$1,500 for the Indigenous Garden project requested by Ms. Esplen; and 3) \$300 for board games for Ms. Li.

To consider the following for funding approval at the next meeting: 1) to fund a full set of jerseys for athletics, increasing the current approved amount of \$2,000 to up to \$4,500 for this year; 2) ISP/ELL field trip requests (x 2 requests) for a total of \$951; and 3) AI Video Camera system for the outdoor sports for a total of \$3,737.47 for equipment and year 1 membership.

Seconded by Jana

DPAC Report (T. Fasullo)

- Parent Education - Any parent with a child in SD 35 can apply for reimbursement of funds that were spent on parent education. This can be used for a workshop, conference, course and/or book and must be specifically designed for parent education. Some conditions do apply. They gave Food Safe Courses, Red Cross First Aid Courses and Indigo Books as examples.
- Special Presentation from Representatives of Raphael House:

A Food Hub was created at Douglas Park during Covid when it was observed that families were not receiving support when school was not in session. The Food Hub was taken over when school went back. A not for profit was created and Raphael House came as a result. It serves school district families who must live in Langley and refugees within the community as needed. Approximately 285/week are served with the Food Hub, connections to community resources and agencies, resume writing assistance and connecting those in need.

Raphael House works with greenhouses including Hello Fresh and other fresh food growers.

They are in need of basic non-perishables. They would like to partner with PAC's of local schools in order to bring in needed non-perishables. They are hoping PAC's will run a food drive for either an individual item of need or multiple items through a general drive.

Some examples of non-perishables are pasta, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, cereal, crackers, peanut butter, jam, salad dressing, oatmeal, lentils and legumes, rice, chickpeas, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, dental floss, soap, diapers and wipes, etc.

Donations can also be made via www.raphaelhouse.ca/fundraiser.

- Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign - Proceeds go to various local charities. Langley School District Foundation is one of the charities. It is running November 13 to 19.
- Accessibility Plan and Survey - Under the province's new Accessible BC Act school districts were required to create an Accessibility Committee, Plan and method of receiving public feedback. The district has made an Accessibility Plan for 2023-2026. Feedback is wanted through an Accessibility Survey. The links for both the Plan And Survey are in the November 2023 DPAC Newsletter found online.
- Feeding Futures School Program - They are seeking more feedback from parents through a survey. The link is in the November 2023 DPAC Newsletter found online.

Old Business

- None at this time

New Business

- None at this time

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm by Kim

Upcoming Meetings

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| • December 12, 2023 | • April 9, 2024 |
| • January 9, 2024 | • May 14, 2024 |
| • February 13, 2024 | • June 11, 2024 (AGM) |
| • March 12, 2024 | |

Meetings are held at 7pm in the Library Learning Commons. Hope to see you there!

PAC MEETING AGENDAS and MINUTES ARE POSTED ON THE DW POPPY WEBSITE

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Frequently Asked Questions

About Fostering

What are the general requirements for a foster home?

- You must have time to spend with a foster child. You need to have a bedroom available in your home. You also need to have experience with children and lots of love and patience.

Do I have to stay home full time to foster?

- Not always, we have a lot of foster parents that work full time and are able to foster. We just look at what your work schedule looks like to see if you have the time.
- However, if you want to foster babies under 12 months old, someone needs to be home full time as we do not put our babies in daycare.

Does a foster child need to have their own bedroom?

- Yes, they cannot share with your children or with you, unless it is a baby under 12 months old. Babies can be in a crib in your bedroom until 12 months old, but then there needs to be a bedroom for them to move into when they turn 12 months.
- Siblings can sometimes share a bedroom, depending on their age and gender.

I rent my home, is that allowed?

- Yes, we just make sure that you have an extra bedroom for a foster child.

What happens if I don't have an extra bedroom?

- If you rent your home and you are willing to move to have more space to foster, we may be able to help with rental subsidy. We cannot do this if you own your home unfortunately.

Is there an age limit for foster parents?

- You must be at least 19 years old and have some life experience and experience with children, and we do not have an age limit, as long as you are healthy and can run around after children.

Will the child go to school near my house?

- When we first remove a child from their family, we want to keep them in the same school that they have been attending so we don't change everything all at once for them. If it looks like they will be with you longer term, then we would look at changing schools closer to your home, but it might mean driving across town for a little while until we have a more solid plan in place.

Can I take a foster child to my church?

- This is something that we check with the family first to make sure that they are ok with it. In some cases, the family may not want their child to attend church and then you would need to make arrangements for the child (babysitter, or couples can switch weeks that they go). We also want our foster parents to be open to all religions and keeping our kids connected to their religion.

Can I foster a child that is the same ethnicity and religion as me?

- We do our best to match children to foster homes of the same background so that they have some familiarity. However, this is not always possible, and you can expect to have children of all backgrounds and be able to learn about where they are from and incorporate their culture into your home.

Is there a recommended age of child to foster if I have my own children?

- Generally, it seems to work well if you foster a child that is younger than your youngest child so as not to throw off the birth order. But we have had foster parents with young children foster teens, and parents with teens foster babies, it is mainly what you feel most comfortable with.

I am single, can I still foster?

- Absolutely, we have many single caregivers. We would just look at your work schedule and make sure you have the time to care for a child. It also may be best to foster a child that is school age and is in school while you are at work, and before and after school care can be arranged.

Can I adopt from foster care?

- Sometimes it is possible to adopt a child that has been in your care, but this is after all family options have been exhausted. If you are mainly wanting to adopt, we would suggest that you go through the adoption stream rather than fostering. We look at fostering as a temporary situation for our children because the main goal is to return them to their family.

How long are foster children usually in care for?

- We never know how long a child will be with us, it will depend on the situation for the family and what the parents need to do to have their children move back home safely. It could be a few weeks, months or sometimes years so you would need to commit for short term and long term.

What is the process to becoming a foster parent?

- The first step would be to come to an information session to learn more about fostering and see if it is a good fit for you and your family. You can contact the recruitment team to arrange a meeting or go to Gov.bc.ca/fostercaregiving to learn more. It usually takes around one year to complete all the training and home study before you can foster.

Contact the Foster Home Recruitment Team to set up an information session today:

604-209-2681

BCfosterparents.ca

Gov.bc.ca/fostercaregiving



Steps to Becoming a Foster Parent



Gov.bc.ca/fostercaregiving

