



February 15th, 2023 PAC Meeting Minutes

7:00-8:15pm Willows Elementary Library

7:02 Call to order – Ian Rennie

7:05 Welcome & Land Acknowledgment - Ian

1. Approval of Agenda – Alejandra motion, Ian second
2. Approval of Minutes from January 18th PAC meeting – Alyx motion, Ian second
3. Principal/Vice Principal: school news and updates
 - a. Pink shirt assembly next week. Julie Helms is Willows' SOGI rep and has organized some activities. Parent question: what is pink shirt day? (Please see <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/> for more info!)
 - b. Our celebration board is recognizing different traditions, holidays, etc. on an ongoing basis. This month the board is recognizing Black History Month. Eid and Ramadan will be coming up next. Students are starting to have discussions about the content.
 - c. [Dr. Jean Clinton](#) came to speak to staff about child brain development.
 - d. Kindergarten registration update: for 2023/2024 there are 24 English and 38 French kindergarten registrations. With 62 incoming students and 107 leaving (66

Eng, 45 French), this means the student population will decrease again. The district has approved more FTE for support and the space of one less classroom next year will be welcome.

- e. Outdoor tables are in the works. Willows has a request into SD61 facilities, to choose the location for installation.
 - f. Fundraiser ideas for the Türkiye-Syria Earthquake relief. Some of our Willows families have loved ones who are affected and we want to support and raise awareness. Some ideas are to have kids take charge and organize an event.
 - g. The annual variety show for the Grade 5s is in June. It has been on Zoom the last two years, but this year could possibly be a hybrid.
 - h. PE classes have been doing volleyball; Jo Ross, one of our Willows parents, comes once a week to coach. Cricket and rugby are also being played. We have new sports balls purchased with a TD Bank grant the PAC received. New basketball nets have been ordered.
 - i. The Grade 4 “Maturation” talk will be in June this year, facilitated by Island Sexual Health. Some education information can be found under the BC [Physical/health curriculum](#) page. The BC PE curriculum has consent as a topic. All curriculum messages, from the youngest grades, try to reinforce the foundations of personal space, consent, diversity, and inclusion (see the [content PDF](#)). (Update: there will be a parent session available at a PAC meeting soon, in advance of the student session).
4. Ian Rennie, PAC Co-Chair: updates and events on the horizon
- a. Picnic tables in the works, what about swings next? Teachers have expressed interest in an outdoor play kitchen.

- b. Spirit Wear
 - i. Deadline Feb 28th for ordering - this may be extended to the end of that week
- c. Spring Events
 - i. DJ lined up for March 10th
 - ii. May blossom festival - we need lots of parent volunteers (many hands make light work!)
- d. Parent Survey is in draft mode - please contact us if you would like to see certain questions added
- e. Q/A:
 - i. Parent Q: when is coding introduced in the curriculum? A: no official timeline; it has been introduced via Applied Skills and Design. Can PAC get some coding toys/resources? Are there IT items that are needed more than others?
 - ii. School Board decision recently was to add back 10 custodians
 - iii. Swim club, Chess club – lack of pool time/instructors, teacher sponsors makes these difficult.
 - iv. Parent Q: what about a leadership club to lead fundraisers and events? Playground leadership. One of the teachers is willing to take this on.
- 5. May Parent Education session: May 4th, we will be hosting a speaker from Vancouver, in conjunction with Monterey's PAC (with Oak Bay High's PAC providing the space - it will be held in Oak Bay High School's auditorium). The talk's focus is on prevention of child sexual exploitation. Zeta Lay (from Victoria's [Safe Guardians Network](#) will introduce speaker Tiana Sharifi ([Sexualexploitationeducation.com](#)). As this talk is expected to fill

the auditorium to capacity (with 3-4 school communities in attendance), tickets will be required.

8:15 Adjournment

NEXT PAC MEETING: 7:00pm - 8:15pm, Wednesday, April 19th, 2023