

LV PAC Meeting Minutes
January 18th, 2022
Via Zoom due to COVID

In attendance:

Jessica Curry, Kath Britton, Emily Scott, Robin Thorneycroft, Sal Valente, Andrea Connacher, Esme Remfry, Tara Boddington, Jennifer Barr, Cassie Allard, Alex Kozak, Sarah Laakmann

Lisa Upton, Principal

Intro/President's message (Jessica):

- Jessica encouraged people not to feel badly if they have covid in their house, as it seems to be everywhere these days. She encourages parents to share anonymously through class reps, if families want to share.
- Jenn & Jessica went to a meeting put on by SD44 to hear about the Social Emotional Learning curriculum, including services and programs available.

ACTIONS – Jessica to send a message to the class reps to encourage the spirit of open communication so they feel safe sharing if they have covid, so parents can make informed decisions.

Approve Minutes

Sal made a motion to pass the Nov 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Esme – minutes passed.

Admin Report (Lisa):

COVID update:

- As reported in the media, since December there has been a significant increase of Covid provincially, specifically the Omicron variant. PHO reports that Omicron is milder than the previous Delta variant.
- Children remain at low risk of severe outcomes, and this risk can be further decreased through vaccines.
- At the direction of the PHO, the Ministry of Education gave schools a week after the winter break to prepare for the return to school by implementing new enhanced safety measures. Schools also planned for continuity of learning in case of closure or extended student absence.
- One recommended enhanced strategy was to reduce hallway crowding by staggering school entry/exits as well as recess and lunch times. Happily, in Sept, LVE chose to maintain the protocols that had been in place the previous year, so the school didn't need to reorganize the timetable to ensure reduced crowds. Staff did remove extra furniture in classrooms, and reconfigured seating plans to further distance kids from each other. Students are not sitting face-to-face in the classrooms as this is a risk factor for transmission.
- Multiple layers of protection continue to be taught, reviewed and implemented at school, including washing hands, mask-wearing, physical distancing, coughing/sneezing into your elbow, etc..

VCH Information

- VCH data continues to show that school transmission is very low, at 1%. Contact tracing from previous waves of the pandemic indicated that if a child transmitted the virus it was usually only to one person, typically a household member or a social connection outside school. If transmission was found to occur at school, then it was often during playtime, with a best friend, when close together, face-to-face.
- With Omicron, the proportion of cases attributed to in-school transmission remains low. School rates continue to mirror community rates.
- The incubation period of the Omicron variant is significantly shorter than previous variants, at approximately 48 hours. VCH reports that previous variants had a longer incubation period, approximately 10-14 days.
- The purpose of contact tracing is to reduce the spread of the virus by alerting close contacts that they might be incubating the virus and to self-monitor for illness. Due to the short incubation period individuals who test positive are asked to directly communicate this information to their close contacts as soon as possible.
- People who are ill need to stay home.
- If a person tests positive they need to use the online VCH Covid reporting system so public health has the information.
- Please report any student absence due to illness or self-isolation to the school.
- Visit the BCCDC website for current public health direction on self-isolation requirements. When in doubt call 811 or consult with your family doctor

Covid 19 Protocols for Schools

- Guidance for schools on the 'Management of School-Associated Activity' was updated on January 7, 2022, and can be found here:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/covid-19-protocols-for-administrators.pdf>
- In general, the role of the school is to carefully monitor student absences due to illness and isolation, communicate any unusual absence rates to public health. Additionally we:
 - o Continue to gather student absence due to illness data and ask for a special classroom clean/disinfection at night if 10% or more of students were away in the room that day
 - o Closely monitor illness trends (absences due to illness or isolation) and report any possible "Activity Signals" to VCH for their guidance. For example, if a class absence rate due to illness is unusually high, admin connects with VCH. Typically, VCH is looking for data regarding a three day rolling average of illness. Currently we are closely monitoring one classroom with the assistance of VCH.
 - o Admin do not ask if someone is ill with Covid as this is private medical information. Families have the option to share this information if they feel comfortable doing so.

How the community can help

- o Stay home if sick
- o If a person tests positive on a rapid test at home, it is important to report positive result to VCH online so they can track

- Self-isolation expectations are changing. At the Jan 18th Press conference, Dr. Henry referenced school readiness as children being “symptom-free” and back to their personal normal after illness.
- Stay in touch with your class “Window into the Week” on Teams as the go-to place for what’s going on in the classroom if your child is absent

Other News

- 31 ipads have arrived and are getting configured for schools
- Update on technical challenges with Grade 4 FSA’s. If you have questions or concerns, please connect with Admin.
- Emergency release drill, potentially on the afternoon of May 20th. TBC
- Potential to do a PAC fundraiser for school supplies. Jessica and Lisa to discuss.

Treasurer/Budget Report (Esme):

- Income of \$36,587 and expenses of \$18,854, with a net income of \$17,733.
- \$80,385 in assets and \$1,513 in liabilities (liabilities are munch-a-lunch funds owed to parents due to canceled hot lunches). Will discuss at a future PAC meeting on what to do with these liabilities if they aren’t being used.

Hot lunch (Robin)

- Hot lunch is open for a week. It was a bit of a challenge for vendors to commit to their date. There was a shortage of volunteers this week, and we need volunteers to help deliver hot lunch.
- If anyone knows of vendors that can provide culturally or dietary diverse foods please let Robin know.
- If there is extra food, the first priority is to save it (it gets frozen) to provide for kids that have food security challenges. Second priority is to provide for staff and teachers, and thirdly, for volunteers.
- Hot lunch will be opened up a few times during the rest of the year for reordering.

Programs

- North Van Pac is hosting a presentation with the White Hatter
 - January 19, 2022 at 7pm - Supporting Youth Being Targeted by, Aggression, Cyberbullying, Threats, Hacks, and Violence, register on Eventbrite
- Stay Safe and Babysitting Courses might be a possibility in the Spring. We will revisit this in February to decide.

Social (Jessica)

- Family colouring contest was a success. A random draw was done and 10 students won a booster juice card for \$5.05.
- The PAC normally puts on a Christmas thrift which raises money for a bursary for families that can’t afford to participate in school activities.
- Question about whether the PAC can provide a bursary for band. The PAC is leaving it to Admin to allocate bursary funds.

Action: Lisa to ask Donna to add an update/reminder that there are district bursaries available for the Band & Springs program.

Fundraising

- Well Fed is going well, we just received a \$205 check.

Action: Sal will reach out to COBS about the potential to do a fundraiser

- Seed sale is currently underway. We get 40% back from the seed purchase. Seeds will arrive in March.
- Plant sale will occur in the spring.

Grade 7 Grad

- Raised \$4,500 in the fall with the Purdy's, Coffee & Cookie dough. Will likely run the Purdy's again shortly. A thank you to Jessica for the google spreadsheet that helps keep the grade 7 grad committee organized.

Covid Supplies

- A parent suggested we purchase KN95 masks, coffee and treats for the teachers/staff. It would cost \$575 for 3 masks per staff. Teachers will likely be receiving KN95 masks very shortly from the District, but the PAC would like to do something for teachers and staff.

Robin made a motion to spend up to \$200 to spend on treats for staff and Jenn seconded the motion. – Motion passed.

Robin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Alex seconded the motion. All in favour.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15pm

Next PAC meeting is on Tuesday, February 15th at 7pm