



Cooper Landing School Parent Advisory Committee

19030 Bean Creek Road · Cooper Landing, Alaska 99572-9704 · (907) 595-1244

PAC Meeting Minutes 10.14.2015

Roll call:

Tommy Gossard, Virginia Morgan, Susanna LaRock, Heather Harrison, LA Perkerson, Alec Lamberson, Doug Hayman, Angel Bond, Laura Johnson, Shannon Meredith, Jessica Larsen, Kira Kangas

Approval of Agenda:

A movement was made to amend the agenda by adding Christmas program scheduling to unfinished business (item 7b) and having the November Saturday Market Committee report after new business (item 8) and before item 9. This amendment was made. Laura moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jessica seconded.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the last meeting were not read, as most, if not all, attendees had already read them and referred to them. Virginia moved to approve the last meeting's minutes. Laura seconded.

Addition of New Members:

No new members were added.

Principal's report:

Mr. Hayman briefly commented that equipment requests were in, staffing was taken care of, he has started evaluations, and is enjoying himself in Cooper Landing immensely. He is happy to be listening and watching and learning about the school. He is available if there's anything he can help with.

Teacher's report:

Thursday, October 15, is the school district budget meeting at 6pm. Everything is all set up and ready to be connected for participation by MS Lync here at the school.

Some discussion ensued about this meeting. It was agreed to meet at the school at 5:30pm to prepare any comments to submit as a group, with PAC president Heather Harrison as voice for any comments made.

Friday, October 16, is an Inservice day, so no school for students.

Mr. Gossard is doing assessments and report cards this week, and will start asking parents for conference appointments next week. He will also be here October 29-30 for parent-teacher conferences if parents can't or won't be available for an early conference.

Wednesday, October 28, at 12:30, is the Halloween parade. Laura has décor planned. This is an early release day also.

Gymnastics for K-4 is available in Anchorage. Mr. Hayman agreed that leaving the older students here with Elizabeth and Susanna is okay on gymnastics days. Lesson time will be 11am-1pm, so the students will leave when school starts and return when school ends. The gym is flexible on dates, and they can start any time. Mr. Gossard asked for input on whether three or four sessions were wanted, and the group agreed upon four sessions. Some parents expressed a desire to start as soon as possible, because Lena and Dylan will be leaving in November.

Skiing dates are up in the air again – they were originally decided upon for Tuesdays, but Whittier School decided not to participate, and so there may be some reshuffling. We will have to wait again to find the specific schedule.

In order to have an artist in residence before the Christmas program, only the mime and his theatre assistant would be available. In discussion, it was decided that having the artist before Christmas is not really a priority. So Mr. Gossard proposed having the mime come in the January 19-29 time period, for two separate 2-night visits in each week. The idea of having two separate visits, with time for skill development and practice between, was well received.

Because of the decision not to try for pre-Christmas scheduling for the artist in residence, it was requested that Mr. Gossard talk to the circus performer artist to see if calendaring for January might work. There was a general excitement about that artist in particular.

Treasurer's report:

There is \$5498.28 in the account, with no outstanding bills.

Shannon informed us that the Kingfisher school benefit night proceeds are not yet totaled, but they will come in with a check for the PAC fund soon. Everyone thanked Shannon and Kingfisher Roadhouse for a great event and their generosity.

Unfinished business:

Preparing for the school district budget meeting: It had been decided already to meet at 5:30 on the 15th for any comment preparation. It was also agreed to announce the meeting on the Crier with more specifics, detailing the importance of the budget issues on the table for our small school, in order to get more turnout. We noted our lack of research and facts. Although Cheryle James is out of town, Carrie Williams has information about the revenue that Cooper Landing brings into the Borough, and we should acquire some of that data as well as whatever else we can research. There is a Facebook page, "Small Schools Matter," that may have a lot of helpful information.

Mr. Hayman reminded everyone that although this matter is close to our hearts, just drawing upon empathy will not be sufficient. There is truly a large budget shortfall and cuts have to be made. The meeting is being held to seek solutions to the problem, and we need to be ready to offer sacrifices and contributions. We have to be willing to squeeze and tighten just like anyone else. It will be just as important to listen at this meeting as it is to speak. The opening remarks themselves may answer many of the questions we have. (He pointed out that 80% of a school district budget is salary.)

Christmas program scheduling: Susanna moved to change the Christmas party to Friday, December 11, instead of Thursday, December 17. This was agreed upon.

Virginia also proposed having the piano recital on the same night as part of the program. This was discussed at length. After discussion, voting, and comments, it was decided to not combine the two events, but it was recommended to hold it during or at the end of a school day. Virginia would decide on alternative scheduling for the recital. She later announced a piano recital date of December 17 at 3pm, to be followed by light refreshments.

New Business:

Tallis' medical information: Jessica provided an outline and information about Tallis' heart and allergy conditions. The presentation followed the outline. This outline is appended to the minutes for reference.

Great Alaskan Shake-Out: Susanna informed everyone of the statewide earthquake drill to be held at 10:15am on Thursday, October 15.

Mr. Hayman also added that the school's ALICE protocol is being prepared and the students will be practicing those drills soon, too. (ALICE is for armed and dangerous intruders, to get the students out of harm's way.)

November Saturday Market Committee report:

Jessica was not present to take minutes for this portion, but a report, created by Virginia, on the Saturday Market plans is appended to the minutes for reference.

Next meeting:

November 11, 12:30pm.

Adjournment