



Cooper Landing School Parent Advisory Committee

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

PAC Meeting 9.30.2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:38 PM.

Roll call:

In attendance were Tommy Gossard, Virginia Morgan, Heather Harrison, Susanna LaRock, Angel Bond, Kira Kangas, Laura Johnson, Jessica Larsen, Doug Hayman, LA Perkerson.

Approval of agenda:

Susanna moved to approve the agenda, Laura seconded.

Approval of minutes:

Virginia moved to approve last meeting's minutes as written, Susanna seconded.

Addition of new members:

Jessica Larsen, Kira Kangas, Angel Bond and LA Perkerson asked to be added as new members of the PAC. All four were welcomed to join.

On the topic of new membership, the importance of attendance and commitment were reiterated. It was also discussed whether one or the other of two parents could attend and be counted as attendance for the other. It was clarified that no, joining the PAC is done as an individual, not as a family. But if one parent cannot attend, they can vote by proxy, or attend by remote means (phone call, etc).

On a related note, Virginia said thank you to all for showing up. It is very nice to have new faces, points of view, thoughts, and volunteer power at the PAC meetings.

Principal's report given by Doug Hayman:

District level news: Thursday, October 15, at 6 PM there is a district-wide meeting being held regarding budget issues. One can attend in person in Soldotna, or remotely from the school through MS Lync. In the current fiscal climate cutbacks are coming, and there is now proposed legislation regarding school enrollment required for receiving state funding. As of this draft, the legislation is worded as schools with fewer than 50 students enrolled will not qualify for funding. This wording can be amended, but getting tuned in now is important. Mr. Hayman recommended that we give input soon, often, and clearly, because without influence like ours it will coast right through as is. He also recommended that we organize ourselves first, then communicate concise comments at the meeting. This meeting is the first opportunity for comment – there will be other opportunities to follow.

Mr. Hayman also commented that he is looking forward to getting to know the cultural atmosphere and norms of Cooper Landing School and its place in the community. He wants to be supportive and will learn how things operate here.

Teacher's report given by Tommy Gossard:

Calendar items first:

On Tuesday, October 6, Mr. Gossard will take K-2 to get silver salmon eggs at Bear Creek with Fish and Game. The scheduled window is 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM. The school gets the fertilized eggs to grow in our tank. **AI:** LA volunteered to be the extra driver, since there are eight students. Mr. Hayman will move his weekly visit to this day so that he can be at the school with the older students to support Elizabeth and Susanna while Mr. Gossard is gone with the younger students.

On Wednesday, October 7, there is a soccer game at Hope School. The students will leave Cooper Landing School at 11 AM, will eat lunch there at 12, and will play soccer by 12:45 or 1 PM. They will leave Hope in order to be back at Cooper Landing School by 3 PM. **AI:** Laura volunteered to help drive.

Friday, October 9, is the first in a series of library visits. For now, the school plans to go to the library every other week from 2 PM to 3 PM so that students can check out and return books for the two-week borrowing period. The next scheduled visit will be October 23. It is weather-dependent whether the students will walk or be driven.

There is no school for students on Friday, October 16, as it is an In-service day at the end of the quarter.

The Halloween parade will be on Wednesday, October 28, at 12:30. This is an early release day so school will dismiss afterward at 1:45. (It was also pointed out that trick-or-treating will take place on Saturday the 31st as usual, and the Moose Pass carnival will be held on Friday the 30th.)

Thursday and Friday, October 29 and 30, are parent-teacher conferences, so there is no school for students. Parents can start scheduling with Mr. Gossard in mid-October. He is happy to meet early in the week or the week prior so families can have a four-day weekend as wanted.

Tuesday, November 17, is the date when fir boughs are tentatively expected to be at the school to make swags for the annual fund raiser. This date may move due to weather delays in the shipment.

The piano recital is on Friday, December 4.

Scheduling in process:

Scheduling the Christmas performance and potluck was discussed, and a consensus was reached to hold it on Thursday, December 17, at 5:30 PM, it being the last day of school for students before the break.

Scheduling skiing is in the works. We hope to know our six lesson dates (in February, March and April) around the time that Alyeska opens for the winter, by late November or early December.

Mr. Gossard also discussed this year's possible options for our artist-in-residence program. He is in contact with three right now, and hopes to have one of them scheduled to be in the school prior to the Christmas break, but no dates are confirmed yet. We should know more in a week. He is focused on finding a performance-based artist due to expressed interest after last year's drummer, and may try to have the artist assist in preparing students for the Christmas presentation. He described the three possibilities:

Meghan Holtan: circus performer and theatrical performer with emphasis in juggling, clowning, small group work.

Brian Hutton: mime, puppetry, cartooning, physical on-your-feet movement and very hands-on. His assistant has a background in theatre and they do theatre games too.

Janie Lidey: a recording artist, has been a music teacher for 26 years, has worked extensively in villages. She does guitar and piano, and would create a musical program for the students to perform.

Overall, the PAC expressed excitement and interest in these options and hopes that coordination with the Christmas performance is possible. But Laura and Susanna are in the process of brainstorming other things for Christmas in case. Kira expressed interest in helping with the performance as well.

Mr. Gossard also consulted with the PAC regarding interest in doing gymnastics again this year. Most PAC members said yes, they are interested. After discussion, it was tentatively decided that K-4 would do gymnastics this year. Mr. Gossard proposed cutting back on the number of gymnastics lessons, and doing some field trips for rock climbing too, so the older students can be involved. Afternoon activities like attending the museum, ice skating, and bowling could be done in conjunction with rock climbing.

Mr. Hayman said that River City Gymnastics may have new ownership and it might be worth asking for a lesson quote again, to see if they will charge less than previously quoted. **AI:** He will try to find out if the new gym ownership he's familiar with is actually River City.

Since more research is needed on gymnastics and associated activities, check for emails from Susanna for future details.

Treasurer report:

Heather Pearson was not present and she had resigned as Treasurer. Susanna reported that the PAC has \$8253.28 currently, but there is an outstanding bill of about \$2400.00 from the Denali field trip yet to go through. This will be reflected in the total by October 10.

Additional reports:

None

Special orders:

None

Unfinished business and general orders:

Equinox Run: The Equinox Run was held on Saturday, September 19. It brought in \$694.64 after expenses (\$200 of which was from a single donation). \$95.50 of earnings was from the split-the-pot raffle. The major expense was T-shirts. There were 58 participants this year (about 70 last year).

Susanna pointed out that it takes a lot of time and effort to get a gaming permit and it resulted in little income from split-the-pot and she requested no more raffles. But Mr. Hayman and others pointed out that now she has the gaming permit and she doesn't have to re-test, just stay current with the permit

through renewals. It was decided in that case, it's best to keep the gaming permit. It was discussed that raffles can be operated in more effective and efficient ways.

Although the Run doesn't bring in many funds, we agreed as a PAC that it is a good idea to hold it, because many of the people attending are from out of town and so we are tapping a source of funds beyond just locals. But it needs more promotion. It takes about the same amount of work if we have big turnout or low turnout, but more funds come in from a big turnout.

It was decided that next year, if we hold it again, it needs an involved committee to get it organized, even starting to work on it as early as spring, but at least starting in August.

Virginia commented that maybe the Chamber should take on the Run, now that it's started, because lodging and restaurant businesses could really benefit. Heather commented that a meal and a beer at the end will draw more people. Angel said it could be presented to the Chamber, but local businesses are very busy at that time of year still, so the school would need to offer a lot of help and work together on it. **AI:** Susanna said she will propose it to the Chamber.

Approve 8-10-15 bylaw revision: Laura motioned to approve the bylaw revision. Virginia seconded.

New business:

Secretary and Treasurer: Jessica volunteered to serve as secretary and Virginia volunteered to serve as treasurer. These positions were approved by the PAC.

November Holiday Market: The market will be held on Saturday, November 14. The two markets (other one in May) are the most lucrative fund raisers we have. Discussion began regarding assignments for duties and new ideas for revenue creation. It was then recognized that a separate committee needs to be formed and meet separately to plan the market. This committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 5, at 2:30 PM. Any PAC members who can help are invited to attend.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

In general, PAC meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month, unless other scheduling conflicts occur. For now, tentative future meeting dates are October 14, November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, and May 11. Subject to change.

Adjourned at 1:45pm