(UNOFFICIAL) PAC MEETING

Tuesday ~ September 22, 2020

15 people in attendance – PAC execs plus some class parents

In case anyone was wondering why there have not been any official PAC meetings set up yet – it is because there has been no budget submitted yet for PAC this year.

PAC meetings will not be regularly scheduled this year because we won’t be voting on expenditures.

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There are 3 Initiatives to Discuss:

**1.** Parents/caregivers (all adults) should be wearing masks on school grounds. We would like to lead by example. Wearing masks will keep everyone safe physically and also help people feel safe mentally/emotionally. It helps out Nancy if the PAC is able to help promote/enforce this as she already has a lot on her plate.

**2.** Can we purchase air filtration systems for the classrooms? (UV lights acceptable amongst children?)

There are 2 possible options to obtain classroom air filtration systems:

Option 1: THROUGH THE PAC. This needs to be authorized by the school.

Option 2: PARENT INITIATIVE. We need to find our own way to get these systems into our classrooms. We could buy them personally as gifts for the teachers.

Nancy plans to bring this matter to the board’s attention. The thought is, whatever the response is from the board, it shouldn’t stop us from doing it. We assume it will be in the $400-$600 range for each air filtration system, which would be approx.. $40-$50 per student. This would, of course, be a suggested donation.

We will most likely not be able to fund this initiative through the PAC since it only benefits our school and not the whole distract. It’s an equality issue through the VSB.

Side note: this initiative includes filter replacement and/or filter cleaning which would be each teacher’s responsibility. We assume the teachers probably WANT the systems in their classrooms.

**3.** The PAC would like to send out an email expressing our support and encouragement for our kids to wear masks full-time at school. There is a “Brock doctor mom” group and they think it’s best. Although the Ministry says it’s not mandatory for our kids to wear masks at school, we have many parents in our Brock community who are health care providers interacting with vulnerable patients. The “Brock doctor moms” believe wearing masks is critical to keep people in our community safe.

Some important points from this discussion:

* There was talk of Sharm’s husband (sorry, I don’t know his name), who is a respiratory doctor, writing some science-based words of encouragement to help parents understand the importance of our kids wearing masks.
* There was talk of presenting this PAC initiative as a “strong recommendation” so there’s no shaming towards kids who struggle to wear them or kids whose parents don’t provide/encourage them.
* Teachers cannot make kids wear masks. But parents can make their kids wear masks.
* PEANUT BUTTER ANALOGY. Even if our kids don’t have peanut allergies, we all make the effort to not send nuts to school so we keep the kids with nut allergies sage. This is one more thing we can all easily do to keep people safe.
* It would be nice to view our approach to wearing masks at Brock as a GRASSROOTS KINDNESS MOVEMENT. We keep people around us safe.
* Is it possible to get BROCK masks… Bulldog masks?
* Many parents at the meeting feel it is important to address main concerns up front in the email and in a really kind way; possibly through personal stories.
* When we send out the email about this initiative, perhaps we can follow up with the opportunity to meet with PAC leaders of “doctor moms” IN PERSON if parents have questions/concerns.
* This is not a political issue. What’s the downside? Wearing a mask can only be a good thing. It can also help with kids’ anxiety as it could make them feel safer. That goes for teachers as well; it may help them feel safer and more comfortable to teach.

* We would like to keep the approach simple and soft. Make it clear that we are always open to communication. Class parents are available to help parents feel supported and heard.
* How will we get the masks to the kids? Each class parent could deliver 20 masks to the teachers to distribute.
* We will most likely accompany the email with a flyer that can be sent home in kids’ backpacks. Word of mouth is important as well.

Everyone at the meeting is in favor of this purchase

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Notes for the class parents. The class parent’s job is to be a liaison between your class and the PAC.

1. Please gather contact info for all the parents in your class- we do this so it’s easy to relay information to parents from teachers and PAC, as well as to facilitate communication between parents.
2. The PAC will give info to the class parents to push out to the class.