

Sunrise Waldorf School PA

1 March 2023

1 Mar 2023 / 16:00-18:00 / Sunrise Waldorf School AGENDA

Call to Order: 4:09pm

Land Acknowledgement:

"Our school stands on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Hul'q'umi'num (Hul-ka-MEE-num) peoples of the Quw'utsun (Kow-WUT-sun) (Cowichan) Valley. This traditional territory is shared by the Halalt (Ha-lalt), Stz'uminus (Tz-MAY-nus / Sh-MAY-nus), Hwlitsum, Ts'uubaa-asatx (Tsoo-bah-seht), Lyackson (Lay-ik-sen), Penelakut (Pen-EL-ah-kut) and Quw'utsun(Kow-WUT-sun) First Nations whose continued stewardship of this sacred land we honour today. We acknowledge with gratitude and respect all the ancestors of this land where we are very fortunate to live and work."

Opening Verse:

I look into the world Wherein there shines the sun Wherein there gleam the stars Wherein there lie the stones. The plants they live and grow. The beasts they feel and live. And humankind to spirit gives A dwelling in the soul. I look into the soul. That living dwells in me God's spirit lives and weaves In sunlight and in soul-light In heights of worlds without In depths of soul within To thee O spirit of God, I seeking turn myself That strength and grace and skill For learning and for work In me may live and grow.

I. Motions (2 mins)

- 1. Motion to adopt agenda February 1, 2023
 - Seconder: Katherine Carried a. Mover: Cara
- 2. Approval of minutes from meeting January 11, 2023
 - a. Mover: Andrea Seconder: Cara Carried

II. Presentation by Dan Norman - Risk Management Consultant (20 mins)

Outdoor Ed teacher at Brentwood, has a lot of experience with Risk Management. Been hired by the school to address concerns from the last AWSNA report. Dan is making recommendations based on the AWSNA report as well as the most recent ministry report. Dan is here to gain feedback from the parent body. What kind of risks are we as parents concerned about?

Parent Feedback:

- Parking lot safety (potholes, speed, staff parking location)
- Air quality (potential mold)
- Lack of bathroom (hygiene issues)
- Structure of the building specifically front of the school where there is minimal sun exposure
- Public Events (theft exposure when events are open to the public)
- Health professionals on campus to screen children against parent's consent. Some parents have concerns about healthcare professional coming onto campus to vaccinate children without consent
- Reputation, small town and rumors may affect enrollment
- Children playing near Willow tree near parking lot. This happens often with families that have multiple children at different pick up times

Suggestion/feedback from Parents for solutions are:

- Having no parking along main drive through area (front of school)has helped
- Having Rae/Rachel outside has helped
- CVRD to install more signage / speed bumps / flashing lights indicating a school zone
- When exiting the front parking lot by mailboxes it is hard to see turning onto Lakeside. Suggestion to change traffic flow for better optimization. Could we have angle parking there instead?
- Invite neighbors to public events to build relationship

III. Quw'utsun Teachings (Katherine)

Truth & Reconciliation day, Qwiaqwuthw (Robert George) came and offered teaching and asked Sunrise to work with these teachings in the curriculum. As a school it was decided to work with 1-2 of these teachings per week. The teachers are bringing them into the classroom in various ways (actions, story etc). This week's "Give thanks for what you have been given" and "Family is the heart of Life" PA members reflected on what these teachings meant to them:

- Self reflection vs reaction has been helping dealing with intra family conflicts
- Grateful to be given a family after a difficult pregnancy
- Grieving loss of family member but grateful to be close to family
- More grateful now than ever before after as there is always improvement within our community which brings us close together
- Inherited family, grateful that daughter has such a strong loving bond with older siblings
- Learnt to dim down talents and have recently found passion again and is grateful for those talents
- Appreciation for family has really grown at this stage of life
- Remember to not sweat the little stuff
- Different stages of family life and brings awareness and thankfulness for the transformation of family life
- Filled with a desire to be more present
- Grateful for this school and its community

IV. Reports & Updates - For information only, no discussion (30 mins)

- 1. Executive Stephanie skipped for time constraints nothing urgent.
- 2. Finance Amanda reports attached Account Balances Chequing: \$17,225.60 Garden: \$90.49 Gaming: \$42860.18
- 3. Development/Fundraising Mindy, Amanda Warmth & Weather promotion ending Mar 10. SWPA Receive 15% in proceeds, free shipping for parents
- 4. Parent Enrichment Cathy, Hazel
 Christina Hamil (Simplicity Parenting Workshop), Eurythmy with Mary
 O'brien for a Parent experience, non-violent communication
- 5. SES Board Report Diana, Andrea N/A
- 6. Faculty Update Rose Powell Deep healing from faculty during the break throughout covid resiliency. Faculty was able to do some art therapy. Professional development around the teachings around the school's reconciliation. Faculty was involved in generating solutions from preventing closure of class 6.
- 7. Festivals Jenni N/A
- 8. Garden Jasmine N/A
- 9. Administration Update Katherine (report attached)
- V. Questions for the Board (5 mins)

VI. Pumpkin Path Parent Poll results (10 mins)

Based on results from the survey that ran in the newsletter and our numerous discussions around this both this year and last, it is clear that this event should be held by more than just Class 2. Any final comments before we take it to a vote? None

VII. Motions

1st Reading: The 2024 Pumpkin Path will be an event held by the whole school with each grade class responsible for 1 skit or story on the Path and the PA holding the overall organizational aspects of the event.

Mover: Katie Seconder: Amanda Carried

VIII. Class 6 closure (10 mins)

Opportunity to share anything arising from this announcement.

Q - What is to be learned about this decision:

A- Lots to learn such as communication pieces to parents as well as opportunity for parent discussion/input prior to these kinds of decisions. Finding a proper framework around how the school navigates social challenges. Teacher retention has been a challenge and if the school can retain teachers by offering a higher salary Q- Why was the decision made prior to completion of re-registration A- School knew the children were not wanting to come back, pressure from other parents from other classes who said they might not re-enrol their child if it

was going to be a split class. Wanted to give families time Q- How can we hold these upper classes moving forward?

From the board - room for reflection from the community & board.

IX. Other business arising from minutes (5 mins) Ran out of time

- PA shed cleanout before Mayfest (April)
- Adult Sock Hop Update (andrea)
- Next highschool meeting March 11, 9:30-11:30am Location?

Next PA meeting: April 5, 2023 (request to move to April 12 instead) Carried

Closing Of Meeting - School Verse (1 min)

To wonder at beauty, Stand guard over truth, Look up to the noble, Resolve on the good, This leads us truly, To purpose in living, To right in our doing, To peace in our feeling, To light in our thinking, And teaches us trust, In the workings of God, In all that there is, In the widths of the world, In the depths of the soul.

(Steiner's At the ringing of the Bells)

Sunrise Waldorf Parent Association

Income Statement Jan 01, 2023 to Jan 31, 2023

REVENUE

Fundraising Revenue		
Fundraising Misc	Lemon Compress	562.00
Total Fundraising Revenue		562.00
TOTAL REVENUE		562.00
EXPENSE		
General & Administrative Expenses		
Donations to Sunrise School		179.90
Interest & Bank Charges		95.60
Office Supplies		301.47
Teacher & PA Gifts		1,012.13
Total General & Admin. Expenses		1,589.10
TOTAL EXPENSE		1,589.10
		1,000.10
NET INCOME		-1,027.10

Sunrise Waldorf Parent Association

Balance Sheet As at Jan 31, 2023

ASSET

Current Assets		
PA Cash Float Held by Treasurer		187.90
CC Main Account 100	15,707.37	
CC Garden Account 101	90.49	
CC Gaming Account 102	2,860.18	
CC Social Initiavtive Grants 104	2,196.14	
Total Cash		20,854.18
The Hub Deposit	100.00	
Deposit Held Misc	200.00	
Total Receivable		300.00
Prepaid Expenses		80.76
Project Funding in Progess		0.00
Total Current Assets		21,422.84
TOTAL ASSET		21,422.84
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		452.53
Total Current Liabilities		452.53

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	12,236.77
Current Earnings	8,733.54
Total Retained Earnings	20,970.31
TOTAL EQUITY	20,970.31
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	21,422.84

Generated On: Feb 28, 2023

Enrollment Report – February 2023 - Katherine

Since January 1st we have welcomed

- 1 student in Class 8 (Sunny from China)
- 2 students to Class 3 (Eliza and former student Huanwen)
- 1 student to Class 2 (Stella, Eliza's sister)
- 1 student to Class 1 (Huantong, Huanwen's brother)
- 1 student to Kindergarten (Willow)

Sanneke moved from grade 1 to shining star kindergarten, which has been a success all round.

Enrollment number 151

In addition, Preschool has grown by 5 students.

After the break we hope to welcome Aurelia to Shining Star Kindergarten and Alma Rose back into Class 5.

Enrollment Activities:

Our January **Grades Tour** was well attended, mostly by preschool and kindergarten parents. It was a wonderful tour with excellent feedback and following interest including applications for kindergarten and preschool.

Our **February Open House for Preschool and kindergarten** was similarly well attended. The teachers made a warm welcoming atmosphere, and existing and new families enjoyed meeting each other and the teachers. That weekend I got 4 more applications for ece and grade 1.

Katherine and Polly have been working on the logistics of **Parent and Child**, after Rae's legwork, and have come up with not one but two programs to meet the huge hunger for this. At the time of this report we have 1 space left in the afternoon program - 19 applications in total. (Update – it's full.)

The program will run twice on Saturdays starting April 1, for 10 sessions each. Both morning and afternoon programs have a 10 family capacity.

A big thank you to our Chinese community for the wonderful festival. These events are huge for people's experience of joy and connectedness at Sunrise, now and in the future.

Upcoming Activities

Another Preschool and Kindergarten Open House is planned for March 4, as well as 3 more Grades Tours this year.

Alumni Day will be May 5 and some plans are developing around that.

Mayfest on May 6 is another opportunity for people to see what the school has to offer.

Retention

Our **Enrollment Committee** met at the beginning of February. We focussed on retention in the upper grades, including finding more ways to engage our older students and creating a culture they want to be part of - and that the younger children look forward to - for example Class Trips, group activities, rites of passage. We also spoke about teachers playing to their strengths, and continuing to work on parent teacher communication so that questions and concerns are being addressed in a timely way. Some of what has been implemented following this is more support for teachers around planning field trips, class plays, the school recital and showcasing class activities within the school – like teachers talking at Monday assembly about what their class is doing.

Rachel and Katherine have implemented a **3 month trial review**. All new students are on trial for the first 3 months. Now we are marking the end of this period and using it as an opportunity to reflect on how well the child and the family are integrating. The feedback gathered from the main teacher is reviewed by Katherine and Rachel. It includes both academic and social integration of the child, as well as family engagement and connection. We then write to the family about how things are going, expressing welcome and gratitude that they have chosen Sunrise, and ask for their reflections as well. This has been a very positive experience for everyone, and we have received a number of positive and heart-warming responses from our new families. In addition, we now have a record of how each new child is doing, that can be referred to.

Social media, newsletter and website continue to be the main outreach tools. Having events on our

website means that I regularly refer people to it and they can sign up for tours there. I have a growing contact list through the website, especially for ECE families.

Applications

Re-registration is currently active, and after this we can look at next year's classes, including processing applications and setting up intake meetings. So far applications for September have been almost exclusively for grade 2 and below, with a couple for grade 4. We've also had a number of international applications.

Application Process review

Rachel and Katherine, along with support from some teachers, are working on creating a more thorough and consistent application process, giving newer teachers some guidelines around intake meetings and acceptance, and for Admissions Director to do more screening and education for new families around our policies and values, to avoid unmet expectations on both sides. Main points of these are around media use, dress code, communication at Sunrise and parent volunteerism.

Acceptance emails now include all the salient points, including practical information and plenty of links to resources. The Parent Handbook is another tool that will be helpful. Katherine will update it, and Rae has already created a truncated version for current preschool families.