Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm via zoom Oct 9, 2020

Present: Emi Dyck, Carol, Clark, Nicole Stoltz and Angela Leung

The discussion on the outdoor classroom proposal was tabled after a lengthy discussion between 4 PAC members. We will be sending our questions back to admin. Here are the following reasons:

1. While it's easy to simply vote YES on anything and everything, we need to consider that this is a year where there is no active fundraising. When the total projected expenses are nearly $30,000, the costs add up quickly. Please see attached budget (which will be discussed and voted on at the November meeting)

2. We felt rushed to make a decision on a project before our budget was approved by PAC members. Normally this is done at our November meeting. This is now the second time admin has asked for funds outside of a meeting. While we can do email votes for projects, it is much better to discuss when large amounts of money are involved. This allows for questions and transparency.

3. There were a number of questions about the proposed classroom including:

- exactly which class layout is being proposed? are they just the stumps? or combo stumps/flat desk top

- is the location proposed suggested by the district? is this the best location given our ground conditions? Was there any consideration to take some time to consult the district to see if it would be better to build a proper surface first - enclosed wood chip area etc...not sure. Seems rushed?

- how long do these classrooms typically last? What happens when they need to be replaced? Are there other schools in the district (or elsewhere) that share testimonials on the company and their products

- one teacher proposed, but no mention that it was discussed and voted on at a staff meeting. Assuming this is something that all staff felt this was a worthwhile endeavor?

- often companies will insist that a discount is a limited time offer - we have found this when planning our playground - but it never hurts to ask if a sale can be extended. We did and our request was easily accommodated

- the proposal allows for only 24 seats. What about intermediate classes that can have up to 30 students?

- let's say the project is completed within the next few weeks....perhaps mid November... when the rains set in, and the snow geese crap everywhere, how much outdoor learning is going to be happening between November and April?

4. It was initially thought that we would use playground account funds for both the asphalt path ($15,000) and the proposed outdoor classroom ($2500); and use the gaming grant to pay for ipad replacement (cost unknown $10,000-$15,000). However, it turns out that [gaming grant guidelines](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/gambling/grants/guide-pac.pdf) prohibit us from purchasing classroom technology. Therefore we need to use the playground funds to pay for ipads. The gaming account can be used for the path and the outdoor classroom, but we need to vote on actually using the playground account for technology (since we agreed that all funds in this playground account was raised exclusively for outdoor play - we can absolutely use funds fo whatever we want, but the majority of us must be in agreement).

5. While a permanent cover for an outdoor classroom is a nice idea, they are costly and encourage loitering for people who wish to stay out of the elements outside of school hours, resulting in possible vandalism, drug paraphernalia, empty liquor containers and the like. Anyone who lives near the school will tell you of all the times we found broken glass and garbage all over our school grounds, especially the covered stairs at the back, and the number of times police had to be called. Pop up tents may seem like a quick solution but they need to be put up/taken down daily; not sure who is doing that!!!!

6. we are still waiting for our gaming grant this year... also don't want to spend money we don't physically have!