



## Willows Parent Advisory Committee

### Regular Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2013

**Call to Order : 7:13PM**

**Approval of the Agenda:** The November 20, 2013 agenda was approved by Clint Lalonde, seconded by Carolyn Kroeber

**Approval of the Minutes:** The October 16, 2013 minutes were approved by Michelle Kirby, seconded by Julie Bent

Attended: 16 people (including Principal Wendy Holob, Vice Principal Christine Patterson and Teacher Sondra Showers)

### New Business

Introduction to PAC executive and guests by Kyla

Update from community police liaison Julie Chanin (via Kyla and Dana) on special police advisories and their implications for parents:

- What is behind the media release?
  - o In general, media releases are issued when a parolee missed something on a list of requirements, which triggers notification from police (more about covering the police force's liabilities; not particularly effective in crime prevention)
- What would Julie communicate to parents about their responses to these advisories?
  - o They are a reminder to be doing what parents are already doing: having ongoing conversations with our children about personal safety, not only a particular person
- What should that discussion look like?
  - o Ask "What ifs ...?" (eg. what to do if an adult asks for help looking for dog, street address, daughter etc.)
  - o **Important: Adults have lots of resources; they don't need to ask kids for help!**
  - o Do not only discuss "stranger danger" (most personal crime is committed by people known victims)
  - o Tell children to trust instincts (how they feel, to trust their stomachs) and to tell a parent/teacher/principal/other parent if something doesn't feel right
  - o Model that behavior – good citizens call police officers!
  - o Don't need too much detail, specifics (showing photos isn't always helpful because small children may only remember clothing, etc.)

- See Kyla's handout re: talking to kids about difficult topics (see handout)
- Principal Wendy Holob reported on what the school does on receipt of these advisories:
  - Staff meeting held to discuss; picture posted in staff room; teachers urged to remind kids about safety walking home, coming to the office by 2nd bell after school; supervisors all get photo to take outside with them; chose not to post in hallway at school

Update on the Holly Tree Festival from Angela Jackson:

- Partnered with Monterey middle school for helpers but still need parent volunteers (before, during and after!)
- Lots of fun planned: Bottle Bonanza, 2 photo booths, treat wheel, games, movies, magician show, letters to Santa, Mexican food truck at 5:30pm, book fair in the library (Munro's)
- On PAC website ([www.willowspac.ca](http://www.willowspac.ca)), possible to click on different organizers' e-mail links to contact them to help

Update on guidelines and suggestions for the Bottle Bonanza from Jackie Lines:

- Give a bottle that you would like your child to receive (like a loot bag): requisite piece of candy, gender neutral if possible, age neutral (see notice that went home last week for further guidelines)
- We need at least 600 bottles
- Think of bottles as donations to sustaining the Festival; the idea is not that everyone who gives a bottle gets one

Update on our PAC contribution programme from Treasurer Clint Lalonde

- Programme closed last Friday: approximately \$9100 received so far (down \$3000 from last year): historic low
- Suggestion from Kyla for one final e-mail reminder

Final brief breakout discussion to generate ideas: How can we improve our level of communication with the parent body at Willows?

## Adjournment: 8:35PM

- Next meeting – October 16, 2013
- For more PAC information subscribe to [www.willowspac.ca](http://www.willowspac.ca) or like us on Facebook "Willows PAC"
- Please direct any questions or requests to [willowspac@gmail.com](mailto:willowspac@gmail.com)