

**VILLAGE OF PEMBERTON
-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES-**

Minutes for the **Committee of the Whole** of Council of the Village of Pemberton held Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers – 1350 Aster Street. This is meeting 011.

ATTENDING: Mayor Jordan Sturdy
Councillor Lisa Ames
Councillor Ted Craddock
Councillor Alan LeBlanc
Councillor Susie Gimse

STAFF: Lori Pilon, Administrator
Sheena Fraser, Manager of Administrative Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 9:05 a.m. Mayor Sturdy called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. COUNCIL-COMMUNITY COOPERATION FOCUS GROUP

Pemberton Children's Centre

Claudine Lazic – Co Chair – Pemberton Childcare Society
Pat Bencharski – Co Manager – Pemberton Children's Centre

Ms. Lazic and Ms. Bencharski provided background on the Pemberton Childcare Society and the Children's Centre. The Society is a not for profit society and oversees the operation of the Children's Centre. The facility opened in February, 2008 and houses three programs that provides daycare services to 90 families. There are a total of 49 spaces available and a wait list of approximately 32 children. The largest demand is for daycare services for infant/toddler.

Ms. Lazic provided an overview of the budget for the centre and explained that the operating costs are \$550,000 and revenue is approximately \$560,000 with the 90% of the costs allocated to salaries. The Society relies on fundraising to cover other costs for supplies, toys, play equipment etc. The goal is to pay down the current debt and to build an addition to the facility to house more pre-school/kindercare spaces.

Ms. Bencharski spoke about the challenges of finding and keeping qualified staff and that the priority over the next few years is to provide training opportunities to increase staff retention rates. A two year Infant Toddler Training Course is available locally and cost \$400 per course. The total cost for the two year program is \$4,000.

The priorities for the Society over the next few years include training for staff, extension to the building, seeking funding opportunities and sustaining the affordability of childcare in the area.

Signal Hill Elementary School – Parent Advisory Committee

Jenna Markovic – PAC Chair

Ms. Markovic provided background on the SHE PAC and advised that the membership is made up of all parents of children currently enrolled at Signal Hill Elementary School. The mandate of PAC is to foster learning through parent involvement in the school.

Currently there are 400 children registered with 25 children registered in the Francophone School that is housed at Signal Hill Elementary. Students attending live in the Village of Pemberton, Area C and Mount Currie.

PAC has a limited budget and as such places a reliance on fundraising to support programs and initiatives at the school. Fundraising activities include the Annual Oktoberfest, cookie dough sales, t-shirt and hoody sales and the sale of the upcoming Signal Hill Cookbook. With respect to the cookbook, PAC thanked the Village for their support in sponsoring a page and ordering several books.

Markovic spoke about the milk program and the potential for offering a fruit and veggie program as well. The milk program is oversubscribed and the biggest hurdle at this time is that the fridge in the Community Kitchen is too small to handle the demand. With the School Boards support the Village made application, on behalf of SHE, to the UBCM School Community Connections grant program for \$8,000 to put toward the purchase of two industrial sized refrigerators to accommodate the milk program. The larger refrigerators will enable PAC to also offer a fruit and veggie program. (UPDATE: The Village was advised May 6th that the grant was has been awarded to SHE for this project).

Markovic advised that PAC has applied to the Whistler/Blackcomb foundation for funding for upgrades and improvements to the school playground. Improvements include new and more benches, swing set, climbing “space net”, soccer nets, weather-shade shelter, landscaping and irrigation improvements, low height monkey bars, chain-link basketball nets and balls, line painting and track and field improvements and equipment.

Other initiatives PAC is working on is the installation of a Marquee Sign that would be located in front of the school and would be used to announce school and/or community events. PAC requested Village support for this project through the consideration of a community enhancement grant, assistance with permits in order to meet bylaw and design criteria.

Markovic closed with thanking Council for their support to date and requested assistance in lobbying the school board to adjust the bussing costs for field trips so that SHE students can attend and participate in programs available in Vancouver (ie: Art Gallery, Museum, Maritime Museum etc.) and consider the establishment of a yearly Village of Pemberton grant-in-aid for community organizations suggesting that \$250 would go along way to assisting not only PAC but other groups as well.

Pemberton Secondary School – Parent Advisory Committee

Trish Sturdy – Co Chair

Ms. Sturdy provided an overview of the role of the PSS PAC and advised that the mission is to improve the highschool experience for all students. PSS currently has e 280 students enrolled with 43% of the population First Nations.

PSS PAC has not done any fundraising as there appears to be little interest on the part of parents to do so and is reliant on Gaming Funds of \$8,000 to support PAC initiatives and assist the school as they are able.

Sturdy outlined some of the challenges PSS is dealing with such as communicating with parents, low grad rates, limited library hours, limited funds to purchase new library books, school athletic uniforms or soccer nets and funding challenges for the yearly bursary and year book.

Sturdy advised that the biggest issue currently faced by the highschool students is that there is nothing to do after school. This year funding was made available to run a late bus on Tuesday's and Thursdays which allowed students to stay at school and participate in after school activities. The relocation of the Youth Centre to town is also great.

Sturdy advised that recent changes in the insurance/liability policies set by the School Board means that the Championship Dragon Boat Team is unable to compete this year. Work is being done to find a way to resolve the issue but it is disappointing for the kids as they look forward to representing their school and community at these evetns.

Sturdy reported that there has been a problem this year with drinking during school hours and that Administration and PAC are working together to try to address the issue and complimented newly elected School Board Trustee Rebecca Barley as this is an important issue for her and she is working to educate parents of this problem.

Sea to Sky Community Services

Liz Wood – Director, Community Living Services
Tami Overbeck – Manager of Early Child Development

Ms. Wood provided the history of Sea to Sky Community Services explaining that SSCS has been providing social services in the corridor for 30 years and operate facilities in Squamish and Pemberton. SSCS budget is \$6.5 million and funding is secured from the provincial government and grants. At present there are over 50 full time employees and 80 part time employees.

SSCS provides three streams of service that include:

- Community Living
- Early Child Development
- Outreach Services (ie: Drug and Alcohol Counseling etc.)

SSCS is working toward securing housing for the agency and its programs in Pemberton and is working with Ilse Morris who owns land on Aster Street. The intention would be to move their offices, outreach services and daycare into the building. SSCS thanked the Village for their support to date in moving the development permit for the project through and for supporting the continued operation of the Pemberton Meadows Daycare at the old community centre.

SSCS has also made a proposal to the Regional District to operate an After School program out of the new Community Centre. The program would be open to children from Kindergarten to Grade 7 and would facilitate up to 20 children. Tami Overbeck advised that a wait list has already been started as so many children will be transitioning from Kindergarten to Grade One and the number of children starting Kindergarten next year continues to grow.

Growing Great Children:

Dr. Shannon Paul
Cathy Konkle-Benns

Growing Great Children is a community initiative and the purpose is to provide a forum to address the needs of the local community with a focus on children from 0 to six. It is an extension of Sea to Sky Services putting children first program. The goal of the Pemberton Chapter is to determine what resources are available and/or existing, what is needed and what families with young children need.

To date the group has issued a monthly calendar that includes a listing of activities and events for young children. It has been distributed to businesses/offices, organizations and the community centre. As well, the group determined that there was a need for weekend activities for young children and as a result the Community

Centre holds Open Gym on Saturday's and Sunday's which has been very much appreciated by families.

Growing Great Children are sponsoring a series of free workshops, the first of which will be on May 23rd and 24th, and will focus on communications skills, problem solving, group development and power and diversity. The workshops are three hours each and are open to parents of children between the ages of 1 to 6.

Other initiatives under consideration by the group are the establishment of a website, working toward implementing a child minding drop in program so that parent can work out at the Community Centre and adopt a grandparent program.

The group meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sea to Sky Community Services Offices on Aster Street.

More information is available at growinggreatchildren@gmail.com or at the website: www.growinggreatchildren.typepad.com

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:00 a.m. Mayor Sturdy adjourned the meeting.

Mayor

Administrator