**Royal Oak Middle School**

**PAC Meeting Minutes/Summary**

**November 17, 2016**

**Present:**  
**PAC EXECUTIVE**: Stefania Hutchison, Christa Easton, Jamie Disbrows, Josie Pucci-Cocco, Michelle Hughes, Lynn Hood

Not present: Roland Tscheinig, Tracey Rompain, Lynn Bartle, Christine Dutchak, Rosalina Munro, Dora Demedeiros

5 ROMS families also attended

Meeting opened at 7:00pm at Royal Oak Middle School.

1. **President's Welcome and Introductions** -by Christa Easton-a gift was given to Jean and Carly for their time presenting the information on inquiry based learning.
2. **Presentation by Jean Prevost and Carly Hunter**

* B.C. has slowly made a shift in teaching practices many years ago to inquiry based learning. Inquiry based learning is not always project based learning. Its a stance, being curious about the world like children are. The goal is to encourage life long learners. Its a new approach to teaching and learning. Kids no longer need to be prepared for an industrial age so the teaching practices have to change with the times as well. Hopefully, students will continue to learn when they exit school. We need our kids to be critical thinkers. The new method uses teacher's ideas about curriculum. Teachers give students background knowledge and then send them out to form new understandings. Gone are the days of stand and deliver.
* Inquiry based learning takes things that interest students and relates it to the curriculum. Students need to learn how to defend what they are learning. It is personalized, not all students are learning the same thing at the same time. Rates of learning are different for each student and that is okay. It is a switch in thinking. No more repetition, now teach basic understandings and students make connections of the understanding. It makes it more interesting. Students are not allowed to do anything they want. Its difficult, kids have to be thinking all the time, using multiple skills eg. getting along with others, finding out what research is relevant. Analyzing, transforming, applying and creating is more difficult than repeating.
* The inquiry based learning model has the following components:
* Connect and Wonder
* Investigate-how will students research, what is the best way, interview someone? Students make their own questions. Have students go to the Learning Commons website. It has data bases that the district pays for. Common to most schools. Every new student gets an orientation on this. The information is very reliable. It is website links that the learning commons has collected.
* Construct-take the information, make a product and edit it
* Reflect-is this the question I want to ask? What is my new question?
* Express
* Assess-how did that go? What worked well, what would I do differently? Where do I go from here?
* This model is the same process we go through in life, eg. Buying a car.

Inquiry classroom is different from education of prior years, its dynamic, rigorous, differentiated, messy, engaging and unpredictable. We are preparing kids for an unpredictable world. Its a paradigm shift from how the classrooms were a few years, ago eg. everyone facing the same way.

There is a place for student's who want a quieter environment too. But you want to push those kids out of their comfort zone as well. There are also times when there are more structured activities. One hope is that the inquiry based learning may help more students complete grade 12. Carly thinks student engagement has gone up. Students are still doing well on standardized tests using the new inquiry based curriculum.

Different types of inquiry based learning.

* Structure inquiry-students follow the lead of the teacher and entire class engages in one inquiry together.
* Controlled inquiry-teacher chooses topics and identifies the resources students will use to answer questions. eg. Id a change maker in society. Assessment-rubric, can students demonstrate that they used the information to its fullest, made good use of their time and were good at making a plan.
* Guided inquiry-Teacher chooses topics/questions and students design product or solution.
* Free inquiry-Students choose their topics without reference to any prescribed outcome.

These inquiry types go back in forth, not just in a progressive line.

Using inquiry based learning, teachers can no longer do year long lessons plans. They are more like a facilitator of learning instead of a deliverer of information. Not sage on the stage, but a guide on the side.

How do you evaluate the student? Teachers still give quizzes to know where the student is at and this helps teachers know what to do more to help the student. Not evaluating the product at the end but the process the student went through to get their product.

Are students reflective learners? Not just looking at content. Teachers will build on student's strengths and work on an area of growth if they are challenged in one area eg. Communication.

Key features of redesigned curriculum:

* + Less content-more depth
  + A focus on deep thinking and collaboration
  + A review of assessment practices to reflect research.

Core competencies that students need this to be successful at after 12 years

* Communication
* Thinking-critical and creative
* Personal & Social-positive personal and cultural identity

Content-Know

Curricular Competencies - skills, strategies and processes that students develop over time.

Focus is not on the content but on gaining core competencies.

Hopes and wishes-that the students will feel safe to take risks in their learning

That students and teachers will be excited about learning together.

1. **Approval of October's minutes and Approval of Agenda**-Christine approved and Jamie seconded it.

4. **ROMS Administration Report**

* December Giving campaign-youth in action started. From November 25th until Dec.9 each classroom is to put together a Holiday hamper. During the time period students contributes nice items to the hamper. When its over there should be one completed box per class therefore 22 completed hampers at the end of the campaign. Class reps to get the information out to parents.
* Basketball is in full swing.
* Rowing did well. The team won the mixed doubles.
* Supreme court decision- schools may have money coming to them maybe in January maybe next September. 300 or 400 million back into the systems. The purpose is to change the class size limits, less students per teacher. 28 students per class. Terms to be negotiated. The class sizes will be respected. The decision is about when the money will roll out, not if it will roll out. Hopefully, gets the school more resources, maybe the school will get more specialized help.

5. **Presidents Report**-

Treasurer's report-$7,000 in the bank.

Craft fair coming up. Need volunteers

Purdy's still going on until next Friday, November 25th.

There are a few tables left at the craft fair. We need to stress to the community that the event is not just a student's craft fair and that there are a lot of adult vendors as well. We need bigger signs. There is advertising in Island Parent magazine. Ads have also been put up at Commonwealth pool on the bulletin board.

A decision was made to put out flyers around the neighbourhoods as the cost is low. If we don't get an increase in traffic, then the same vendors won't come back. CFAX or the Q might be able to do a shout out.

Screamfest was a huge success. $13, 000 plus profit. Need to thank Mike Brooks for doing that. Not a PAC event.

The money collected should go through the PAC not the school secretary. Don Mellings did a great job overlooking the collection of funds. It was very well done. Having the two nights made a big difference. It may have been a sacrifice for Saanich to give up their gym time. It was worth doing the two nights. We got another 450 attendees plus 800 on the Friday night. 1200 total people this year. Great job on the food. Only change should be that the volunteer room needs to be down where the event is.

How close are we to earning the playground money? Only Vice principal Ken knows.

6. **Co-PACS Representative Report/Update**-

This month there was a Policy 1100 meeting instead of the regular meeting. It was well attended.

CoPACS wants to be more useful. It was a brain storming meeting. Royal Oak will be part of BC CPAC.

Should we get the earthquake speaker to come? It was agreed that Corey Mackar will come to speak on earthquake preparedness at the Jan. 19th PAC meeting.

Volunteers are needed to go classroom to classroom to see if each classroom has everything it needs for its kit. 22 kits need to be examined. Martha, Michelle and Stef will do the inspections.

7. **New Business-none**

No meeting in December, except for an Executive one Thursday December 15th, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.