

Gordon Elementary PAC meeting

Jan 25th 2010 6:45-8:45pm
Gordon Elementary Library

Attending: Colleen Kern, Avril Bain, Heather Young, Anna Johnson, Roberta Stuart, Elke Porter, Miriam Grob, Noreen Morris, Liz and Gerardo Iglesias (secretary), Gail Johnson, Ingrid Sulston, Jane Pike, Karen Wood, Mary Locke, Tricia Wallace, Charlotte French, Linda Drozdowski

1. Guest speaker, Mary Locke, our school librarian

Mary speaks on the work of the school library, use of databases at school and home, and author visits.

The work of the library:

Mary presents an 11 minute video, made last year featuring different librarians. It is entitled: "School libraries in Action". On <http://schoollibraryprogram.pbworks.com/Video-Project>. The importance of choice in research is key. Also discussed about the literature circles, 6-8 kids per table discussing a book. Grades 4 - 7.

Mary welcomes parents to borrow books from the parents shelves.

Databases:

VSB databases that students and families can use are on the website webcat.vsb.bc.ca. Go to "School collections" and go to Gordon, User ID: 39go, password:library. Databases divided into "younger" and "older" students. The software is the same as the Vancouver Public Library. ESL and French support microsites are available here. Also points out that films are available, though some have adult content.

Media awareness series discusses internet security.

We would like 10-15 computers available at the library, and internet access in every classroom.

Author visits:

Encouraging kids to love literature gets a big boost by having authors visit schools, which has been happening for some 30 years. The more the better, sometimes they are free, but most of them cost money. Some \$100-\$200 per hour, for larger audiences this can cost up to \$350-\$400, but for a gym-full. You are connecting the kids to "real" authors, they see that writers are approachable people. Kids get really excited, and learn that writing is something you can do for life. Canadian authors talk to Canadian kids about Canadian culture.

2. Financial matters

a) Vote on the motion made at the November PAC meeting: \$1200 from the gaming grant for music performances. Move by Gail Johnson, Avril Bain seconds it. Unanimously approved.

b) Classroom funds for \$100 for each class, with an additional \$100 for resource, to a total of \$2000. Gail Johnson makes a motion, Roberta Stuart seconds it, and unanimously approved.

c) Vote on author visit support, for those classes that have not yet had an author visit this year: Up to \$300 for upper grades. Up to \$200 for kindergarteners. Move by Gail Johnson to get the \$500 total, seconded by Elke Porter, and unanimously approved.

3. FSA

Questions answered on these grade 4 and 7 provincial assessments.

We have an explanation of the 3 parts that conform the exams. A letter was sent on the first week of January to each student grade 4 - 7. Last week the school sent letters to the students that were excused, and 3 reasons why this would have happened. The school is reviewing letters from parents that request their kids to be excused.

4. Other business

a) **Grocery card orders** in on Friday, parents can write post-dated checks. Standing orders accepted. We do have Safeway cards available now.

b) Discussion about the distributed **minutes of DPAC**, pointing to several items in that agenda.

c) Noreen requests a PAC representative to attend a conference in Feb. regarding **21st. century schools**.

d) **Dust in the gym**. There is so much that it is becoming an allergy issue.

e) **Security issue** with all school doors open all day. Proposal to lock all but the main doors during the day.

f) Skateboarders and bikers. Reminder needed that there are **no wheels** allowed on the playground before 3:30.

g) Follow-up from the **open house for seismic renewal**. The large audience was very welcome, and 85 comments in the feed-back tray. It was made clear what parents thought was really important: looks like there is not enough space, sustainability, daycare, and covered play space. In short, the report they have compared our report to that of Q. Mary. We have some 400 pop. vs. 350 from them, but space wise both schools have the same proposed space, which does not make sense.

PAC went back with the feedback, underlying to the board the key concerns, and the board did not vote on it. PAC parents will write a document trying to get additional space, supporting this with the substantial number of feedback forms gathered at the open house.