

## Gordon Elementary PAC meeting

May 31st 2010 6:45-8:45pm

Gordon Elementary Library

### 1. Spring Fling

We raised about \$5.5K. New plant supplier worked for us and them, and they are happy to work with Gordon. BBQ + Plant sale made more than previously. Suggestion to have parents or staff helping man the giant gerbil balls next year, to reduce body slamming / potential harm. More volunteers required to monitor slide. So if we go with this company next year, we need more parent volunteers to help out.

### 2. Letter from Gordon Campbell

Roberta Stuart wrote a letter and received reply regarding funding cuts.

### 3. Youth rally against school budget cuts

Tues June 1st, 4pm Vancouver Art Gallery. Organized by high school students, who want support from parents and teachers.

### 4. Vote on gaming funds allocations

Some items on the staff wish list could not be covered by the direct drive allocations. We have gaming funds to cover these items. Ingrid proposes approving them tonight.

Sound system transfer from lunch room to gym	approx. \$150
Headset Mike	approx. \$500
Floor Hockey Equipment	approx \$350

Gail Johnson moves & Jane Pike seconds to approve motions for expenditure. All in agreement.

### 5. Proposal for expenditures from general funds, for approval next year.

a) The staff would like to equip all grade 6 and 7 classrooms with a smart board. Margaret would like 4 more @ \$2k per piece, so there is one in every grade 6 and 7 classroom and one in the lab. Proposal to use some spring fling proceeds towards this?

Issue raised about whether this tool is a fundamental school equipment and should it be covered by PAC. Other schools that have them are funded by their PAC's.

Charlotte makes a motion to purchase 2 Smart Boards to be discussed in September. Seconded by Nicky.

b) Library would like author visit money in place at the beginning of next year. Make a motion now.

Nicky makes a motion to approve \$1k to put Gaming money against booking authors for next year. Seconded by Jane Pike. Passed by majority.

## **6. Vote in new PAC members**

By acclamation Miriam Grob is voted co-chair the PAC with Ingrid Sulston.

PAC searching for co-treasurer to work with Anna Johnson for this year. Treasurer required for next year.

Karen Wood as shared secretary. Rosetta confirmed as Canadian Parents for French rep.

## **7. Guest speaker: Robert Moore and Alex Grant on our seismic process**

Gordon approved as part of the NCLD projects, last April along with Queen Mary & Strathcona. Questions raised from audience as to the process for progression (and whether it has changed) as the audience had not been made aware of the Committee 2 decision, despite having carefully watching the progress of the project. Decision made that there would not be any further space allocation. A request for an architect has gone out for Gordon.

Gordon space has been defined based on no other community partners coming forward wanting to jointly develop a site with Gordon. VSB wanted specific commitments, therefore very few community groups could specify exactly what they would need or commit funds. Therefore, the schools have ended up being defined based on educational needs / input from parents requirements. Community groups said build and groups will come. The joint space is currently developed with the concept that flexi space can be used out of school hours by community groups.

An RFP has been sent to a pool of 8 Architects to submit their proposals. Expectations that the selection process will take 6-12months.

VSB want to have discussion with Parents about “What type of learning is required to prepare our kids for their future?” Monkton Seakton? in UK have been practicing SPACE learning for a decade and getting great results. (10mins instructional teaching, followed by 10mins play).

Alex & Bob want to marry the design with discussion of changing teaching styles and the spacial requirements those changes will demand. PAC raised the concern that the design shouldn't become too conceptual and as a result overlook the pragmatic basics required for learning (made the Sky Train ‘open access’, philosophical mistake, where turn styles are now being retrofitted).

Bob: VSB has a consultation process, it has an undertaking to provide consultation, take feedback and ensure public concern is considered. This process however, does not give veto to any one group if the requirement is not in line with the Ministry and VSB mandate. During that process there will be a commitment to maintain ongoing schooling - this will be a challenge at Gordon, due to site constraints. Finally there will be some funding constraints. The result will be a compromise of all components of the process. The imperative is to build a safer school - seismically aligned.