



# Gordon Elementary

## P.A.C. MINUTES October 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

### 1. Welcome from P.A.C. Co-Chairs (Suzan)

- Suzan welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. There were 14 parents, 5 staff, 2 administrators (Hope and Sarah) and 1 guest (see #3 below)
- The minutes from September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted

### 2. What's happening at Gordon in November (Julie)

- Halloween Parade tomorrow Oct 31<sup>st</sup> (*see Principal's update below for more details*)
- Ongoing:
  - Popcorn Fridays (\$1 per bag)
  - Hot lunch Mondays and Thursdays (for more information and/or to order online visit [www.cestmoncafe.com](http://www.cestmoncafe.com)). Note: There is no hot lunch on Thurs Dec 14<sup>th</sup> due to the Winter Concert.
  - Pizza Wednesdays (\$2 per slice or \$5 for two slices). Pizza sales go towards funding the French Immersion Gr. 7 Quebec trip.
- Purdy's French Immersion fundraiser will be held this year for the Gr. 6 group. Info will be sent to parents shortly. (\*update after later discussion – this will be a whole school fundraiser not French Immersion)

### 3. VSB Community Schools Coordinator (Jasica Grewal)

- Westside Community Schools Coordinator Role
  - This is a new role and Jasica is currently the sole coordinator for the Westside at this time.
- Overview of programs run at Gordon
  - Provide support for vulnerable children and all students, support for Gr 7-8 transition
  - Also support after school programs. Anticipating an improvement in services by providing online registrations as of Jan 2018. This will allow coordinators to focus less on administrative activities and more on providing services. Will continue with lottery if our school is over subscribed as they currently do.
  - Programs at Gordon will continue on status quo at this time, however, the intent is to offer more programs in the spring based on resource availability, new partnerships (equivalent to VSB program providers) and results of the needs survey outlined below.
- **Needs assessment survey** will be conducted to determine the best way to utilize and provide services. A draft survey has been created and will be sent out to parents and teachers to assess student vulnerabilities (modeled after the MDI completed with the Grade 7's). Distribution date should be in approx. 2 weeks.

#### 4. Principal Update (Hope)

- **Terry Fox Fundraiser:** Our Terry Fox Run raised \$1248.45 for. Thank you so much for your support for cancer research. This important fundraiser has resulted in great gains against the fight of cancer.
- **Halloween Parade:** On Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 we will be calling all of our primary classes (K to Grade 3) down to the gym to participate in our Halloween Parade. Then, around 9:30 we will call down our Intermediate classes. Classes will sit in the middle of the gym and be called up one by one to parade around the gym. Students with or without costumes can participate. Parents are welcome to drop by to check out the array of princesses, superheroes and much more!
- **Extreme Weather Days:** On these days only students with appropriate attire are allowed to play outside. We also open our Multipurpose Room for games and quiet conversation. We appreciate your support on these days by sending your children in weather appropriate gear so they have the option of going outside.
- **Lunch Containers that are Difficult to Open:** I have noticed that at lunch time there are a large number of students who have difficulty opening their containers. It would be very helpful if you sit down with your children and test what they can and cannot open. This will alleviate frustration for your child and free up our Supervision Aides to supervise. Thank you very much.
- **Road Safety:** We are all aware of the importance of keeping our children safe near roadways. The need for awareness increases as weather conditions and visibility worsen. If you are driving your children to school, please ensure you are dropping them off on the school side of the street, so they don't have to cross the road. It would also be helpful if you have a chat with your child to *stop, look and listen* when approaching intersections and allies. Please find **School Traffic Safety Tips** attached to the **Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, newsletter #3**. This tip sheet provides clarification around Vancouver City street signage. Please ensure we are being courteous our neighbours by not blocking driveways or intersections while dropping off your child.
- **Performances:** We have been very fortunate to have two wonderful school-wide performances already this year. On September 6<sup>th</sup> we were entertained by Jacky Essombe, an African dancer. Accompanied by an African drummer, he shared the culture of Africa through traditional songs and stories. Then on October 11<sup>th</sup> we watched a Green Thumb theatre performance called, *Not So Dumb*. This was a poignant play about what can happen when we put ourselves in someone else's shoes. Now, we are looking forward to *West My Friend* on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the PAC for helping us cover the cost of these entertaining learning experiences. These performances are generally for all K-7 students. Check out upcoming newsletters for more details about each performance to facilitate home discussion.
- **New Student Registration:** Registration for the 2018/2019 school year begins on November 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on January 31<sup>st</sup>
- **Evening Access to School:** On regular school days our outside doors are locked by our engineer at 4 PM. If you need to pick up your child from JKC, our before and after school care program, you can access them through the Multipurpose doors facing 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. This door is only for adults picking up students from JKC. Our gymnasium is now rented out five evenings a week to the public, so they have access to our student washrooms during this time. To be safe, if students are

playing outside and need to use the washroom after 4 PM they will have to make their way home. Thank you.

- **Remembrance Day Assembly:** Thursday, November 9th from 11am to Noon we will be holding our Gordon Remembrance Day Assembly. We encourage all students who belong to organizations such as Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies etc. to wear their official uniforms. There will be a number of staff and students taking part. We invite families to join us. **Remember that school is not in session on Friday, Nov 10**
- **Thank You to the PAC:** We are so thankful to the PAC for their generous help in paying for:
  - The installation of our new push button projector screens in the Gym and Multipurpose Room
  - Also for their interest in preserving the history of Gordon by helping fund the erection of our large granite picnic table off our grass field.
  - *Fun fact* – just outside the main door of the school is one of the granite blocks from the old school. See if you can guess which one looks different!
- **The Old School House:** Most of the upgrades to the “not so yellow” school house happened over the summer.
  - The school is one open room with two bathrooms. We are still waiting for some work on the lights and bathrooms. The fence is still up around the building for a few more months, in order to give the grass a chance to root. We are hopeful that we will be able to use the space in early spring for individual classes or groups of classes.
  - For this school year, the house is for our school use – extra activities, etc.
  - For September 2018 we are in conversation with Mosaic Montessori about the possibility of moving back into the space.

## 5. Direct Drive update (Suzan)

- Direct drive is from Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – Nov 9<sup>th</sup> this year.
- Currently at \$10,511.00 (a \$1000.00 donation was earmarked for French Immersion). This year’s goal is \$10,000.
- Positive feedback regarding this year’s brochure and the experience theme.
- If any parents have any experience ideas for the students this year, please direct to the [gordonpac@ymail.com](mailto:gordonpac@ymail.com). These ideas will be passed on to Hope and staff for discussion.
  - Teachers have already submitted a list of experiences which will add to programs that already exist in their classrooms to Hope for consideration. An area of focus for teachers has been bringing “experts” to assist them in teaching outside of their areas of expertise
  - Parent ideas: Salmon Stream of Dreams was discussed before the new school was built
- Parents agreed a summary of the Direct Drive experiences concept to all parents should be done to help raise parent awareness and round out the information discussed to date.
- Principal’s discretionary fund – agreed this will be covered by the PAC outside of the Direct Drive.

## **6. Fundraising Update (Sheila)**

- All fundraising items are set up to be easy to use. Keep these ideas in mind for your holiday shopping this year!
- Order forms can be found in the office or from Sheila. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> is the holiday card order deadline.
- Some fundraising stats:
  - Cobbs Bread – Approx \$478.00 between 2 locations
  - Donation bin – \$1780 for 6 months Mar - Aug (10 cents / pound). Note: books are ok for the bin. Nothing that breaks
  - Grouse Mtn is a new fundraiser with a goal of 15 sign-ups using the code PAC-GORDON at checkout. See PAC website [www.gordonelementary.ca](http://www.gordonelementary.ca) for more details – cut off is Nov 30th. Please share the code with friends and family
  - Hot lunch – \$514 for one month (PAC gets \$1/meal)
  - IGA cards – \$46 (for 3months)
  - Mabels labels 76.95 over the summer. Hint – these make great teacher presents!
  - October - \$177 shopping cards
  - Oct 13 - \$162 single day popcorn sales
  - Safeway cards - \$4K/\$15K sold by end of October.

## **7. Partners for Inclusive Education (PIE) Update (Erika)**

- First meeting was held last month with a focus on introductions and self-regulation.
- First shared support coffee last week with a nice size, diverse group.
- Future ideas: A speaker to address Anxiety which would be offered with PAC/
- Continuing focus on partnerships – with PAC, staff, other schools to generate ideas for inclusiveness and supporting each other as parents. Keep building inclusiveness in our school and our community.
- Next meeting: Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Motion raised to support PIE up to \$500 for the year. Proposed: Sheila Kirkby, Seconded: Alison Gresik

## **8. Financial Update (Julie for Kevin)**

- Financial summary circulated.
- Highlights – granite tables have been paid for \$7,000, classroom funds have been paid, and screens have been paid for the Multipurpose room and the gym
- Every year the school gets a grant from the provincial Gaming account. This year's amount was \$8,000 and have specific ways in which it can be spent.

## **9. Uniforms (Julie for Jessica)**

- Team uniform mock-ups are in progress in a dri-fit fabric. PAC working with staff to finalize.
- School t-shirts for fundraising are also being investigated and will be discussed at a later date.

## **10. Playground (Julie for Jessica)**

- Some investigation is underway for costing the replacement of the playground mulch with rubber matting (like Kits beach playground). May be some potential for grants.
- Some concerns have been expressed about what is happening in and under it (mold, dampness, etc.)

### **Other business:**

- **Fundraising discussion:**
- Discussion on how the PAC needs be conscious that Gordon is a dual track school and ensure that the school is whole, inclusive of both the English and French tracks and that both senior groups have opportunities for a “big” experience.
- Historically these PACs meetings do not cover French Immersion items – this group has worked separately with specific fundraising, etc. The PAC needs to circle back and solidify an approach for sub-PAC meetings or fundraising.
- Agreement that further discussions and creation of a Fundraising Committee (made up of parents, PAC, staff, etc.) is required to discuss fundraising options, how special items will be covered (ie: senior grade experiences) and ensure there is no preferential funding for one program over the other.
- Teachers also commented on the need to discuss this concern better as a group to ensure they are planning in grade groups to figure out an equitable approach.

### **Motions this month:**

- None

**Thanks everyone for attending the P.A.C. meeting!  
See you again at our next P.A.C. meeting November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

**Meeting started at 6:36  
Meeting concluded at 8:05**