



P.A.C. Meeting 3 Minutes, February 29th 2016

1. Welcome from P.A.C. Co-Chairs - Victoria Stephens

- The meeting started at 19:08.
- Victoria Stephens welcomed everyone. Attendance: 17 parents, two administrators (Margaret, Nancy), and district principal Chris Atkinson.
- The minutes from the November 30th meeting were adopted.

2. VSB Update - Chris Atkinson

- Chris gave an update on the new school, which is on budget and on schedule. Outside, masonry is finished, windows are in, cladding is on, and panels are being fitted. Inside, boarding is progressing from top to bottom, the third floor is painted, the second floor is boarded, and the ground floor is being boarded. The interior work is finishing in the spring. The yellow school house demolition is due in March according to the current plan. The exterior landscape will be done in the spring. Site equipment will be installed in July. Occupancy is targeted for August, and school start in September.
- Beth gave an update on the playground. Phase 1 includes everything needed before July: the cedars, spinner, Orbis climbing frame, and granite tables. Phase 2 includes the rest of the planned items.
- Chris gave an update on the objections from heritage organizations about the imminent demolition of the yellow school house. The Montessori school is moving inside the new building, which is a condition of the development permit. There are costs to leaving the building on site, since that would affect the playground plans. Moving the building off site is not practical, since that would require cutting down 20 trees and lifting every overhead wire enroute. The building would have to be cut into three pieces, requiring mitigation of hazardous materials. The cost has been estimated at \$600k to \$850k. The school board is keeping plenty of other school houses, such as Henry Hudson's and Queen Mary's. Discussion ensued. The conclusion was to wait for the board decision before deciding on any PAC action.
- Q: If the board saves the yellow school house, can we advocate against? A: Yes.
- Q: What is the plan for the heritage area in the north west corner of the playground. A: Still in progress.

3. Principal's Update - Margaret Davidson

- Margaret spoke about the implementation of the province's new curriculum. Lots of information is available online. Email any questions to Margaret.
- VSB has a strategic plan survey. The board want to know from every stakeholder what is working well, and what is not. The survey is online, and will be mentioned in the newsletter. Speak loudly for what we need for our children. VSB finances are tight and resources for teachers are being cut.
- VSB's long-term facilities plan is under discussion. Options for facilities include repurposing and renting out, but not selling real estate. The province wants to see higher occupancy. A full classroom is 26 students for accounting purposes, but we have 30 in some. VSB currently has two swing spaces for seismic upgrades, but more are needed.



General Gordon Elementary School



- The process for changing the school name has begun. The process starts with formulating a committee, then proceeds to a public meeting, perhaps at Kits High School. There will be newspaper adverts, and a range of views are needed. Names will come forward, then the committee looks at them and chooses.
- Basketball has been great. Track and field will start after spring break. The talent show notice will go home soon. The grade sevens were great at the Chan Centre. The Gordon Art Gallery will likely be in June.
- The Annex students went to the Vancouver Symphony.

4. Bike 'a' thon Update - Suzan and Julie

- Suzan gave an outline of activities and plans. The date is May 29. There is lots to re-use from last year from Jane. The website will be up after spring break for sign up and sponsorship. There may be raffle tickets for high sponsorship, and possibly a leaderboard for sponsorships. Passport activities will be repeated. Activities will include: Pedal Heads (hopefully); bike decorating; hula hoops; skipping; soccer; face painting; stamps for draw prizes; cake walk by Rishma; food and drinks with tickets; snow cones; school band (hopefully); plant sale (pickup on Friday or Sunday); maybe rummage sale (would need space to dump stuff); etc. We may need to rent the gym on the day as a rain precaution.
- Julie said there will be both a raffle and a silent auction. We need big donations of prizes for the silent auction.

5. Fundraising update

- **Cash cards** – Sheila reminded us PAC bought \$15k of Safeway cards, of which \$11k have been sold, so only \$4k to go. We need to meet with local businesses and realtors, asking for donations.
- **Cell phone case playground fundraiser** – Brett and Matika demonstrated a Shopify site to sell cell phone cases at about 9% off MRSP, then 15% to PAC. Choose from many different cases, and pay by credit card. Delivery will be to students at school by Matika.
- **Hot lunches** – Kevin said hot lunches are now available Monday and Wednesday.

6. Playground update - Beth

- Beth gave an update on the trees. Four cedars about 10m in height were chosen by a group of parents and students in December, and the trees should be installed this March. Beth and Frank are working with the project team on this.
- To pay for Phase 1, we can move \$10k from the current account, and \$10k from the gaming account.
- Beth and Frank showed videos of two proposed spinners in use by children, the Spinami and the Topsy Turvy. Discussion ensued. On a show of hands, the Spinami was chosen by nine to five.

7. PAC activities

- **Winter festivities** – Money raised: door \$595; bake sale \$440; poinsettias \$465.
- **GG Coffee morning** – There is no school on April 15th, so we need to cancel or move the date of the next coffee morning.
- **PIE meeting** – March 7th at Calhoun's. See Denise Edwards for more information. Open to any parents and school; talk about any special needs etc.



General Gordon Elementary School



8. Motions & Votes

- **Vote on Motion from Last Meeting** - To move \$10,000 to Playground Committee. Passed unanimously.
- **Motion for Next Meeting** - To move up to \$40k to Playground Committee. Proposed by Erin. Seconded by Ingrid. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion and Vote** - To pay \$999 to Spirit of Math. Proposed by Jane. Seconded by Ingrid. Passed unanimously.
- **Motion for Next Meeting** - To pay \$4000 for classroom funds. Proposed by Sheila. Seconded by Julie. Vote next meeting.

The meeting ended at 20:57.