



## P.A.C. Meeting 3 Minutes, January 23rd 2017

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

- The meeting started at 19:02.
- Victoria welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. Attendance: 18 parents, two prospective parents, one administrator (Hope) and two teachers (Alison and Kim).
- The minutes from the November 28th meeting were adopted.

### 2. Principal's Update - Hope Sterling - From Hope's Written Report

- 1) **School Website and Newsletters** – Soon we will be using our standard school website as our main website. This will take some time to update. I will be sending out one official newsletter per month but there may be updates as needed on our school website:  
[www.go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/gordon](http://www.go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/gordon)  
When the updates are complete, I will post info on our current site:  
[www.gordonelementary.ca](http://www.gordonelementary.ca)
- 2) **No Running in the Halls Campaign** – I would really appreciate your help in getting all of our students to walk safely in the hallways.
- 3) **New Provincial Funding** – To support the Supreme Court Ruling on Class Size and Composition VSB has put an interim agreement in place. In February our district will receive \$4.4 million with the goal of improving student learning. This translates roughly into 96 FTE for the entire district. After consulting with the staff I requested more library time, an extra teacher to support classes weighted more heavily in Special Ed students and a School Psychologist. It is now in the hands of the VSB staff to distribute the funding. More funding will be coming to schools when the final agreement is in place.
- 4) **What have I been doing in the last 3 weeks?**  
Along with the day to day emails, phone calls & meetings with students, staff, parents community partners and prospective parents...
  - Conducted individual meetings with almost every staff member (six more to go!)
  - Reorganized my office
  - Updated school data for the VSB
  - Created a possible school organization for 2017/2018
  - Met with Supervision Aides to create an Extreme Weather Plan
  - Met with the General Contractor to discuss deficiencies
  - Attended the Late French Immersion Info Night
  - Met with our landscape architect Jonathan Losee to discuss garden beds, the yellow school house and the fencing around the grass field
  - Met with Olaf from Playspace Adventures to discuss the Spinami. He has now agreed to trade it out at no cost to us for something of equal value.
  - Reviewed all the safety drill procedures with all staff members: Fire & Earthquake Drills, Lockdowns and Hold and Secures.
  - Organized classes to rotate on Grounds Duty
  - Met with our Technology Committee and am supporting them with getting all of our technology up and running
  - I am working on organizing Pro D around technology and Special Education for our teachers and support staff



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- Met with PAC and PIE Chairs and attended PIE meeting
  - Currently I am working with teachers around report conferences and cards
  - Next, I am booking times to join each class for a lesson
- 5) **Also** – We need volleyball nets and badminton nets for the gym, priced at \$2500. The lines are already painted.

### 3. Teacher Representative's Update - Alison

- Alison thanked parents for all their contributions to the wish list. The teachers are currently deciding how to divide up the money.
- Ms. Mac is working on deciding the most suitable sound system to work within the constraints of the building, and may need more money (\$2k instead of the \$500 for the Jam Hub).
- There have been some adjustments from the initial suggestions due to experience in the new school.
- Ms. Locke has mentioned the library currently does not have an interactive whiteboard like the classrooms, which cost about \$2k. That would be good to have, but she realizes it may not be this year.
- PAC has contributed 20 iPads and 30 refurbished laptops this year. Ms. Locke has extra laptops in the library also.

### 4. Financial Update - Kevin

- Kevin reported we had a really good Direct Drive this year, raising just short of \$18k. The lunch program and pop corn are also good earners.
- Currently we have \$33k in the operating account, and \$15k in the playground account, of which \$7k is spoken for, leaving \$8k. The gaming fund is currently about \$6k and receives about \$7k a year.
- Julie asked about the French Immersion item in the accounts and Jane explained this is normal as French Immersion doesn't have its own fundraising account.

### 5. District Parent Advisory Council Update - Erin

- Erin reported there is likely to be a change in the dates for the Christmas break next year. The break will be later to align with other districts. This is to be confirmed soon.
- DPAC held a district meeting on February 9th at Tupper with the aboriginal community about reconciliation.
- Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is mandated by the Ministry, but BCTF is against it, and some teachers and PACs encourage opting out, because FSA is expensive, directs funding away from teaching, is not covered by report cards, doesn't help teachers teach, and results are used to rank schools but do not cause help to be given to low scoring schools. Parents can still excuse their children from the tests by writing to their Principal.
- Linda opened a discussion on FSA. Hope replied, saying in her view FSA is not currently a good way of testing, but this is the last year for this model, and there will be changes next year. Discussion ensued, the general feeling being this is a matter for families to decide for themselves.



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## 6. Partners for Inclusive Education Update - Denise

- Denise explained PIE. PIE has been discussing what brings the feeling of hope to parents and kids. On February 15th, PIE has a speaker on anxiety, Michelle Perry. The meeting is at 7pm in the Gordon library, and everyone is welcome.

## 7. Gardening Committee Update - Kim

- Kim and Liane are excited to get the garden started, and are putting together a proposal to VSB for July 1st. Need a thorough plan, which will include a fence. The preferred site is against the gravel field fence. Erin mentioned there was an interested donor from the Farmers Market.

## 8. Yellow School House - Frank

- Frank summarized the history and current situation. After the discussion in the last PAC meeting, PAC wrote to official trustee Dianne Turner on January 5th but no response has been received yet. Hope knows Dianne and is going to discuss with her. It was noted the building is deteriorating. Erin noted that at district level, VSB says it cannot discuss matters while negotiating with proponents. Charlotte recommended action soon. Discussion ensued. Strong feelings were again expressed against the rumoured use as a private school.

## 9. Board Game Drive - Promita

- There is a list of board games that can be donated if anyone is able. Likewise, sand toys are needed for the Kindergarten Outdoor Play Bin, and a camera for school use.

## 10. Spring Fling/Opening Ceremony - Sunday, May 28th - Victoria

- Parents discussed what should be in the Spring Fling. There will not be a bike-a-thon. Ideas and the timeline for organizing were discussed.
- Hope said no official school opening ceremony is currently planned. It could be done at the Spring Fling. Ideas were discussed.
- Karen noted the French exchange visitors will be here, so we should allow for another 44 kids.

## 11. Ongoing and Fundraising Activities - Victoria

- Vicky said the Food Bank Drive and Winter Concert Bake Sale were really successful and thanked parents.

## 12. Motions this Month - Promita

- **Vote on Motion from November Meeting:** To pay for technology up to \$4000 from funds raised through the Direct Drive. Passed unanimously by E-mail vote before Christmas.
- **Vote on Motion from November Meeting:** To pay for art supplies up to \$1500 from funds raised through the Direct Drive. Passed unanimously by E-mail vote before Christmas.
- **Vote on Motion from November Meeting:** To pay for soft seating up to \$2500 from funds raised through the Direct Drive. Passed unanimously by E-mail vote before Christmas.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To pay for soccer nets up to \$1000 from PAC funds. Proposed by Karen. Seconded by Erin. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To pay for custom volleyball and badminton nets and sound system up to \$4500. Proposed by Erin. Seconded by Jane. Vote next meeting.



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An extra PAC meeting has been added for February 27th. [Subsequently changed to March 6th.]

The meeting ended at 20:40.

Monday, January 23rd, 2017

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