



P.A.C. Meeting 4 Minutes, Jan 26th 2015

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

- Jane and Karen welcomed everyone. Attendance: 25 parents, 3 administrators/ teachers (Margaret, Nancy, Alison), and district principal Chris Atkinson, who was introduced and thanked for attending.
- The minutes of the Nov 24th PAC meeting were adopted.

2. Playground Fundraising

- We are moving from deciding what we need in the playground to serious fundraising. We need one or more coordinators for the Playground Committee, to pull people together. We do have people to apply for grants. We need to raise \$150k.
- Planned activities:
 - **Brick sale** – Bruce gave an update. The suggested price for a brick is \$19.12, to commemorate the year the old school was built. The demolition contractor has palletized some bricks for use in the new playground and others have been saved. Margaret and VSB trustee Christopher Richardson can sign certificates of authenticity. Thanks to Paula for designing the certificate. Bruce suggested a website to collect stories and capture memories, to promote brick sales. The bricks could be distributed at a suggested Groundbreaking Event for the new school. Frank and Sheila are helping. Bruce showed his printed paper school model to enclose bricks. Kids can colour in the model. It was suggested that the price should be based on the state of the brick, since many are damaged to varying degrees, and that an advert should be placed on the school fence. Sheila has a network of contacts to tap for brick sales. Margaret has a picture of the old school being built. Bruce said that personalizing bricks is very expensive. Beth said Kitchener sold personalized bricks for \$250 each and raised \$20k.
 - Sign up for the **Sun Run on Sunday April 19th**. The school website has a link for signing up.
 - Jane suggested a **Bike 'a' thon** at QE in May, to replace the Spring Fling, which would be hard to stage at QE. Kids would be sponsored per lap, and there could be bike decorating. It would be a community event, on a Saturday in May, possibly the 23rd. Some elements from the Spring Fling could be included such as freezies, ice cream and snow cones. If you are interested in helping, E-mail Jane by the date of the parent social event, Feb 12th.



General Gordon Elementary School



- PAC receives government Gaming Grant funds yearly (roughly \$7k), to be spent on specific items. This should be used during the year of receipt but can be used on playground items. Beth said the trees may need paying for earlier anyway. Funds available would be about \$20k by fall 2016. Mary suggested a display of the funds raised so far, such as a thermometer.
 - **Motion: PAC proposes to hold Gaming Grant money for duration of school build and allocate towards new playground when needed. Elke proposed. Floris seconded. Passed with no-one against.**

3. Direct Drive & PAC Funds

- Last year's Direct Drive raised \$10k with \$200 dispersed to every class for equipment, \$800 to Ms. Mac for musical instruments, \$1k for wet weather gear for portables, \$130 for balls, \$2k for gymnastics, and \$2k for Spirit of Maths books. Thanks to Heidi Schmidt for donation of umbrellas.
- Bayview and Kitchener raise a lot more, but Karen said we have a different demographic. Alison said that a suggested amount helps.
- This year's Direct Drive total after PayPal fees was **\$6835**
 - **Motion to disperse \$200 per class to teachers (receipts for class equipment to be provided). Approx. 18 x \$200 = \$3.6k. Ingrid proposed. Erin seconded. Vote next meeting.**
- In 2014, PAC seeded \$10k of funds to Playground Committee. PAC overall current account is approx. \$40k.
 - **Motion to move \$25k of PAC funds into a high interest bond account for 1 year to maximize interest returns on funds held. Amy proposed. Ingrid seconded. Passed with no-one against.**

4. PAC Activities

- Parent Social at **Displace on Feb 12th.**
 - Price is \$15 plus EventBrite fee. \$10 to Displace for a burger and a drink, \$5 to PAC. It's primarily a community event, not a fundraiser.
 - You can donate instead of going, which benefits PAC more than buying a ticket and not going.
 - **Please help with the raffle.** Prizes so far are a KidsBooks certificate and six bottles of wine. Kevin said we need a gaming permit. Ingrid will make tickets.
- Our **PAC Co-Chairs are to step down** after three years (per the constitution) at the end of this year, and will shadow incoming Chair(s) through 2015/2016, ideally parent/guardian(s) of younger kids. Please let Jane and Karen know if you would like to work with them.
- **Parents warmly thanked Karen and Jane for their awesome work.**

Monday, Jan 26th, 2015



General Gordon Elementary School



- QEA PAC Liaison update – Erin: New playground equipment is coming. Said thanks from annex community. Hot lunch is continuing at the annex. Denise said hot lunch will be starting soon at the main school in the small lunch room.
- Kits PAC Liaison update – Ingrid: New school under construction, on schedule. Next fall moving into new wing. First of four phases. Keeping heritage facade. Temporary classes are all on site. New drama teacher, drama will be continuing.
- GG Coffee morning – Jane: Next one is Feb 27th.
- Jane said the Greening Committee for QEA – headed up by Liane – will be building five raised beds starting 2pm on Feb 28th. All parents are welcome to help.
- Jane said the Feb 23rd PAC meeting will include a Seismic Update from the project team.
- Cash Cards provide GG with a rebate on face value. Sheila summarized the program. She is looking to add Stongs and Cobs. Contact Sheila Kirkby at sheilakirkby@gmail.com

5. Principals Update from Margaret and Nancy

- **Portable Issues:** New sinks in girls washrooms. Teachers have written a letter to VSB. Getting a water fountain and water fill station, and asked for a stove. The walkway between the portables needs to be redone. Margaret is working on lunch hours with Magdalena. A lunch room is in use for three classes, but supervision issues still exist at lunchtime. Some misuse of electronics is occurring, and Margaret is looking at measures to be taken. Teachers have baskets for electronics during class time. Electronics day is on Fridays.
- **New School Curriculum:** Margaret and Nancy gave a short presentation on the BC Ministry of Education's Transformation of Curriculum and Assessment (see <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>). This was summarized as changing education to be more about competencies rather than content, more about the journey rather than learning facts. Some concerns were expressed by parents, particularly about assessment. Margaret said she wants kids to be able to think for themselves, to let kids explore and experiment. This will be a bigger change in high school than elementary school. Nancy hoped it will engage high school kids more.

6. Motions & Votes – covered above

The meeting ended at 20:38.

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