



## P.A.C. Meeting 5 Minutes, June 20th 2016

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

- The meeting started at 19:03.
- Victoria Stephens welcomed everyone. Attendance: 11 parents, two administrators (Margaret, Nancy), three teachers (Alison, Mary, Michelle).
- The minutes from the April 25th meeting were adopted.

### 2. Thank you to Ingrid Sulston and Jennifer Sears - Jane

- Jane and Margaret thanked Ingrid and Jennifer for their many years of volunteering, leadership and mentoring PAC members, as their children graduate to high school, and presented them with flowers on behalf of PAC. Attendees applauded warmly.

### 3. VSB Update – Margaret

- New school construction update - The building is nearly finished. Mary said the library is wonderful. Occupancy should be obtained in time for the new school year, and the move back from QE will start in August. On the first school day, there will be an assembly for everyone in the new gym.
- Yellow school house – VSB is still working with proposals, so the south east corner of the site will remain unfinished and fenced off for now.
- Playground construction update - The heritage wall near the entrance is nearly finished, and more old bricks are available. Beth is coordinating the installation of the playground equipment. The gravel field is to be regraded, and the project is paying for it.

### 4. Principal's Update – Margaret

- Benefits to the students from Spirit of Math - Margaret introduced Michelle, who described usage of the Spirit of Math workbooks, which had been queried in the last PAC meeting. There are one or two drills per day. Students are able to get a foundation before moving on to harder problems. The program is good for building the ability to focus, and builds confidence. Alison said students have improved greatly in four years. Discussion ensued. In summary, Michelle and Alison are both strongly in favour of Spirit of Math. Nancy explained how it is used at the Annex, partly using an iPad app.

### 5. Applying for Technology Grants - Alison Sharpe

- Alison spoke on ways to support technology purchases for the new school. While the recent PAC focus has been on the playground, another pressing issue is the lack of new tech and problems with old tech, which is a district-wide problem. If there is any parent support, it would be good. Alison has asked teachers to submit their ideal requirements. Most teachers would like more iPads. Currently we have one cart of 20, shared amongst all intermediate students. So few for so many makes access hard. In Alison's pod in the new school, if the four classes had 10 or 20 iPads between them, that would be enough. Margaret said she has ordered 20 new iPad minis with federal money. There is also a laptop cart, but the laptops are very old. Alison is working on a Best Buy grant; the maximum is \$10k. We need a lot of effort to get to a basic level, then can grow from there. Any support would be greatly appreciated by the teachers.



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- Q: Karen asked how much an iPad cart is. A: \$3300 for 10 iPad minis with cases, and the box that charges them is \$450.
- Parents discussed refocussing the direct drive money to technology from the playground, now the playground is mostly funded.
- Alison and Nancy said purchases must go through VSB to get discounts on apps and proper VSB IT support.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** Provide up to \$12k allocated to technology support. Proposed by Erin. Seconded by Ingrid. Vote at next meeting.

## 6. Library update - Mary Locke

- Mary, our teacher-librarian, spoke about the benefits of author visits to the school. One author visit per child per year costs about \$150 per division. We have a long tradition of author visits, going back more than 10 years, and lots of local writers with a connection to our school have come. The benefits include: showing children that writing is natural and occurs in our community; that everyone writes, therefore they can be writers too; and supporting Canadian publishing.

## 7. DPAC Update and Grant Applications - Erin Arnold

- Erin introduced herself as our DPAC representative. The district-wide PAC meets every two weeks at the VSB. It provides advocacy at a higher level than school PACs. All parent involvement is important because of the board's \$24m deficit. Erin mentioned the announcement that 12 of the district's schools could close over the next few years. A list of possible closures has been announced, but there is a process to be followed, including consultation. [Note that Gordon is not on the list.] The provincial Ministry of Education has set a 95% occupancy target. DPAC feels that target is not feasible due to population shifts etc over time and is lobbying to reduce it, and aims to help trustees who are lobbying the Ministry.
- **Erin attended the PAN (Parent Advocacy Network) meeting on June 20th, and encouraged parents to look at [PAN Vancouver](#), [PPEN](#), and [FACE BC](#).** There are tools at these websites to get involved, such as hashtags. Erin suggested we could form an advocacy committee.
- PAC wrote a letter to Ministers and our MLA David Eby.
- Margaret mentioned VSB is sending home a letter about school closures.

## 8. Greek Day – Sunday, June 26th - Sheila

- Sheila briefed parents on PAC's presence at Greek Day on Broadway. The fundraising focus will be on the heritage granite table.
- There will be a lucky draw for a gift basket from TD Bank. Margaret has another prize donated by 4Cats Arts Studio.
- Discussion ensued on times, logistics, and the PAC tent.

## 9. Playground Fundraising - Suzan

- The Bike-a-thon was held on Sunday May 29th at the Annex, and was a great success. Vicky thanked everyone involved.
- Suzan reported the amounts raised: plant sale \$215; ticket sales \$1564; primary teachers' cake walk \$500; silent auction \$3399; website pledges \$8519; raffle \$5000; TD



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Bank donation \$1000; RBC donation \$1000 plus six volunteers. The total was \$20,600 minus a few fees. Kim Hargraves' class won the pizza party with 79% participation. Most participants were from kindergarten to grade three.

- The date for next year's event is likely May 28th, to be billed as Bike-a-thon and Fair.
- Sheila thanked Paula for doing all the graphics.

## 10. Playground update - Frank

- Frank gave an update on playground equipment and the cedars. The inspection and irrigation of the cedars is ongoing. Thanks to Ingrid for supplying the water.

## 11. Other PAC Activities - Victoria

- Erika gave an update on [Partners for Inclusive Education \(PIE\)](#). PIE meets every two months with a speaker and discussion after. She mentioned the organization [BC Parents of Special Needs Children](#). PIE is open to everyone, from any school.
- Sports Day was held on Thursday, May 19th and ice pops were distributed.
- Staff Appreciation Lunch was held on Thursday, June 9th at the Annex and Main school.

## 12. PAC Structure 2016/2017 Recommendations - Promita

- We need to update our letter head and volunteer form. Frank will take photos of the new school for the letter head.
- **PAC updates** - will be sent every second week alternating with the school newsletter.
- **Coffee mornings** – will continue as a great way for parents to interact. But we need a coordinator, and someone to pick up coffee.
- Parents discussed the positions for the volunteer form, and the delivery method, whether paper or electronic. Data entry can be a big job, but the advantage of a paper form is people tend to fill it in at the same time as the other forms received from school.
- **PAC meetings** - five are proposed for 2016/2017: September 26th, November 28th, January 23rd, April 24th, June 19th.
- Jane suggested that PAC should write thank you letters to the Bayview principal, QE Main staff and PAC, and QE Annex staff and PAC.
- Sheila will thank residents near the bus stop.

## 13. PAC Executive Positions for 2016/17 (5mins)

- Propose Victoria Stephens and Promita Abraham as returning Co-Chairs.
- Propose Kevin McKeown as returning Treasurer.
- Propose Frank Goodman as returning Secretary.
- Propose Sheila Kirkby as returning Banker.
- Propose Bruce Gregg and Heidi Leung [as a parent] as returning and new Communications Liaison/PAC Web Masters.
- Propose Erin Arnold as returning DPAC Liaison.
- Propose Jane Pike as new Kits High School Liaison.
- There were no candidates other than the above. All accepted unanimously.



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## 14. Motions & Votes

- **Vote on Motion from Last Meeting:** To fund up to \$13,800 Safeway grocery card purchase to enable cash card fundraising giving 5% return. Passed unanimously. Quorum of eight was achieved.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund up to \$5000 for classroom funds. Proposed by Karen. Seconded by Jane. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund up to \$2000 for author visits. Proposed by Jane. Seconded by Ingrid. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund up to \$2000 for performances. Proposed by Jane. Seconded by Ingrid. Vote next meeting.

The meeting ended at 21:02.