



## P.A.C. Meeting 6 Minutes, May 29th 2017

### 1. Welcome to all attendees – Victoria

- The meeting started at 19:04.
- The minutes from the April 24th meeting were adopted.
- Vicky welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. Attendance: 15 parents, Principal Ms. Hope Sterling, and one teacher (Ms. Alison Sharpe).
- Parents thanked the Spring Fling organizers.

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

- 1) **Spring Fling** – Thank you for all your contributions to this fantastic community building event! It made me feel even more a part of the Gordon community.
- 2) **School Organization for September 2017**
  - 18 divisions, up from 16 this year.
  - Three kindergarten classes, up from two.
  - Approximately 425 students enrolled, up from 375 this year.
  - New Vice Principal – Sarah McAlister - Visiting next Monday to meet staff, and will be invited to the next PAC meeting.
  - Our teacher-librarian Mary Locke is retiring. Mary has been a pillar of the school and will be greatly missed after many years of service.
  - Hiring four new staff members - A teacher librarian, two kindergarten teachers (one for the new class and one to cover a maternity leave), and a grade 1/2 teacher.
- 3) **June Events**

**Volunteer Breakfast** on the 6th, **Welcome to Kindergarten** on the 7th, **Teacher Appreciation Lunch** on the 8th (thank you!), **Gordon Gallery** on the 15th, **Grade 7 Farewell Celebration** on the 20th (watch for your invitation for four guests), **Nat Bailey** on the 22nd (all but kindergarten classes), **Beach Day** on the 23rd, and the **Yearend Assembly** on the 27th.
- 4) **Reminders**
  - **Student washrooms** are for students only, adults can use the East Hallway WC.
  - **No wheels** on the playground 20 min before or after school (except strollers of course).
  - Please do not share or add videos or photos [showing students or staff] to any social media sites.
  - Jane mentioned that PAC gives a present to retiring staff. There is a formula for the cost.
  - The **VSB Gordon website** is now up, with links to and from the PAC website. Sheila mentioned the PAC Facebook page, and parents agreed it should be kept.

### 3. Yellow School House Outbuilding Update – Frank

- Frank said VSB now proposes to **retain the yellow schoolhouse for school use**, because analysis of the BCTF settlement indicates Gordon may need another classroom from the 2018/19 school year. The renovation cost is now estimated at \$60k, and there would be savings of about \$200k from not widening the lane and not demolishing the building. No more parking will be built, and the renovations are expected to be done this summer.
- Hope, Promita and Frank attended the VSB Planning and Facilities Committee meeting on May 17th where [the proposal](#) was discussed. VBE official trustee Dianne Turner will decide whether to accept the recommendation.



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- Alison said Kim is going to convene a gardening meeting to discuss plans in that area of the site.
- Parents discussed possible PAC financial involvement. It was agreed there would be none initially, but we might help with further landscaping once the renovation is completed.
- Q: Julie asked about earthquake proofing of the schoolhouse. A: Hope said she did not know but will ask VSB.
- Q: When does the Montessori renew its lease? A: Hope answered, every May. She has discussed renewal with them, and said we love having them as part of the community, but next year may be their last because of Gordon's need for more space.

## 4. Spring Fling Update – Birte, Jessica, Julie and Suzan

- Julie said feedback from the event was positive, and there were some lessons to learn.
- Income totalled roughly \$4500, not including the flower sales and the money going to primary books from the cake walk, or costs. The souvlaki cost about \$400 (lots was donated), and the bouncy castle cost \$550. The aim was just to break even, but actually, we have managed lots more than that. The estimated profit is \$3k.
- Suzan thanked Sheila, Vicky, Promita and Hope for their help.
- Hope reported that two neighbours said it was great, also she heard from new kindergarten parents who really enjoyed it. Two big school tours were run.
- Sheila suggested that next year, checking lost and found should be a passport activity.
- It was mentioned that Rachel has offered to sell PAC her snow cone machine. Jane said it costs \$100 to rent a machine. Parents discussed the issue of storing the machine at school, and also syrups. Julie will report the snow cone revenue once the ticket buckets have been counted.

## 5. Partners for Inclusive Education (PIE) Update – Denise and Erika

- Erika described PIE. They have two goals: to be a support group for parents, and a space to collaborate and talk about inclusion in the community. There were six meetings and four coffee mornings this year. Participation is diverse, including parents generally interested, and parents from other schools.
- Anxiety was the number one interest of parents at their workshop, and they have been talking about how we create hope and acknowledge little gains. Michelle Perri, from the Centre for Ability, gave a talk on anxiety, and PIE can share those resources. Hope mentioned the VSB resources for 'diverse learners' (a more inclusive term than 'special needs').
- Be Fresh at Bayswater and Broadway has been very supportive of coffee mornings after drop off.
- Erika thanked Vicky and Promita. and PAC in general for helping to fund events, and also Hope for embracing PIE.
- Next year, PIE is going to continue meetings and coffee mornings. Teachers are referring parents to PIE across the community.
- There will be another survey, and parents can give Erika their E-mail address to receive it. Denise asked Alison to forward the request to other teachers for feedback.

## 6. DPAC Update – Erin

- The District PAC meets at VSB every two weeks. Currently DPAC is working on bylaw revisions. Their AGM is soon. Erin is our representative at DPAC, and also a member-at-

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large on the DPAC executive. VSB and DPAC are excited and hopeful, in a non-partisan way, about the likely upcoming political changes. DPAC is keeping on the pressure for special programs, such as Mandarin, French, Aboriginal, etc. Erin suggested that PIE might brief DPAC in the fall.

## 7. PAC Activities – Victoria

- **Sports Day** – Was fantastic fun. The teachers did an amazing job of organizing the day. PAC handed out cold treats.
- **Teacher Appreciation Day** - Thursday, June 8th. PAC is going to send out an E-mail asking for donated food for the lunch. There are some volunteers already, but if anyone else wants to help, please let the co-chairs know. The lunch will be easier at Gordon than QE, thanks to the kitchen etc.

## 8. Ongoing Fundraisers – Sheila and Denise

- Sheila said that little amounts trickle in from various sources, such as Mabel's Labels and IGA. The Safeway card sales are complete for the year.
- The final gift card order of the year is June 1st. It has raised \$600 so far this year.
- Parents discussed whether our fund raising requests are too intrusive, but the feeling was the current level of requests is okay.
- Sheila reported the Big Brothers donation bin has raised \$1700, and the hot lunch program \$4135 up to last week. Lisa Edwards has been running the program. Parents asked Sheila to pass on thanks to Lisa.
- Sheila also reported that popcorn sales raise \$150 a week on average.

## 9. Motions and Votes – Promita

- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund up to \$2500 for the purchase of uniforms to be worn at cross country, track and field, and other events. Proposed by Jessica. Seconded by Erika. Vote next meeting.
- Hope explained the uniforms will be polyester T-shirts, coloured silver and black to match the existing vests, and 100 will be ordered over the summer. Discussion ensued on washing, losses, and a deposit scheme. But it was agreed the simplest scheme is, Miles hands them out and gets them back for each event, as at present.
- **Motion and Vote:** To fund up to \$300 for the purchase of a new flag to be used at events. Proposed by Julie. Seconded by Erin. Passed unanimously.
- In discussion, it was agreed that an 11-foot flag was preferred.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund up to \$5000 for classroom funds for next year. Proposed by Jane. Seconded by Erika. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion and Vote:** To fund purchase of two Air Conditioners up to \$1000. Abandoned.
- Hope reported she has been discussing the temperature problems with the general contractor Heatherbrae and VSB. Some classrooms are hitting 27C. The worst are Ms. Wardrop's and Ms. Parr's/Mr. Patrick's in the top centre of the south side. She may look at fitting more windows that open.
- Alison said the Health and Safety committee is tracking temperatures in classrooms.
- It was felt the issue should be resolved by VSB rather than by PAC expending funds, but perhaps more parents can lend air conditioners in the short term.



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- Hope spoke about the problems with the phone system, which she has been complaining about since January. VSB now has a lead on the problem.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund up to \$13,800 Safeway grocery card purchase to enable cash card fundraising giving 8% return. Proposed by Jessica. Seconded by Erika. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion and Vote:** To fund purchase of apps up to \$250. Proposed by Erin. Seconded by Jane. Passed unanimously.
- Alison mentioned we need more app licenses, as we are about 40 licenses short. One is “Book Creator”, another is “Explain Everything”, which Mary uses.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund PAC support of up to \$1600 towards TOC (teacher on call) costs for the winter concert and talent show. Proposed by Demitrios. Seconded by Suzan. Vote next meeting.
- Hope explained that Ms. Mac needs four days of cover, and it is proposed that PAC will cover two days and the school will cover the other two.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund author visits up to \$2000. Proposed by Jane. Seconded by Suzan. Vote next meeting.
- Jane mentioned these funds go to the school librarian to organize the visits.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To fund performances up to \$2500. Proposed by Jessica. Seconded by Denise. Vote next meeting.
- Jane mentioned these funds go to Ms. Mac to book performers, and they need to be booked now for next year.
- **Vote on Motion Raised in April:** To pay from funds up to \$4000 for the purchase of a projection screen in the multipurpose room. Passed unanimously.
- Hope explained that two have been sourced from VSB. One is to go in the multipurpose room and the other in the gym. The money is needed for electrical and carpentry work, which should be less than \$4000. Passed unanimously.
- **Motion and Vote:** To fund up to \$1000 for installation of Smart Boards. Proposed by Erika. Seconded by Jane. Passed unanimously.
- Hope explained this is to install two of our old smart boards, one in the library and one in Ms. Rassias' room.

## 10. Final PAC Meeting – Monday, June 19th - Promita

- At the final meeting, we will elect the PAC Executive for next year. Victoria and Promita are standing down as PAC co-chairs, and Frank is standing down as Secretary as his children graduate this year. Kevin can handover the Treasurer role or be shadowed if someone is keen to take over.
- Julie asked about job descriptions for PAC volunteer positions, and discussion ensued. Information comes once you have volunteered, but the requirements are not evident before.
- Parents discussed the issue of parking in the lane at drop off and pickup time, which makes it difficult for school staff to get into and out of parking spaces. There are now Buster towing signs on the fence. Julie mentioned she has been chasing crosswalk markings with the City. It was also noted the City has still not removed the bus stop signs on Bayswater Street.

## 11. Thank you for attending today’s PAC meeting

- The meeting ended at 21:06.

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