



P.A.C. Meeting 7 Minutes, May 25th 2015

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

- The meeting started at 19:03.
- Jane and Karen welcomed everyone. Attendance: 16 parents, four administrators/teachers (Margaret, Nancy, Alison, Graeme), and district principal Chris Atkinson.
- The minutes of the March 30th PAC meeting were adopted.

2. PAC Structure 2015/16 Recommendations – Karen

- Karen noted that due to dispersal of the community it is a challenge to communicate with parents and teachers. We recommend that community events, however small, continue to happen. They are invaluable for holding our community together for the next year until we move back into the new school, as demonstrated by the Bike-A-Thon and the Displace Dinner.
- Community events do not have to be the same as ones in the past, they can be ones that reflect the interests and skills of new parent coordinators. We especially recommend events that encourage the parents of younger students to take a lead.
- PAC meetings can be reduced to four a year, alternating with PIE meetings, on Mondays 7–8:30 as usual.
- There is less need for a Direct Drive, if no volunteer steps forward, though the school administration welcomes these extra funds.
- Fundraising will continue from six Coffee Mornings run by the usual crew, Cash cards run by Sheila, the Clothing Bin coordinated by Amy which has raised \$2K already, and the Hot Lunch program coordinated by Vicky and Denise.
- **Playground fundraising requires a committee chair**, and to date no parent has volunteered to support the role.

3. PAC Executive Positions for 2015/16

- Co-Chairs Jane Pike & Karen Wood are to step down after three years.
- Proposed new Co-Chairs Vicky Stephens and Promita Abraham. Proposed by Erica. Seconded by Carmen. Accepted unanimously and warmly welcomed. (Communication issues were discussed, and it was noted that spoken communication is often more effective than written. The bus stop is the new meeting point for younger kids' parents.)
- Proposed Kevin McKeown as returning Treasurer. (If anyone wants to shadow Kevin next year with a view to taking over, please let him know.)
- Proposed Frank Goodman as returning Secretary.
- Proposed Sheila Kirkby as returning Banker.
- Proposed Bruce Gregg as returning Communications Liaison/PAC Web Master. (It was noted the school and PAC websites need to be separated, and the ins and outs were briefly discussed.)
- Proposed Erin Arnold as returning DPAC Liaison. (Jane described DPAC.)
- Proposed Ingrid Sulston as returning Kits High School Liaison.



General Gordon Elementary School



- There were no candidates other than the above. Proposed Amy. Seconded Erica. All accepted unanimously.

4. Playground Fundraising – Jane

- There is still some engagement with VSB on the green space. Beth Calkin is trying to meet with Project Manager Jay Hiscox to identify when the big playground items should be purchased, for the timing of grants. Chris Atkinson agreed to expedite this meeting.
- **Bike-a-Thon** – was a great success. Flowers were presented to Jane. Thanks to Ingrid, Carmen, Sheila and all volunteers. \$7K was raised for the playground. Costs from the website were \$480 in transaction fees and \$130 for the subscription. 1200 tickets were sold. \$400 was raised from plants. Donations were \$6.8K. Ms. Kassam's class had the highest participation. Sheila said Davids Tea and others might come now success is evident. Maybe we could run other sports such as skipping, running etc. Christine volunteered to help the bike part next year, also Vicky. Nancy said dates can be synchronized better with other events next year. Genders were roughly equal in participation.
- **Brick Sale** – will be held Friday 29th May 3:30 to 4, off the busses. Tarps will be laid out for kids to sit on, and chairs will be provided for alumni. Kids are to speak and play violin. The school band may play, including the Gordon anthem. 300 brick certificates are being signed by officials. Purchasers' names will go on a plaque in the new school. Bruce reported on his investigation into the bricks. Some came from Clayburn in Abbotsford, and others from brickworks in Victoria.

5. Principals Update & Seismic Update – Margaret, Nancy and Graeme

- Gifts were presented to **Karen and Jane** to thank them for their awesome work as co-chairs over the last three years.
- Margaret introduced a presentation on teachers' **Professional Development**. Graeme spoke about a project teachers worked on this year, on measuring/ assessing the process of student learning. Methods to encourage student self-assessment were tried in class; some worked better than others. Self-evaluation documents were created to help student demonstrate learning. Several teachers have been working on this together, and will continue next year. Discussion ensued.
- **Seismic Update** – Chris Atkinson reported on progress with the new school. The excavation was delayed due to three surprises: a massive block of concrete in the basement, a large sink hole, and a septic tank. The contingency in the budget has been spent, but the project is moving forward on schedule. The concrete slabs will be poured in June, which will take three weeks. Construction of the steel frame of the building will continue through July, August and September.

6. Other PAC Activities

- **School Sports day** was a great success. Nicole will organize next year.
- **Teacher Appreciation** will be held on June 10th at lunchtime. Karen is organizing with MJ. Let Karen know if you want to contribute a platter. Alison reminded us there is no oven at the Main.

Monday, May 25th , 2015



General Gordon Elementary School



- **Year at a Glance** calendar will be issued at the end of term, and sent home with kids.
- Jane said there will be no Welcome Back BBQ next year. The Welcome Back Tea was poorly attended this year.
- The Hot Lunches, Clothing Bin and Cash Cards were covered quickly.
- A new date is to be set for the Mindfulness speaker organized by PIE, when the speaker is available.
- Margaret said 40 students will be running an Art Gallery on June 4th in the Main Auditorium. Teachers will be taking classes through the day, and parents can visit 3-4:30.
- Margaret said Grad Ceremony will be on June 16th followed by a pot luck at the beach.
- Margaret said Beach Day will be on June 18th, but it will be at Chaldecot Park.
- The Volunteer Appreciation event will be the morning of Wednesday June 9th.

7. Motions & Votes

- **Vote on motion from last meeting:** PAC to donate funds for Mindfulness speaker to be organized by PIE group (up to \$250). **Passed unanimously.**
- **Vote on motion from last meeting:** To fund up to \$15,000 Safeway grocery card purchase to enable cash card fundraising giving 8% return. **Passed unanimously.**
- **Vote on motion from last meeting:** To fund up to \$2,500 for Author visits next school year. (Same amount as provided annually for past 3 years.) **Passed unanimously.**
- **Motion:** To fund performances next year up to \$2,000. Proposed Erin. Seconded Amy. Vote in September.

The meeting ended at 20:32.