



P.A.C. Meeting 2 Minutes, November 30th 2015

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

- The meeting started at 19:04.
- Victoria Stephens welcomed everyone. Attendance: 12 parents, two administrators (Margaret, Nancy), and district principal Chris Atkinson.

2. New School Building Update - Chris Atkinson

- Some classes toured the new building, and more visits remain possible.
- VSB and PAC need to connect on the playground; specifically on the trees, tables, and the heritage piece in the north-west corner. Project manager Jay Hiscox is advocating for the cedar trees, but the grounds team are worried about success rates and costs. Beth and Ingrid said our tree supplier Terrasol quoted a 95% success rate for transplanted cedars. Parents confirmed that PAC has the money allocated and is willing to take the small risk of trees dying. Parents requested the opportunity to talk directly to the grounds team, and Chris said he would setup a meeting with the head of grounds.
- Placement of playground equipment was discussed. The old climbing frames and slides for younger students will be placed in the southern area near the kindergarten classrooms. The old swings and new equipment for older students will be placed in the eastern area. Beth confirmed the \$25k for the proposed Orbis climbing frame includes installation.
- Three tables are to be made from the old granite steps, costing \$15k. Ingrid asked about graffiti, and Chris said they can be coated to make removal easier.
- The heritage piece is currently costed at \$60k, of which \$30k is covered by the project budget. The idea is to make it from the metal window stanchions recovered during the demolition.
- The project is paying for re-installation of the old playground equipment, which is quoted at \$20k.
- The PAC money will need to be passed to the school board in August.

3. Playground Fundraising Update - Sheila Kirkby

- Sheila gave an update on the meeting held on November 2nd at David Eby's office. The aim for fundraisers is to be easy and useful. There will not be a big gala (like Queen Mary's) due to our community profile.
- Ingrid said the heritage piece should be functional. Jane said the priority should be on replacement of playground equipment, and there is no mandate to spend playground funds on artistic features.
- Discussion ensued. One suggestion was that as part of the heritage piece, perhaps tiles could be placed around the grounds for school history scavenger hunts. Perhaps the tiles could be sponsored as a fundraiser.
- To re-affirm priorities, a motion was made as follows:
- **Motion and Vote:** Priorities for PAC expenditure on playground, over and above what has already been set, should be: 1. Trees, 2. Orbis, 3. Granite tables, 4. Playground spinner, 5. Heritage piece. Proposed by Karen. Seconded by Jane. Passed unanimously.

- Sheila resumed her update. Erin is going to write grant applications. We need to confirm with people who said they would organize the Bike-a-thon. The feeling was to concentrate on the Bike-a-thon this year. There is currently no Sun Run organizer this year.
- Sheila passed around black tea samples. Bayswater Teas is donating 100% of proceeds for these teas in December.

4. Winter Festivities - Victoria Stephens

- **Winter Craft Fair** - Margaret Davidson. After winter concerts on December 10th. 3:00 to 4:30.
- **Bake Sale** - Jane Pike, Jennifer Sears. Volunteers and baked goods are required. Jane asked who will be there to buy? There is competition with students selling baked goods. Suggestion: PAC could just do coffee and tea. More volunteers are needed. There will be a note in the next newsletter.
- **Poinsettias Fundraiser** - Jennifer Popowych, Adriana Loza. Selling well. \$250 raised from 41 orders so far. Not too late to order: extended to December 2nd.
- **Winter Food Drive for Food Bank** - December 7th to 18th, Janet Kidder, Diana Gass, Victoria Stephens. At Main and Annex.
- **Loony Sale** - December 7th. French immersion fundraiser for Quebec trip. Donate toys, books, etc to be sold to students to give as presents.
- **Carry the Future** - Sheila mentioned this organization collecting baby carriers such as BabyBjörns to send to Greece and Syria. See Sheila or David Eby's office for more information.

5. Current PAC Activities - Victoria Stephens

- **Direct Drive** - Raised \$8150 from October 16th to November 16th.
- **Hot Lunch** - Wednesdays to be added in January. Going well: used by about 30 students. The Director of Instruction approves C'est mon Cafe.

6. Fundraising Update - Sheila Kirkby

- Sheila reminded everyone of the cash card program, and PAC supporters such as Kidsbooks, Bayswater Teas, Cobs, and latest addition Menchies.

7. Partners for Inclusive Education (P.I.E.) - Denise Edwards and Erika Cedillo

- Erika gave an update on the last speaker.
- Next meeting is January 21st, with guest Margo Merinsky speaking on social and emotional development. Please tell parents from other schools.

8. Principal Update – Margaret

- **School Business** - The volleyball teams are doing well. Basketball is starting in January. A poetry cafe was held. The Celebration of Learning is on Friday, and the students are very excited. Now have playground leaders from grades six and seven to organize games; 45 students signed up. Grade seven dance with QE. Lots of fun.



General Gordon Elementary School



- **Possible School Name Change** - The board is busy with an audit. Margaret will talk to Magdalena again, likely in January.
- **Body Science** - Margaret said body science will be the same as previous years.

9. Suggestions for Speakers

- We need a volunteer to organize and coordinate with speakers - for next year.

10. Motions & Votes

- **Motion and Vote** - On playground: see above.
- **Motion for Next Meeting** - To move \$10,000 to Playground Committee. Proposed by Jane. Seconded by Ingrid. Vote next meeting.

The meeting ended at 20:33.