



## P.A.C. Meeting 2 Minutes, November 28th 2016

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

- The meeting started at 19:04.
- Promita welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves, and Margaret introduced our new principal Hope Sterling. Attendance: 20 parents, two administrators (Margaret and Hope).
- The minutes from the September 26th meeting were adopted.

### 2. Principal's Update - Margaret

- **Report Cards** - The Ministry has not changed the report card format for this year. In the last term's report, students will reflect on their core competencies. Most teachers are teaching some of the new curriculum already. Updates will be provided in subsequent newsletters.
- **Winter Concert** - Our music teacher Ms. Mac is working hard to rehearse the students. The format will be a little different this year due to changes in the stage and lighting. The lunchroom will be in use for the concert, so JKC will be given other space to use.
- **Toonie Sale and Craft Fair** - These will be held the day after the concert. The Toonie Sale raises funds for the French Exchange by selling donated items which students can buy for two dollars as presents to give to their family members. The Craft Fair sells items made by students and they keep the proceeds. Margaret suggested that PAC should buy 10 folding tables at about \$60 each for extra curricular activities. **Motion and Vote:** To purchase 10 folding tables at up to \$800. Proposed by Jane. Seconded by Erin. Passed unanimously.
- The toonie sale was discussed, particularly the vetting of gifts, some of which can prove inappropriate or incomplete on being opened. Margaret said big buddies can help their small buddies choose gifts wisely. Karen suggested the toonie sale and weekly pizza sales, which are traditional French Exchange fundraisers, should be part of regular PAC fundraising so they can be promoted earlier in the year. Sheila suggested arranging a pickup of the green bin after the toonie sale to pass on the unsold gifts.

### 3. Annual Calendar & Key Activities - Victoria

- **Direct Drive** - Held October 18th to November 18th, raised \$17,651, which is more than normal. Vicky thanked everyone who donated. Margaret said the teachers are really excited and grateful for the extra resources. We did not receive the Best Buy grant, but all wish list purchases can be made.
- **Terry Fox Run** - Held on Thursday, September 29th, 2-3pm. There were lots of volunteers. The target of \$2k was reached, so Margaret endured the Jello challenge as promised.
- **Halloween Parade** – PAC organized a coffee and bake sale before the parade, which was lots of fun.
- **Coffee Mornings** – Held the last Friday of the month. The next one is January 27th. The location may change to catch more kindergarten parents.

### 4. Financial Update - Kevin

- The gaming grant has been received, but it is a bit less than the normal \$20 per student.



# General Gordon Elementary School



- The Orbis installation incurred extra costs of \$5400, as we were warned, because the school construction prevented it being done before the pit was filled with wood chips. This was paid out of gaming funds, leaving about \$6k.
- Our contribution to the granite tables will be \$7k, which will be paid from the playground account, leaving about \$7k. Margaret said heritage funds can cover the other \$8k for the granite tables.
- Kim Hargrave and Liane are working on a grant to pay for veggie beds.

## 5. Popcorn Fridays Update - M.J.

- Popcorn sales have raised \$1k so far this year, supported by six volunteers. Popcorn is very popular, so some line ups are inevitable. More volunteers would help. It is lots of fun, and the students get very excited. Sheila suggested reminding students to put their garbage in a bin, and Margaret said she has asked them several times and will do so again. M.J. advised the popcorn machine may need to be serviced soon.

## 6. District Parent Advisory Council Update - Erin

- Erin gave an overview of **DPAC**, which advocates for district needs on a systemic level. A workshop was held last Saturday, focussed on promoting seismic upgrades across the district. DPAC is also promoting reversal of the cuts to special needs and music programs. DPAC met with new VSB Trustee Dianne Turner on Thursday, and learned the VSB budget is still under discussion.
- An event on the new curriculum is planned in the new year.
- Erin noted the next provincial election on May 9th 2017. DPAC is non-partisan, but feels education should be the number one priority of the provincial government.
- DPAC has two new board members.
- There will be a **Welcome to Gordon** assembly Friday December 2nd following the media event, at 11:30am, using a \$500 event grant that Erin applied for, with cake and fruit. Margaret will ask Jeff Koshan if he can photograph the event. Parents thanked Erin warmly for her work with PAC and DPAC.
- Margaret spoke about the media event to celebrate the opening of the new school, scheduled for Friday December 2nd at 9:30am. Attendees are to include Sam Sullivan MLA, Trustee Dianne Turner, Director of Instruction Magdalena Kassis, two students, and PAC executives. The Minister of Education will not be attending.

## 7. Partners for Inclusive Education Update - Erika

- Erika explained **Partners for Inclusive Education**, which meets regularly to talk about inclusive education. PIE believes every person is valuable regardless of their challenges and special needs. Erika thanked Margaret and other staff for attending PIE's meetings. Some meetings are talks and some have speakers. PIE has started giving 'piece of the pie' tips to promote inclusivity.
- Erin suggested that PAC should support PIE financially, which was discussed. **Motion and Vote:** To allow PIE to submit invoices for up to \$500 a year to support activities. Proposed Karen. Seconded Jane. Passed unanimously.

## 8. Playground Update - Frank

- The Spinami and Orbis were opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, but the Spinami has recently been closed again. Margaret said it spins very fast, and makes supervision aides

Monday, November 28th, 2016

---



# General Gordon Elementary School



nervous. VSB confirmed it is up-to-code, but only for seven children at a time. Margaret is going to talk to the students about being careful and sensible, then re-open it. Discussion ensued.

- The PAC executive wrote to the VSB trustees about our concerns with the rumoured use of the yellow school house by a private school, but the trustees were subsequently fired by the Minister of Education. It was agreed the executive would write again to the new trustee.
- We need a volunteer to lead the purchase of hockey nets. As noted above, Kim and Liane are working on veggie gardens.
- We discussed whether to close the Strikingly website for playground fundraising. Kevin noted it received a donation recently, and Frank noted more playground funds would be useful. It was agreed to leave the website open and consider the question again later in the year.

## 9. Safe Arrival Update - Sheila

- About 35 students are currently registered with the Safe Arrival scheme. Volunteers call parents if registered students have not arrived at school by 9:30am. A team of eight parents are running this at present, but more volunteers are welcome. It is a fun way of getting to know the school by visiting classes to check registers.

## 10. Fundraising Update - Sheila

- Most fundraising leverages parents' normal spending, at no cost to the parent, like the cash card program.
- The Spud fundraiser is running.
- The Big Brother's clothing bin on Bayswater is great for clearing out unwanted belongings, and as it pays by weight, the heavier the stuff the better. It raises an average of \$150 a month.
- Sheila showed the book 'Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey', noting that the publisher has a scheme to support refugee families.

## 11. Lego Stone Soup Update - Jessica

- The aim is to collect Lego for younger students to use. Every student is asked to donate five pieces. This has been extended to run for a second week.

## 12. Late French Immersion Update - Karen

- **Toonie Sale** - [Explained above.] On Friday December 9th. We need six to eight volunteers for preparation, and on the day of the sale. Parents can volunteer for just a few hours or for longer, as they are able.
- **Pizza Sales** - Every Wednesday. The pizza comes from Dominos, and is served from the kitchen. Students buy a ticket for either one or two slices, so the money and pizza handling are separate. It worked well, although the pizza ran out, so students should bring lunch anyway just in case. Heidi and Karen ran the first day but more volunteers are needed.

## 13. Ongoing and Seasonal Fundraising Activities - Victoria

- **Hot Lunch** - Mondays and Thursdays. Going well.
- **Poinsettia and Winter Wreath Sale** - Adriana is organizing this. The profit should be around \$500. The orders will arrive on Wednesday December 7th, and will be picked up the next day at the winter concert. There will be some extras to sell on the day.
- **Bake Sale** - During the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 8th. Also serving coffee.

Monday, November 28th, 2016

---



# General Gordon Elementary School



- **Winter Decorations** - To be set up. Jen is going to get some, and we have some stored, including lights. There will be a tree and wreaths etc.
- **Food Bank Drive** - December 1st to 15th. There are 16 volunteers and a donation box per class. Please send donations of non-perishable goods. Q: Will donations go to our sister school? A: No, Macdonald Elementary has plenty of other help now.

## 14. Motions this Month – Promita

- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To pay for technology up to \$4000 from funds raised through the Direct Drive. Proposed by Karen. Seconded by Suzan. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To pay for art supplies up to \$1500 from funds raised through the Direct Drive. Proposed by Jessica. Seconded by Sheila. Vote next meeting.
- **Motion for Next Meeting:** To pay for soft seating up to \$2500 from funds raised through the Direct Drive. Proposed by Erin. Seconded by Paula. Vote next meeting.

## 15. Other Business

- Margaret said she may obtain a bench seat for the hallway, and perhaps PAC can pay for it.
- Sheila mentioned the traffic problems during drop off. Margaret has talked to the City about having the bus stop signs removed. Discussion followed on what signs are where and traffic safety in general.
- Frank said the playground fundraising thermometer on the fence at the old bus stop would be taken down, refurbished, and put back up closer to the main entrance, in time for the media event on Friday December 2nd.

The meeting ended at 20:37.