



## P.A.C. Meeting 1 Minutes, September 26th 2016

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

- The meeting started at 19:00.
- Vicky welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. Attendance: 20 parents, one administrator (Margaret), one teacher (Alison).
- The minutes from the June 20th meeting were adopted.

### 2. P.A.C. Overview - Victoria

- Vicky gave a summary of the PAC structure. All parents are members of PAC and are invited to attend PAC meetings and get involved.
- Our vision is for a very involved parent community that works to support the staff and students.
- Vicky gave a fundraising overview for new parents, covering the winter fair, bike-a-thon (or spring fair), cellphone accessory sales, etc. More ideas are always needed.

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

- **Direct Drive** – this year the focus will be on funding technology and classroom requirements. The Direct Drive in the fall is our main fundraising activity of the year. The teachers made a wish list of items to be funded. We will be suggesting a donation of \$50 to \$100 per child.
- **Terry Fox Run** – Thursday, September 29th, 2-3pm. We have some volunteers, and more are welcome. The aim is to raise \$2k. As an incentive for the kids, Margaret has volunteered to have Jello poured on her if that target is achieved.
- Programs run by PAC:
  - **Hot Lunch** is continuing.
  - **Popcorn Fridays** are continuing, and MJ is going to run it. Discussion ensued. Q: Is the corn GMO-free? A: Don't know but the oil is good. Q: Do we have the machine? A: Yes. Q: Have hot dogs been considered? A: Could be considered, but the servers would have to be certified food-safe, like C'est Mon Cafe's.
  - **Safe Arrival** will hopefully begin soon. Signup via form placed in PAC box in office. We have volunteers, and will organize a rota. It might take a week to start. There was discussion on the ages that use the program. It is mostly grade three and up.
  - **Coffee Mornings** will continue. We have a coordinator, but need more volunteers.

### 4. Principal's Update - Margaret

- Margaret said it is good to be in the new school. As expected, there are deficiencies, but they are being fixed.
- Regarding the playground, there are issues with the quantity and quality of the soft fall bark mulch under the playground equipment which will prevent the new Orbis climbing frame from being opened for perhaps two weeks. The grass field needs longer: till the end of October.
- Margaret has requested four more goals for the sides of the gravel field.



# General Gordon Elementary School



- 40 playground leaders have been appointed from grades 5 to 7, in a rota. They are doing a great job, and have been very helpful. The supervision aides are grateful. Grades K to 2 are using the old equipment, and grades 3 to 7 will be using the new Orbis, but all classes want to have a go on the Orbis, so Margaret will arrange times during classes.
- Student self-assessment is a goal of the school plan: assessment against the core competencies of the new curriculum. Margaret will cover this in the newsletter. This Friday is a Pro-D day.
- A girls' soccer team is starting.
- Lots of students are doing cross country.
- Q: Is skateboarding in the playground a concern, especially by smoking adults? A: Margaret will discuss this with VSB.
- It was noted the playground needs more garbage bins. There are only two at present.

## 5. Technology Grant Update - Alison Sharpe

- Alison has been collating a technology wish list for the new school.
- The Best Buy grant was applied for in June, for \$10k, covering 10 iPad minis and cases, an iPad charging cart, and 30 refurbished laptops, all to be purchased through VSB to get IT support. We won't hear until September 30th. Motion to be voted on later.
- The kindergarten classes have no technology at all. Their projectors are on the wrong wall, and the desktop computer is not close enough to the projector. They want an iPad each, to drive the projectors.
- The early primary grades 1 and 2 are to get iPads from the annex.
- The intermediate classes need iPads.
- The English and French intermediate classes each have an iPad cart thanks to Margaret's federal money.
- The music classroom need three to five iPads.
- The library may need 10 iPads later.
- The existing roving cart of 15 iPads can be signed out by any teacher.
- The current laptop cart is mostly obsolete and unusable. The 30 refurbished laptops from Best Buy would replace that. The refurbished laptops are \$175 each.
- All support from parents is valued and appreciated.
- Alison passed around the wish list of items that can be donated, or purchased, or bought by VSB.
- Margaret said some furniture items to be supplied by the renewal project are taking time to appear.
- Gardening was discussed in passing, and it was mentioned there may be a meeting with Liane at the end of October.
- The sensory room needs outfitting. This is a small room on the ground floor near the pre-school that students can use if they need a quiet break. Thought is needed on the furniture and other contents.
- Margaret has a list of items that VSB needs to provide, such as, two bulletin boards, storage shelving, and a whiteboard in the gym. Ingrid has reported we need carts for the microscopes. Also, Ingrid has offered to design the science room, which is near the elevator.
- It might be helpful to allow parents to apply their Direct Drive donation to an item of their choice from the wish list. Christie offered to look into this.



# General Gordon Elementary School



- Erika mentioned some teachers prefer to receive gifts for their class instead of gifts for themselves at Christmas. Karen said class reps can ask their teacher. Alison will also ask staff to let class reps know their preference.
- The possibility of a Lego drive was discussed. The idea is to collect donations of Lego, perhaps five pieces from each student, to build a collection for younger students to play with. Base plates would be very welcome. Jessica and Sheila will coordinate.

## 6. Playground Update - Frank

- Frank explained the PAC's contributions to the new playground and thanked our awesome fundraisers.
- The Orbis was installed recently and the Spinami will be installed soon, but as Margaret mentioned, VSB needs to improve the soft fall areas before the new equipment can be opened for students to use.
- The next priorities are the granite table contribution, and hockey nets etc.
- Discussion on the yellow school house followed. This was planned to be demolished last spring, but VSB allowed heritage groups to make last-minute proposals to save it. VSB is still discussing one proposal for the school house to be re-used. Parents were concerned the proposed use, which is currently confidential, may be detrimental to Gordon students. According to a show of hands, the parents present were strongly in favour of having that space for Gordon students. The PAC executive will write to the VSB trustees with our concerns and request details of the proposed use.
- Parents also discussed the safety of the intersection at Sixth and Bayswater. Visibility is poor to the west, although there are now speed bumps to the east and south. Concerned parents can write to the City.

## 7. Financial Update - Kevin

- Thanks to great fundraising, our finances are in good shape. We currently have about \$47k in the operating account, although some is ear-marked for regular expenditure. We can use gaming funds for the playground, and will be receiving more gaming funds (\$8k) soon, which will top it up to \$14k. We do need a successful direct drive.

## 8. DPAC Update - Erin

- Erin gave an overview of the **District PAC**, which represents all district parents at VSB meetings. [Erin is on the DPAC executive.]
- Many parents and parent organizations such as [PAN Vancouver](#), [PPEN](#), and [FACE BC](#) are concerned about inadequate provincial funding of public education, which has resulted in loss of programs and increased class sizes, etc. A city-wide workshop event is upcoming at VSB on October 13th.

## 9. PIE Update - Erika

- Erika explained **Partners for Inclusive Education**, which meets regularly to talk about inclusive education. Most are parents of students with special needs, but all parents are encouraged to come along, from any school. The first discussion topic this year is anxiety. Some meetings have speakers. Ask Erika or Denise for details.



# General Gordon Elementary School



## 10. Fundraising update - Sheila

- Sheila described our cash card fundraising. PAC buys gift cards at a discount from local retailers including Safeway and IGA, and sells them at their face value. The IGA card is reloadable by credit card in store. Check the PAC web site for the order form.
- The Spud fundraiser started in June.

## 11. Motions & Votes this month – Victoria

- **Vote on Motion from June Meeting:** To fund up to \$5000 for classroom funds. Passed unanimously.
- **Vote on Motion from June Meeting:** To fund up to \$2000 for author visits. Passed unanimously.
- **Vote on Motion from June Meeting:** To fund up to \$2000 for performances. Passed unanimously.
- **Vote on Motion from June Meeting:** Provide up to \$12k allocated to technology support. Passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 21:01.