



Gordon Elementary

P.A.C. MINUTES FEBRUARY 26TH, 2018

1. Welcome from P.A.C. Co-Chairs (Julie)

- Julie welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. There were 18 parents, 1 staff member, Sarah McAlister (Vice Principal) and Annie O'Donoghue (Acting Principal).
- The minutes of the Jan 22nd meeting were adopted unanimously (Moved by Alana, Seconded by Maureen).

2. Principal Update (Sarah)

- **Presentations:**
 - Dufflebag Theatre's *Robin Hood* and a MADD assembly (for grade 7's) were presented in Feb.
 - Upcoming Saleema Noon student and parent sexual education (see item 4 below for more info)
- Our other **Building Engineer**, Mr. Baubie has resigned and is retiring; his position has been posted.
- **Garbage on school grounds:**
 - Our liaison office has been informed about discarded syringes. No more syringe sightings since the Jan PAC meeting.
 - Donation bin on Bayswater concerns with break-ins. The bin will be removed due to the issues as here is a correlation between garbage and bin break-ins.
- **Late French Immersion** – all spots have been filled and there is no waitlist
- **Kindergarten** – There will be 3 classes next year; winners of in-catchment lottery Feb 20 with about 10 on the waitlist which Heidi is currently working thru as there may be many EFI moves.
- **Garden planter boxes** – work orders are in for the limestone pads; plans are underway for the planter boxes as discussed and approved last year
- **Staffing:**
 - Both part time vacancies have been filled; Ms. Carolyn Andres (div 8 Tues – Fri) and Ms. Sanja Juric (div 7 Mon-Wed)
 - District update – total vacancies now 30 down from 280 in the summer. All regular SSA vacancies have been filled. VSB continuing to visit career fairs and practicum students will be coming available in May.
- YWCA (with Community Link) **“Welcome to my Life”** session scheduled in March geared towards grade 7's going to Kits High. Registration forms have been sent home (Feb 22).
- **Class/Team/ Photos** – Feb 27
- **Pink Day** – Feb 28; wear your shirts and anything pink! No associated fund raising this year.



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3. Field Trip Form (Julie)

- Question for feedback regarding including an option for parents to contribute additional funds to a student emergency fund when completing field trip forms for your own child.
- Discussion:
 - In Nov PAC meeting voted \$950 for the student emergency fund to augment any costs incurred by the school. Parents suggest there should be more information about this fund.
 - Admin will look into what type of info could be provided to the PAC on fund usage while respecting confidentiality.
 - Discussed suggestion of an “Angel Fund” – opportunity for parents to ask for an angel form which allows parents to request assistance
 - PAC will take away for further investigation and education. Start date of something new would not be before September.

4. Sexual Health Education Sessions (Julie)

- Provider Saleema Noon with presenter, Cath Blythe, will be holding a parent information session Monday, May 28th 6:30-8pm.
- Check out their website at www.saleemanoon.com for more information about the session material and presenter.
- Student sessions will be happening Thursday May 31st and Friday June 1st during the day.
- This is an experience being paid for from the 2018 Direct Drive at an expense of approx. \$1400.

5. Spring Fling update (Suzan)

- Spring Fling will be held on Sunday, May 27th, 2-5pm
- Volunteers are coming together for planning the event. Thank you! A group has met for planning and all essential equipment reservations have been made.
- Question to the parents for feedback regarding the possible application for a liquor license for this year's fair to have a small beer garden.
 - Parents expressed a concern as to whether a beer garden is an appropriate fit for an elementary school. Admin is unsure if VSB policy will allow liquor being served at a school event
 - Based on feedback, the PAC will not pursue this option.

6. Photography at Gordon (Suzan)

- Potential family photo shoot offering during school Spring Fling and Sports Day from parents who are professional photographer offering services. There is interest from the parents and the PAC will continue to investigate.



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- Discussion regarding photography non-consent options:
 - Families who do not want their pictures taken and uploaded on any public sites, can wear a red dot button. Any photos that have someone wearing the button are discarded.
 - Images with children/families from the back (no faces) could be used on PAC material and websites.

7. School shirts (Jessica)

- Discussion regarding option of producing school shirts for purchase by students and parents ~~for these kids not on a sports team.~~
- Options would not involve maintaining a stock of shirts. Rather parents would be able to visit a website and order shirts as desired.
- Interest expressed from the parents and the PAC will investigate further options and designs.

8. Gardening update (Suzan on behalf of Ms. Hargraves)

- Garden beds will be located between the sand box and the yellow school house
- Limestone pad to be installed by the VSB asap
- Highschool teacher at Tupper will make raised boxes
- Timeline for planting is currently next season, however, will continue with spuds in tubs and another pop up garden this spring.

9. Kits High update (Jane)

- Kits gym is finally finished and is beautiful; kept the old windows
- Auditorium is complete; contains large roll away bleachers.
- School is having a 100-year celebration on May 11/12th weekend. The school will be open for feeder schools on Friday, May 11 1-6pm.

10. Fundraising Update (Sheila)

- Shelia reviewed the ongoing shopping card and other shopping fundraisers/programs for the new parents including; Safeway, IGA, SPUD, COBBS Bread, Mabels Labels, etc.
Note: We are the only school that gets a Kids Books discount!
- You can find Shelia around before and afterschool (see her awesome yellow signs!) for order forms or find them in the office.
- **Donation Bin removal** – see the principal's update above. There are other bins in the neighbourhood (MacDonald & 16th, Kits Rink)



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- **Hot Lunch Discussion** – Parent concern raised about the amount of hot lunch waste and the quality of the food provided by C'est Mon (our current hot lunch provider). General feeling among the parents that the quality of the food and available healthy options have declined.
 - The PAC is currently engaging with C'est Mon to address the issue. Will look at other potential options for Sept. For example: A mom from North Van has started her own service and is moving into the Vancouver market. Interested parent will provide name for PAC for follow-up.
 - Another option would put a call out to the parent community to see if someone is interested in providing a hot lunch service.
 - Note: Food waste at the school is composted, including the extras prepared for seconds

11. PIE (Partners for Inclusive Education) Update (Julie on behalf of Denise)

- Recent PIE meeting review of anxiety and self regulation material
- The next PIE Coffee Morning is Wednesday, March 7th, after drop-off ~~there~~ at Be Fresh (Bayswater and Broadway). Coffee is provided by Be Fresh
- Are there any plans for the Anxiety Talk material to be brought to the kids in school?
 - Not at this time, however, there are plans for the speaker to offer a follow-up session on another topic for parents. PAC will follow-up with Bethany or perhaps Chi Kids to offer a Mindfulness topic. Parents are encouraged to check in with their kid's teachers to see what they are doing in their classrooms as many have something they are doing in class already.

12. Other Business

- **Gordon Facebook page** - Check out the Gordon Facebook page for PAC updates
- **Gordon PAC website** – The legacy (non VSB) site is now an independent PAC website separated from the VSB Gordon website. PAC site needs to be cleaned up and pared down; PAC Co-chairs are working with parent currently responsible for the website.
- **Cultural Celebration Update:**
 - The Cultural Celebration Committee is currently working on identifying upcoming special dates. The following cultural dates have been identified : Nowruz is the Persian New Year, Passover, Easter, Vaisakhi Festival (Indian), National Aboriginal Day (June 21), Earth Day, Cinco de Mayo (May 5), Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan June 15)
 - Baby steps at this time – information gathering, identifying what items are required to celebrate these special days and have a more meaningful dialogue together. This year will focus on more decorating Anticipate next year having more specific education opportunities, including student participate in art projects, etc.
 - Would be nice for the kids to participate in the preparations / displays of art projects in class.



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- Sarah (VP) has ordered a multicultural celebration calendar to help identify dates with the idea of including information in the morning announcements. The Admin will investigate dedicating one of the bulletin boards to cultural celebrations where a big buddy / little buddy class would share ownership of populating the board.
- **Bollywood or Other School Wide Experiences Option:**
 - Discussion with parents on option of an Bollywood Dance Week experience opportunity. Would involve bringing in a dance company to conduct a full week+ of daily dance lessons for all students with a performance at the end of the week. Costs for this range from \$8-10/student.
 - **Why Bollywood?**
 - This program has been well received by other schools in the area. Ms. O'Donoghue has observed in other schools a real buzz for the whole school
 - This is a good fit for a school wide experience versus a coding class, for example, which is more appropriate for older kids.
 - Provides a school wide bonding opportunity and an incredible school celebration for the students and family.
 - Learning about Indian and Bollywood culture
 - Helping kids to get out of their comfort zones and supports physical literacy.
 - Parents are encouraged to let Julie or Suzan know if they have any other contacts or suggestions for school wide experiences.
 - Ms. O'Donoghue encouraged parents to determine what we are doing experience wise so we do not run out of time and kids do not miss out on this year's opportunity.

13. Motions and votes

- **Vote on motion raised today:** To spend up to \$999 towards school-wide experiences in the event the total amount exceeds the \$5000 already voted on in January 2018.
Proposed by: Maureen. **Seconded by:** Jane. *Passed unanimously.*

Meeting started at 6:34pm

Meeting concluded at 8:00pm

Thanks everyone for attending the P.A.C. meeting!
See you again at our next P.A.C. meeting April 9th at 6:30pm