



# GordonElementary

## P.A.C. MINUTES January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

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

- Julie welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. There were 15 parents, 0 staff and Sarah McAlister (Vice-Principal).
- The minutes from Nov 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted unanimously (Moved by Jill, Seconded by Jenni) with the following correction:
  - Item 11 – traffic campaign will be conducted in the future with no specific date

### 2. December Events Wrap up (Julie):

- **Food Bank Drive** – We donated 15 full boxes!
- **Winter Concert** – Bake sale and door donations raised over \$1700 which will go towards our student emergency fund.
- **Loonie Plus Sale** – Raised over \$1500. Items not sold during the day were held over to the craft sale. Remaining items not sold were donated.
- **Purdy's holiday fundraiser** – We raised over \$600.
  - Feedback on communication for future chocolate purchases – will try to have flashier emails with chocolate pictures, parents handing out flyers at pick-up / drop-off.
  - Spring fundraiser? Some interest with parents, however, timing is off this year as Easter is at end of spring break. It was decided not to participate in this one
- **Craft Sale** – Well attended and fun for all, will need parent volunteers to help organize next year.

### 3. Upcoming Volunteering (Suzan):

- **Spring Fling** – Will be Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> this year
  - Last years event was well attended and unintentionally raised a lot of money
  - Call for volunteers to organize the event as Julie and Suzan will not be able to do it this year.
  - If you are interested, please email Julie and Suzan at [gordonpac@ymail.com](mailto:gordonpac@ymail.com).
- **Cultural planning group** – ongoing
  - Looking for parents interested in participating in this group to discuss this topic. Concept for this group is evolving and the PAC is discussing different ideas with the school staff

#### 4. Principal Update (Sarah):

- **Before/After School Care** – We would like to put the call out for any information you may have on any available before and afterschool care in the community such as a nanny-share, or someone who offers before/after school care in their home as we have a family with two young children who are low on the JKC waitlist seeking childcare. Please let Hope/Sarah know if you have any leads
- **Building Engineer** Robert Dimaulo is retiring of Feb 6 and his position is going to be posted. The admin will make sure the kids know.
- **Garbage on School Grounds (including needles/syringes):** Particularly after holidays and weekends, there have been some syringes and discarded clothing discovered on school property.
  - We have requested some additional support for morning sweeps and in the meantime have asked our morning custodial staff to check the grounds
  - If you discover used needles/syringes after hours or on days the school is closed (or somewhere off the school grounds), please call the hotline at 604.657.6561 or email [needlevan@phs.ca](mailto:needlevan@phs.ca). Staff will go to the area, and safely collect and dispose of the needle. On school days please let the office know.
  - Teachers have been reminded to talk to students about playground safety and parents are encouraged to do the same.

#### Group Discussion/Questions:

- Knowledgeable parent (Alana) has volunteered to work with the PAC to provide some information and hold some talks for parents if desired.
- **Late French Immersion:**
  - Deadline Jan. 31; draw early Feb.
  - Sibling Priority only for older students who will be in gr. 7 LFI at the same time as the gr. 6 sibling
  - If there's a waitlist: Usually lots of movement on waitlist, no late entry past Sept. 17
- **Kindergarten Registration:**
  - Registration closes January 31. Currently more applications than space for 3 classes, will probably be a waitlist but this will shorten once the Early French Immersion K spots are confirmed.

#### Group Discussion/Questions:

- Will most likely be a draw and waitlist.
- **Quebec Trip:** Both Gr. 7 Late French Immersion classes and 5 staff members are away Jan 23-30.

#### Group Discussion/Questions:

The question of teacher shortage issues was raised with respect to teachers away for this trip. Sub-teachers have been secured to cover the duration of the trip so no one will be short a teacher due to the trip. Because the absences were planned, each class is expected to have the same sub for the whole period.

- **Learning Grant from BC Government:** (around \$12,000) has been spent by teachers mostly on Canadian Socials and Science resources supporting the new curriculum
- **Nut Aware Reminder:** Please be aware we are a nut aware school when packing lunches and snacks as several students have life threatening allergies to nuts
- **Div 7&8 and District Wide Staffing Update:**
  - **Info from District:** Around 200 positions created this year, but also about 200 resignations received as teachers transferred to other areas. This amounts to a deficit of 400 teachers and the VSB is still catching up with new hires.
    - VSB has hired many permanent Teachers on Call (TOCs).
    - Vacancies have been posted; first internally then externally following collective agreement
    - New teachers on way to Vancouver resulting from VSB very active at hiring fairs across country
    - VSB also hired many retired teachers

**Group Discussion/Questions:**

- **Vacancies Posted:** Div 7 & 8 (grades 4/5) both have temporary teachers. Posting will go out this week. Postings must be done internally on the VSB site for a week before they can be posted externally on [www.Makeafuture.com](http://www.Makeafuture.com).
- Direct communications have regularly been going out to the affected students' parents.
- Concerns were expressed regarding current staffing situation and impact on students. Suggestion for admin to encourage the TOCs to share information with parents about what is happening in the classroom. Also, there is a link where you can download the detailed curriculum from the BC Ministry of Education site for more information <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum> Concerned parents are encouraged to share their thoughts with the VSB
- **Dates to Note:**
  - Mon, Jan 29 - Pro-D for Curriculum Implementation (focus on new curriculum)
  - Feb 7 - Early dismissal for teacher conferences
  - Feb 15 at 7pm next PIE meeting
  - Mon, Feb 19 - Pro D Literacy focus
  - Feb 27 – Class and team photo day
  - Feb 28 – Pink shirt day

**5. PIE (Partners for Inclusive Education) Update (Erika and Denise):**

- **Anxiety Talk** with Bethany Michel. Sold out in 2 days. PIE is currently in discussions to have Bethany back to discuss Resilience later in the year. A note will be circulated when more information later on once sorted out. Very, very good feedback on this talk.

## **6. Financial Update (Kevin):**

- PAC funds are very healthy (approx. \$60K)
- Kevin currently working on finalizing the paperwork for the Direct drive tax receipts.
- Kevin is aiming at transitioning to Jill on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Fundraising Update (Sheila):**

- Safeway / grocery cards – Dec 15 sold \$9K/\$15K to date. Next order is Feb 1<sup>st</sup> for cards
- SPUD – school receives 25% on special boxes. Made \$600+ on boxes from 6 families last year. No requirement to be a family at Gordon
- Stongs grocery delivery has a fund raising option
- Cobs bread on both 4<sup>th</sup> and Broadway locations – mention General Gordon
- Grouse Mountain Passes – New fundraiser this year; will be following up on the status with Grouse.

## **8. DPAC Update (Erin)**

- Erin is our District PAC (DPAC) liaison for Gordon to share information and represent our school. Contact information if you would like to talk to Erin 604.708.7357
- Jan 25, 7pm at the VSB “Navigation inclusive education” workshop. Free admission.
- Staffing shortages are common throughout the entire district. You can go to [www.Facebc.ca](http://www.Facebc.ca) – petition to lobby the next BC budget to encourage increased funding. Or #BCED2018 to follow this issue.
- Task force with Ministry of Education: Some items which have been discussed and implemented - moving expenses covered for transferring to BC, mentoring for new teachers. Other items – asking for pay increases for BC teachers (BC is 11/13), teacher credentialing and the ability to move between provinces.
- Encourage all parents to work as a team and use your voice to bring about change.
- Seismic update – continuing to raise voice for those schools that have not been updated
- 4x4 meeting – heads of VSB to discuss key issues. For example: filming on VSB property during school hours.

## **9. Parent Information Nights and School Wide Experiences (Julie/Suzan and discussion)**

- Discussion about funding parent information nights and school wide experiences as per tonight’s motion. Clarified there is an expectation that teachers need to use these funds by the end of the year. Julie / Suzan will follow up Hope.
- Need to be conscious when requesting to use the school facilities for PAC/school based events that at times additional staffing is needed and in some cases, need to be paid for.

#### **10. Motions and votes**

- **Vote on motion raised in November** to distribute \$36/student (414 students) of funds raised from Direct Drive equitably among the divisions (per student amount) to be used for experiences. **Passed unanimously.**
- **Vote on motion raised in November** to allocate remaining funds (approx. \$5,000) raised from Direct Drive to school wide and/or parent education based education. **Passed unanimously** to earmark the funds for these types of topics. Specific events and spending will be individually discussed and voted in at a later date.

**Meeting started at 6:42pm**

**Meeting concluded at 8:05pm**

**Thanks everyone for attending the P.A.C. meeting!  
See you again at our next P.A.C. meeting February 26th at 6:30pm**