



Gordon Elementary

P.A.C. MINUTES November 27th 2017

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

- Suzan welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. There were 16 parents, 2 staff and Hope Sterling (Principal).
- The minutes from the Oct 30th meeting were adopted unanimously (Moved by Erika C., Seconded by Jill M.).

2. What's happening at Gordon in December (Julie)

- **Food Bank Drive Dec 4th – 15th**
 - Cans and dry goods please.
 - Volunteers will receive emails shortly - most likely requesting drivers to take goods to the Food Bank.
- **Winter Concert Dec 14th**
 - This year we have 4 shows. Will be looking for volunteers to help keep the isles clear, act as ushers, etc. Volunteer bonus – will be saved up to three seats!
 - Visitors: Concert entrance will be from the East doors between the basketball court and Preschool to avoid congestion inside the front doors. Signage will direct visitors away from the front door and a reminder note will be sent home.
 - Suggestion: open the library for visitors who have difficulty standing if waiting for longer periods.
 - For those parents unable to attend the Thursday concerts and would like to attend rehearsals on Wednesday, please contact Heidi in the office to check on space.
- **Loonie Plus Sale Dec 15th during school hours**
 - We will be collecting new or gently used items (re-giftable). Clothes and stuffed animals will not be accepted.
 - Grade 7 French immersion students will be wrapping during the event.
 - Looking for volunteers to help receive and sort the items Dec 4-15 from 8:30 – 9:30 at the old school house.
- **Craft Sale Dec 15th 3-4pm**
 - Sign-up sheet is in the office, Heidi is the contact for this event
- **Ongoing:**
 - Popcorn Fridays (\$1 per bag)
 - Hot lunch Mondays and Thursdays (order online at cestmoncafe.com)
 - Pizza Wednesdays (\$3 per slice or \$5 for two slices)
 - **NO pizza Dec 13th , NO hot lunch Dec 14th .** Parent suggestion that teachers record these notices in student agendas.
- Sandwich boards – are around the school with PAC info and notices. Parent suggestion that the Kindergarten entrance board be placed on top of the cement

3. Purdy's holiday fundraiser update (Kiley)

- Total product sold is over \$1600. School will receive approx. \$500!
- Chocolates are scheduled to be delivered on Dec 5th and will be ready for pick up from the school on Dec 6 and 7th after school. Participants will be notified by email. Those orders not collected will be sent home with your children on the Friday (other arrangements may be possible).

4. Principal Update (Hope)

- **Thank you for Another PAC Funded Performance:** On November 15th, we were treated to a concert by *West My Friend*. They were composed of a guitar, accordion, mandolin and bass. They performed original songs and encouraged a lot of audience participation. Thank you for this entertaining musical experience.
- **Broadway Lunch:** There has been some confusion around how far up and down Broadway students are allowed to travel for Broadway Lunch. **Nat's Pizza is the furthest East** and **Tim Hortons is the furthest West** students can travel. Sorry, there will be no more access to Dairy Queen. Parents, thank you for reviewing this with your Grade 6 and 7 children.
- **Lockdown Drill:** On Thursday the Gordon community practiced a Lockdown Drill. A Lockdown is called if there is an intruder or dangerous situation inside the building. Students and staff lock themselves in a room, get out of sight and stay silent. Overall it went well. Students were well hidden and silent. There were a few improvements necessary and, that's why we practice our drills. Thank you to all the staff and students for participating.
- **Learning Improvement Fund:** We have recently received a \$12,000 grant from the Ministry of Education called the Learning Improvement Fund. Staff are working together to purchase more resources to support the new curriculum. We are grateful for this financial enhancement as it seems there is never enough money in education!
- **Movember Spirit Day:** On **Wednesday, November 29** the Gordon Student Council will be hosting a *Movember* spirit day fundraiser. We will be providing moustaches on a stick (masquerade style) by donation, as well as moustache face painting by donation starting at 8:45am on Wednesday morning and continuing at recess. All proceeds will go to prostate cancer research. Get your Movember on!
- **Gymnasium Issue:** During a game of volleyball last week, a piece of metal was dislodged from the ceiling. The gym was immediately closed and the VSB was called to check the ceiling. and ensured all items are all secured.

5. PIE Update (Erika)

- Second meeting was held Nov 20th. Topic was brain diversity and how it impacts our kids.
- **The Rock Project** – Ms. Sterling (Principal) is reading a book called 'Only One You' to all classes. This is an amazing book which addresses diversity and differences, and the richness this provides. Afterwards, all students are asked to colour their own rock picture to show their own uniqueness and highlight the diversity in the school. Drawings are being displayed in the main hall

- Dec 5th is the next **PIE coffee morning** at Be Fresh (Broadway and Bayswater). Everyone is invited. Be Fresh provides coffee and discounted goodies.
- January meeting highlight – talk from pediatric psychologist Dr. Bethany Michel, child psychologist: “**Understanding Anxiety in our Children**”. She will speak about how anxiety manifests itself and when / how to ask for help. Thurs, January 18th at 6:30 at Gordon (time TBC). Invitation for all parents – Gordon and other.

6. Fit For Learning (Denise)

- Denise, Erika and Hope are working on developing an obstacle course experience that is based on “Ready Body Learning Minds”. The purpose is linking physical development / experience to learning which is impacted by reduced physical literacy in kids these days.
- Goal is opening the full student body to participate. Could be participating 2-3 times per week in school learning with various stations (floor balance beams, mini trampolines, bean bags, etc) depending on teacher needs and time. Denise will be meeting with school OT to determine logistics and funding requirements. Will have more details over next few weeks.
- Could be used as an outlet to help your mind get ready for learning by getting the energy out of the body. Ideally would have some stations that could be set up both inside and outside. Thinking about using the Old School House initially.

7. Kits High School liaison update (Julie for Jane)

- Seismic update: gym is almost ready, auditorium will be ready mid January, most of building is complete
- Kits 100 year Centennial Celebration: Friday, May 11 and Sat, May 12 where there will be “back-in-time decades” rooms, music, art, silent auction and basketball
- They are looking for vintage artifacts for loan or donation for the celebration as well as photos or stories for the Centennial Yearbook
- Britannia Secondary: **Fentanyl Awareness** seminar tomorrow night. 6:30-8:30 Nov 28. Vancouver Coastal Health, VSB and Vancouver Police hosted.

8. DPAC Update (Erika for Erin)

- BCCPAC (discuss membership)
 - BCCPAC is a confederation of PACs from the province. Benefits of membership: a way for parents to advocate areas of interest with the government. Right now this is a very interesting time for diversity and school needs in BC with the Ministry.
 - Visit the BCCPAC website for more information
 - Membership is \$75 annually.

9. Financial Update (Kevin)

- Copies of the budget were distributed for review.
- Gaming grant for this year has been received (approx. \$7,000). Current gaming balance is just over \$11,000. Funds should be targeted for spending during the school year.
- General operating account is split into two buckets currently:
 - Playground account = \$8,500 remains in the pool which can either be targeted for further playground equipment spending or rolled back into the general account. Co-Chairs to determine how to poll parents on how remaining funds will be spent.

Currently \$6K is earmarked for the garden boxes with high school student led building and VSB led installation.

- Main account = just under \$60,000.
- Big task is to generate receipts (with the VSB) for direct drive for Jan 2018.
- The new granite tables installation was supported by PAC funds of \$7000. Suggestion: send a note to parents sharing the story behind the new granite tables. The table is made from the old school steps. Also Hope will look into a plaque being provided to explain the historical value of the blocks (heritage BC).

10. Fundraising Update (Sheila)

- Ongoing fundraisers update
 - See back Shopping Card Order Form for fundraising to date.
 - \$65 from Mabels Labels was received recently
- Establishing a **Post Secondary Scholarship**
 - Shelia is currently investigating establishing a post-secondary scholarship for students who have attended Gordon. Shelia following up with Erin (DPAC) for scholarship ideas and criteria that other schools have implemented. Stay tuned.

11. Traffic Flow Around the School (Sheila)

- Discussion of how to improve traffic flow from a culture of safety and community awareness versus what 'you can't do'.
- **Suggestion:** Formation of a parent supported / student run safety committee which sets up cones and provides instruction in the mornings to help improve flow. Cross walk and speed bumps have helped on 6th.
- Looking at a campaign in the future **"Be Kind to our Neighbours"** – have VPD in to talk, have parent volunteers out talking to drivers, etc. Stay tuned.

12. Establishing regular parent education talks and workshops (Julie)

- See # 13 for discussion

13. Direct Drive update (Suzan)

- \$ 20,829.59 raised (doubled our target!)
 - PAC co-chairs have talked to Hope and teachers regarding how to spend the funds.
 - Suggestion to split \$15,000 of the Direct Drive funds by 414 students (= \$36/student), allowing teachers to determine how to best use the funds for their class to support the curriculum. Use the remaining \$5,000 to benefit the whole school – example ideas are hip hop classes or parent education ideas for the whole community.
 - Alison confirms the teacher body is fully in support of the suggested distribution of funds and establishment of whole community education.
- Discussion about next steps:
 - Reaffirmed the need for both short and longer-term fundraising strategy and plan
- Plan to establish regular parent education talks and workshops

14. Other Business

- Discussion on how to create more awareness of how PAC funds are being spent and tracking / keeping parents in the loop of how parents funds are being spent. PAC is actively making sure agendas are being posted on week ahead of time on the PAC website. The PAC budget status is regularly distributed and reviewed at PAC meetings. PAC updates can highlight spending and/or refer to minutes regarding spending

15. Motions and votes

- **Vote on motion raised today:** To distribute \$950 to a student discretionary emergency fund to assist families unable to cover costs of class-related activities/fees. Hope will provide updates on funds and funds will roll over to next year. **Proposed by:** Shelia Kirkby. **Seconded by:** Jill Mossman. Passed unanimously.
- **Vote on motion raised today:** To pay up to \$500 for a bin for Kindergarten classes full of outdoor items. **Proposed by:** Jill Mossman. **Seconded by:** Liz Dunn. Passed unanimously.
- **Vote on motion raised today:** To pay for \$75 membership in BCCPAC. **Proposed by:** Erika Cedillo and **Seconded by:** Denise Edwards. Passed unanimously (one abstained).
- **Vote on motion raised today:** To support up to \$300 towards the school in buying holiday hampers/ grocery cards for Gordon families in need. **Proposed by:** Denise Edwards. **Seconded by:** Alanna Hirsh. Passed unanimously.
- **Motion to be voted on at the next meeting:** To distribute \$36/student (414 students) of funds raised from Direct Drive equitably among the divisions (per student amount) to be used for experiences. **Proposed by:** Kylie Lundin. **Seconded by:** Ericka Cedillo.
- **Motion to be voted on at the next meeting:** To allocate remaining funds (approx. \$5,000) raised from Direct Drive to school wide and/or parent education based education. **Proposed by:** Charlotte French. **Seconded by:** Jill Mossman.
- **Vote on motion raised today:** To pay up to \$1000 for 'Fit For Learning'. **Proposed by:** Kylie Lundin. **Seconded by:** Mandy Johnson. Passed unanimously.
- **Special Holiday motion** to purchase school administrators a holiday gift up to \$200. **Proposed by:** Mandy Johnson. **Seconded by:** Jill Mossman. Passed unanimously.

Meeting started at 6:34pm

Meeting concluded at 8:17pm

Thanks everyone for attending the P.A.C. meeting!

Happy Holidays!

See you again at our next P.A.C. meeting January 22nd at 6:30pm