

## **Gordon Elementary PAC meeting**

**Monday Oct 1st 7-8:30pm**

**Present:** PAC-Co Chairs Karen Wood and Jane Pike, Principal Margaret Davidson, Vice-principal Natalie Morissette, Treasurer Kevin McKeown, Secretary Ingrid Sulston, Parents/ caregivers including: Amy VanWeelderen, Alex Sinclair, Shona McElashan, Patricia Thiel, Ravil Mannapov, Leah Price, Mary-Ann Livesey, Gabriel Toffoletti, Cori MacPhail, Jennifer Sears, Beth Calkin, Denise Edwards, Alicia Shouten, Elke Porter, Julee Kaye, Barbara Martin, Pam Finch, Frank Goodan, Robert Haralabopoulos.

### **Welcome from new PAC Co-Chairs - Jane Pike and Karen Wood**

A focus of PAC this year is community building and parent interaction.

All parents and caregivers are members of PAC. Constitution is on the website. [gordonelementary.ca](http://gordonelementary.ca) has calendars and information and is up to date. PAC roles and events is all the roles and events that PAC is involved in.

Parents introduce themselves to others they don't know.

### **Review of speakers at PAC meetings for the year - Jane Pike**

Learning styles in Oct, Sexual Health in Jan, Social Media Safety in Feb (Jesse Miller).

### **Motion for social media speaker at PAC**

Up to \$300 for speaker Jesse Miller. Jane made motion. Seconded Elke Porter.

Nearly unanimous (about 20 votes for).

### **Funding and budget overview - Karen Wood**

Our school does not get additional funding as do inner city schools do, yet Gordon PAC does not raise a lot of funds. Would like to streamline the financial needs/efforts that PAC has.

Money raised: about \$23K raised each year by PAC, of which \$21K goes back to the school for a range of things. We need to hold a cash flow of about \$18K for items such as cash cards/spring fling large expenditures. About \$8.5K from gaming grant. Direct Drive in October raises about \$5K, and is dropping. Spring Fling event raises \$4K and has been declining. Cash cards funds are increasing. Popcorn profits are going up. Winter Fair proceeds declining. Bottle recycling remains level.

Money dispersed: gaming money goes to performances, author visits, graduation, student publications. Teachers get up to \$200 a year from PAC for additional classroom funds. Admin charges, childcare costs for running PAC.

Average spending per student: 410 students at Gordon - every student benefits by \$51 per year from PAC. Can we change the effort that goes in and increase this amount?

## **Ideas for raising funds**

Some parents would like to have more specific targets for fundraising e.g. direct donation funds more directed.

Margaret and Natalie would like to see more smart boards, so that every classroom can have one.

Spirit of Math has been introduced to the school to some classes, and is \$20K for whole school.

Will need money for playground for new school.

Set targets for direct drive. Spring Fling needs more money coming in for the effort expended.

Parents asked about ideas for fundraisers from other schools:

Elsie Roy: Walk-a-Thon. Businesses in the community can be asked (though our nearby Broadway is pretty saturated with requests). Contact with Rotary Club raised a lot of money - need a purpose for the fundraiser.

Bayview PAC: note that some events are fundraisers, some are community builders. Don't try and run the community events as a fundraiser - they will lose their community value. Walk-a-Thon - funds raised by pledges from families. Dance-a-Thon event once a year, with pledges to dance - parents welcome during the day too.

Gordon parent: feel like we should target the direct drive, as it takes a lot of parent power to run all these events.

Jules Quesnell: focus on just Direct Donation. Parents are told it is the only fundraiser, and they are expected to donate this one time during the year. The letter also allows you to vote on where you want your money to go.

New parent: happy to write a cheque for direct donation, while taking time to see where money goes and what the school does need. May be attractive to new parents - a way to get involved.

Gordon sushi fundraiser: For one week got enough orders to raise a good amount for PAC. If the ordering could be streamlined, it might get more students ordering.

## **Direct Donation discussion**

Direct Donation starts in two weeks.

Needs a coordinator. Megan can work with whomever would like to take it on - Elke Porter volunteered to organize the Direct Donation.

Could pay via the website, but lose money to paypal (3%). Other family members might be more willing to participate with an online payment.

Maybe include in the letter sent home how much PAC raises per student.

## **Principal and Vice Principal introduction and school news**

It was a smooth entry for kindergartners. Worked with supervision aides and kindergarteners during their gradual entry to introduce them to washrooms, where they line up etc. Work with lunchroom supervision to encourage students to pack back home what is not eaten. Quebec exchange has a grant in place, and is starting to be organized.

Classroom reviews are just done (every teacher discusses what works for their class, what support they need etc). Miles Patrick, Vikki Rassias and Deni Mori (resource) will start seeing students.

LIF (Learning Improvement Fund) for grade 6/7 English program. More fieldtrips, more teaching with Margaret. LIF allowed intermediate classes to be smaller.

Fieldtrips can be funded by the school if money is an issue for a family.

ProD Day for teachers was succesful. Jody Langlois (Director of Instruction in Vancouver School Board Learning Services) will come back to work with the teachers again.

### **Introduction to PIE (Parents of Inclusive Education)**

PIE is continuing from its beginnings last year. This year a format is getting solidified. For improving the school for special needs students - looking at inclusion rather than simply integrating. Meetings are the last Thursday of the month. This year speakers are coming in - next month Diana is talking about IEPs and inclusion, how to adapt the classroom so it works for all children. Parents come from Gordon and elsewhere. Oct 25th meeting not on calendar.

### **PAC Positions to fill**

PAC babysitter: Jennifer Sears volunteers. Have two other names to contact.

Book Fair: voted to be cancelled this year.

Volunteer Coordinator: Pam Finch will work with Ingrid Sulston on this.

Direct Donation: Elke Porter volunteered to run it with Megan Abele.

Safe Arrival: Pam/Ingrid will email parents that volunteered for safe arrival to find a coordinator.

School gardening: Pam/Ingrid will email the parents that volunteered for this.

Recycling: Pam/Ingrid will email the parents that volunteered for this.

Fundraising advisor: two parents that volunteered will be contacted.

Sesmic renewal - Frank Goodman and Sheridan Macrae.

Kits High Liason - Stephanie Wasserman. Jennifer Sears also volunteered to help with this.

District PAC Liason - Roberta Stuart (continuing from last year)

### **Student club news**

Newspaper Club: Elke Porter described the newspaper club, and got help with editing.

Chess club: this will happen again, and Bob Brewster is keen to teach it again. For beginners and up. Oct 16th.

### **Motions and voting on expenditures**

1. Motion to loan \$10,000 to cash card program Motion by Jane Pike. Seconded by Ingrid Sulston. To vote on next month.
2. Vote to approve motion to give \$3000 to library for author visits. Approved.
3. Vote to approve motion to give \$3000 for performances. Approved.

### **Seismic update by Frank Goodman**

The school was built 100 years ago and is not safe in a big earthquake.

It will be replaced by a new school. The new school will be larger than originally planned (thanks to Gordon PAC for helping make that happen). The new school will be on the site of this school. Gym will be knocked down, then classroom block built there. Students move to the new classroom block. Then old school knocked down and new gym and multipurpose room built. Lastly, lunchroom knocked down and preschool moved.

New school likely to have clusters of classrooms - 4 clusters.

2 or 3 storey building still to be decided - parent input wanted on this. Three storeys mean more stairs, but more playground on this already undersized site. Current concept up on the website.

Construction all done by November 2016.

**End of PAC meeting**