



# General Gordon Elementary School

## P.A.C. minutes



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

Jane Pike & Karen Wood

### 2. Annual Calendar

Jane showed the calendars, also available to print from the website: Year at a glance, Wall calendar and reviewed the speakers scheduled for the year.

### 3. P.A.C. Positions to fill

Jane reviewed the PAC positions still to be filled for the year:

- Welcome BBQ for next September – a coordinator needs to be in place by the end of this year. Patricia, the coordinator for this year talked about the job: coordinating with Vlad, who runs the BBQ was great, and it is a very welcome event for new parents and encouraged volunteers. Comment to fold the BarBQ organization into a transition committee.
- Direct Drive thermometer updates – need someone to do that.
- PAC secretary – need to bring a computer to meetings to record the minutes.
- Recycling – Peter Abrams is involved, but needs help. Jinhi volunteered to coordinate recycling, and will connect with past year's coordinator for instruction.
- School Planning Council (SPC) has space for a parent that is interested in the learning goals of the school.

### 4. P.A.C. Overview & Current Activities

Our Vision

A focus of community building and parental interaction. Mixed socio-economic backgrounds at the school, which bring in a huge range of ideas and interactions.

Approach with Financials

Last year was a push for smart board funding. PAC contributed to raise over \$10K for school activities. Attendance at PAC meetings has increased. Have many committed volunteers. Vision for 2013 is navigating the seismic upgrade, and to establish a solid fundraising plan for Landscape Greening and Playground facilities for the new school.

Kevin is our Treasurer, who writes a grant to get money from the gaming fund. Direct Donation money can be used in other areas.

Last year raised \$37.9K total, up by \$10 from previous year. Approx \$19K is held in the account to manage cash-flow (e.g. cash card loan).

Summary of funds raised last year compared to previous years: Direct Drive, popcorn, lunch program, winter fair made more than last year.

In the future we need to be focused on playground fundraising – other schools have needed \$100-\$150K for playground and bases, which is way above our current fundraising levels.

- Class rep system works well – reps for each class are being sorted now.
  - Seismic planning – Frank Goodman was on the committee.
  - Direct Drive Plans – raised double the funds last year. This year we are raising for sex education, Spirit of Math books for every student (parents pay \$10, school \$5, PAC \$5 per book), library and music programs, class funds, gymnastics.
  - Hot lunches. 50 students a week.
  - Cash cards – makes a lot – with more families, could make a lot.
  - Clothing Bin – has made a little over \$500 since May. We get 10c for every pound. Can get a truck to come if we have a large donation.
  - Body Science – Jessica Wollen will be coming this year again.
  - Parents for Inclusive Education (PIE) – Denise and Karen at PAC meeting attend PIE meetings. It is growing each year. Planning to have speakers.
  - Seeding Fundraising Committee \$10,000 – Vote below
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## 5. Playground Design

Beth Calkin to introduce Playground Fundraising Committee & Objectives:

Johnathan Wilson hired by school board to come up with playground plans. If we do nothing, will be a field, basketball hoops, picnic tables, red and yellow playground. We are looking at the elements we would like to see.

Old wooden playground needs to be removed and replaced – we can keep it until the end of this year. There will not be covered spaces in budget, nor garden boxes, sand, no butterfly garden. Other schools have put in outdoor classroom, fruit trees, mason bee containers, rock climbing sculptures, bridge. We have one of the smallest school footprints.

Playground committee discussed coming up with an overarching goal – to have the school grounds maximised as a playspace as much as possible, and to maximise scholastic potential of children. Fitness is correlated with academic achievement. Mental health is related to physical health. Green space and vegetation – when children are connected to, even viewing, green space – kids are reduced in anger, have increased empathy, increased concentration and attentiveness, increased self esteem.

Three principals, to which elements of our outdoor space should encompass:

**Inclusive** – all children have equal access to fitness and diversity of activity, social sitting space/alone time spaces.

**Greener.**

**All season** – increase use of grounds in wet conditions through artificial and natural canopies. Consideration of the surfaces of fields, sitting spaces and playground equipment. (We are not getting a covered space with the new school.)

## 6. Seismic update

This will be dealt with more completely in another meeting. The PAC chairs have sent a letter to Queen Elizabeth and Annex PAC, opening dialog and ways to work together.

## 7. Other business

- Class Reps – all filled except one class.
- Next meeting Monday October 28<sup>th</sup>

## 8. Motions & Votes this month

- **Vote** – Motion raised in June to allocate \$10,000 to seed Fundraising Committee. No criteria on what the money will be spent on, other than playgrounds. Unanimous in favour, none against.
  - **Vote** – Motion raised in June to allocate \$2,000 for Serghei Gymnastics classes. Unanimous in favour, none against.
  - **Motion** to allocate \$2,000 of DD funds to Spirit of Math program. Elke made the motion, Jennifer seconded.
  - **Motion** to give Mary money for author visits, up to \$3K. Motion made by Carmen, seconded by Roberta.
  - **Motion** for performances up to \$3K. Motion made by Robin, Roberta seconded.
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