

Jan 28th 2008 Gordon PAC meeting minutes

Attendees: Ingrid Sulston (Chair), Anna Johnson (Treasurer), Paul Pavlidis (Secretary), Noreen Morris (Vice-Principal), Christine Hibbert (JKC Director), Cathy Marr (Kits Liason, French Immersion), Penny Dagg (Class rep), Z Smith (seismic committee), Lisa Chambers (School planning council), Kathleen Brown, Avril Bain, Heather Young, Laura Jordan, Nilofar Ahanchi, Linda Shaw, Craig Lane, Caz Taylor, Colleen Kern and Michael.

Introduce Noreen Morris to the group

Noreen Morris, the new Gordon Vice Principal, said a few words to introduce her background and experience to the group.

Quick PAC business and announcements

1. Final call for Secretary.

Paul Pavlidis has offered to take the job. Any others interested? It can be a shared job. Anna Johnson moves; seconded by Kathleen Brown. 10 in favour, passed.

2. Approval of November minutes. Lisa moved, Laura seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. PAC chair informed the council that a gift for Bruce Inglis: \$100 MEC gift card and \$27.50 wine was purchased. Approved that PAC pay for that. Treasurer reports in passing that PAC \$6790 in account, ~\$5300 raised in the fall. A formal report Treasurer's report will come next meeting.

4. Reminder from Chair about Call for Donations announcement (in lieu of a direct drive this year). Next meeting Anna will discuss what to purchase with our Direct Drive grant. Linda mentioned that she may have a MacBook to donate. A number of members spoke up indicating they might have items and will contact Ingrid or Margaret later.

5. Announcement in the previous newsletter (Gordon Gazette) that it was the last paper one. Ingrid says that a drive to get parents to sign up for the newsletter emails. Noreen says that some paper copies will be made for pickup in the office; the idea is to reduce paper. Z suggests that they can signup during the upcoming parent conferences.

6. Report from Chair: We got the playground equipment grant from the Ministry of Education "Act Now Initiative", via BCC PAC, nearly \$20,000 without matching funds required! Aaron Dudley will be at the next meeting to discuss our plans further. Other Vancouver schools got it too: for example Queen Mary, McBride, Emily Carr. A list was circulated.

Discussion: announcements from the VSB and Ministry of Education

1. **Seismic update** – Z Smith. Reminder: join the seismic mailing list to get in the regularly occurring discussions, linked from our website (www.gordonelementary.ca). The proposal to replace the school is the one that the VSB is still pursuing – no surprise. We wrote to Gordon Campbell's office. Will be visiting the local representative's office this week. The ministry and school board are preparing to present to Committee II (planning and facilities) on Feb 5 and then Committee V (finance) before presentation to the board, at which time it will come up for a vote by the board. They've agreed to not immediately tear down the lunch room if JKC can pay for upgrading it. Estimate cost is probably on the order of much more than \$100,000 that was suggested many months ago.

JKC rep (Christine): bottom line is there is going to be a significant cost. The room needs upgrading as it stands, insufficient washrooms and storage. There are some contingency funds but only a start on what would be needed. Determining costs of other options like portables. Fee increases are going to be slowly put in over the next couple of years to help out.

Ingrid asked about the yellow Montessori building, and whether that could ever be committed to JKC. The building is free after 3PM, could it be dual use. There was some discussion about this but agreed it would be difficult to do anything. The parents would have to act, not JKC's ability.

Christine says that VSB does not consider daycare to be their responsibility/priority, unfortunately. The political landscape is not very sympathetic to child care. (Additional discussion about issues and challenges).

2. Noreen Morris - **VSB plans for University Hill/Dunbar Schools** – Circulate document (linked from our website), the “Educational Facilities Review” that has been publicized by the VSB. There will be consultation meetings on Jan 29 and Feb 6 for parents to attend. You can submit ideas on line, or write letters. Feb 11th and 12th there is an opportunity to parents to present at 7PM at the VSB. All input by Feb 15 will be considered to go into the final report.

Ingrid: There is a petition to sign to get the VSB to change the seismic process. There are over 300 signatures now.

3. Ingrid: **FSA grade 4 and 7 testing** – Reminder about flyer sent home on how to excuse your child from the test (circulate). If you want to withdraw, you have to write a letter in your own words. The principal decides. Noreen: a timetable for testing will go out with students tomorrow. Some parents were concerned that teachers are taking the issue directly to the students, rather than to the parents. This upsets the kids. Noreen agreed that this wasn't ideal. Noreen presented reassurances that parents who do let their children take the FSA will not experience repercussions.

4. **New school food regulations** – Ingrid Sulston/Noreen Morris. This will affect several PAC-run events (circulated a copy, also linked from our website). Certain categories of food must be eliminated essentially immediately. High sugar, salt, fat relative to nutritious content. Wasn't even clear if coffee could be sold to parents – probably okay. Applies at all hours, even off site. Hot lunches will probably get improved.

Planning for next PAC events

1. Movie night – Feb 15th.

Student council will be asked if they would like to choose the movie. Jennifer Sears will coordinate sushi to meet food regulations Suggestion is that by moderating what we serve then it will still be okay to offer dessert – fresh fruit for example. Students might help.

We had problems with sound last time. Bruce may be needed to show us the one in the lunchroom, if we can hook it up to the video system. Noreen will ask him.

2. Read-A-Thon – to start last week of February. Students collect pledges for reading a lot over two weeks. Proceeds have been for books for the classrooms and library.

Need volunteers to help organize it (basics are to make up, distribute and collect packages). Lisa and Kathleen, Avril volunteered. Thank you!

Penny suggests a used children's book sale. Scholastic one is happening next week (Feb 6th). Penny will try to organise something to have during the read-a-thon, ideally on the first day, if not for the Spring Fling. Penny has until Friday to get this into the newsletter.

Begin and end Read-A-Thon with a group event for students in school? Mr. H is a writer who can come to talk to the school, read to the kids. Other suggestions were made, and Heather will ask Mr. H. Penny will ask Susan Nielsen. Mary Locke might also know someone and Penny will ask her.

3. Spring Fling – May 10th Initial discussions: Do we have the same rides? Everybody seems in favour, though some suggestions to make paying easier (one-time with a stamp). Too late for climbing frame. Ask classes to run events? Suggestion: dunk tank.

A suggestion was made to move the Spring Fling day to avoid major events that conflict (kids baseball, etc.). June? May 3? Sunday instead of Saturday? A committee formed: Ingrid, Penny, etc.

Close meeting

Action items for next meeting: Treasurer's report