

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 6:30 pm

Location: General Wolfe Elementary school library

PAC MEMBERS (in order of sign-in sheet): Nicola Gubbins, Colleen Von Dehn, Libby Taylor, Julie Nichols, Serena Verma, Kristin Rotte, Susie McRae, Katie Stevenson

PAC Executive:

- Michael Nedelec, Chair
- Kristin Hanlon, Vice Chair
- Jamini Thakore, Treasurer
- Donna Rayner Secretary

1. Welcome and Call to Order - Michael Nedelec

2. Approval of November 2017 minutes

Moved L. Taylor	Seconded S. McRae	Carried
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Special Guest – Carrie Bercic, Trustee, Vancouver Board of Education. Carrie is serving a one year term, elected last October. She has 20 years of involvement at Wolfe, first as a parent and now as a volunteer in the library. Wolfe is near and dear to Carrie's heart and she is invested in seeing progress and advocating for us. Her remarks included the following:

- 11 announcements on seismic upgrade in 18 weeks, 3 in Vancouver
- Funding source for seismic upgrades is a “matter of political will”
- Carrie feels things are moving faster now with the new government and there is less finger pointing and more collaboration than previous government
- No school closures for now. Carrie’s opinion is closures should be made on facts/logic not emotion. Swing schools for seismic process are a key consideration in decision making process.
- Meeting coming in the near future between VSB Trustees and Rob Fleming, Minister of Education.
- Trustees get involved in process after Ministry decides which schools to fund.
- Trustees make decisions on how to spend the money, but don’t have a lot of say because they are bound to do what the province tells them and they have to work within the budget given them.
- They collaborate with PACs for input on needs of the school.
- Most of their decisions are around issues like swing sites.

- Carrie's suggestion is to write letters to her and/or the VSB to make sure there is awareness around feelings on seismic—e.g. one parent says she drops her child off each day wondering "is the day the big one hits?"
- Carrie will take the message about grandfathering the funding for the playground at 50% back to the VSB. Any returned funds will be directed back to the school.
- We need to make sure MLA George Heyman is aware of this. (He will be attending a future PAC meeting.)

3. Administration Report: Susan Nichols, Principal of General Wolfe Elementary

- Thanks to Carrie for attending our meeting.
 - At the district level we have a new Superintendent. Suzanne Hoffman has been hired by the new board and Susan feels we are very lucky to have her. She was the Ministry of Education Superintendent of Learning Transformation.
 - Organization plans for next year are just starting. 40+ kindergarten students registered thus far with registration continuing to the end of Jan. k/1 combined classes. Organization up in the air for next year—large disparity in the class sizes, for example 76 kindergarten students who are moving into grade one, but only 37 grade 7's leaving for grade 8. Susan will keep us posted as to what the school organization will look like.
 - All VSB schools were given \$32 a student to purchase materials, with a guideline of relieving some pressure on parent fundraising. The teachers met and have bought SS text resources for the intermediate grades as the material we have does not align with the reading levels for the new curriculum. The primary teachers met and decided to get an iPad mini for each room to help with the new reporting process, which may allow for them to share portfolios in different ways.
 - Susan communicated with Kent Johanson about the Wolfe early warning system, scheduled to be installed later this month.
 - The first of our new Communicating Student Learning reports will be going home at the end of this month. The reports will look quite different. The goal of the new reporting process is to give parents information in a variety of formats more regularly. This year we are part of a pilot project, and the reports will not have letter grades on them, but rather there is a 4 point scale with sliding bars that can fit in a single category or show a child moving between 2 categories.
 - Mr. Mathewson has returned from leave and will be starting up choir next week on Tuesdays at 8:30 in the morning. Mr. Mathewson has met with the grade 7 students and let them know he will not be doing band this year. They will of course be receiving music from him—he is working with all students from k-7 this year, and with the intermediate classes 2X a week. We will re-examine the band possibilities next year when we know what our staffing looks like.
 - We have been awarded the 'VSO Connects' program over the next 2 years. Susan believes it is due to all the fine work Mr. Mathewson has done with the VSO education branch. VSO Connects includes a series of activities for classes, grades and the whole school. Mr. Mathewson, Ms. Segers and I will be attending an information session later this month to learn more.
- Techer Rep – Andrea Huston
 - Thank you for helping us acquire supports for students such as the Hoki stools. Tools like these stools greatly support students who need more sensory feedback to focus and learn, and we appreciate the support.

- Basketball is getting underway-the staff would like to thank parent coaches and drivers. Over 50 students are involved.
- Skating will start by the end of the month-each class will be going 3 times, and due to the great PAC support the only cost to individual students is their skate rental. Thank you for the lovely opportunity for Community fitness.
- And finally thank you for today's great presentation of Robinson Crusoe and Friday by Axis theatre-it was a pleasure to watch and enjoyed by all.

4. 2017/2018 Budget and Treasurer's Report – Jamini Thakore

- Current funding requests:
 - Motion to increase expenses by \$400 for Body Science

Moved L. Taylor	Seconded S. Verma	Carried
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- Updates to budget: Walkathon over budget by \$2300. QSP under budget by \$600. Funds from Family Photo night will returned to the library—it was not meant to be a PAC fundraiser. (\$500)

5. Chair Report and update – Michael Nedelec

- Groups Participation K-3—need to get more involvement? Many parents unaware of this.
- Discussion on funding of school sports uniforms to be discussed in upcoming meeting.
- Direct Drive—request will be forthcoming in April for direct fund drive to parents. The results of the survey were that many parents would like to write one check in support of Wolfe vs. attending several fund-raising events.
- Last major fund-raiser this year is the Silent Auction will be held in April
- **Call for volunteers!! Many of the major fund raisers are led by parents who are leaving Wolfe—and we need new leads to commit this year to ensure continuity of fund raising and a continuing legacy for Wolfe students. The Silent Auction has been led by Jen Kim and her team of fabulous volunteers, many of whom will no longer be Wolfe parents after this year. All interested parties are urged to contact the PAC Exec or Jen Kim directly!**

6. Vice-Chair Report – Kristin Hanlon

- MLA George Heyman has been invited to a future meeting and he has expressed his willingness to attend one before end of the school year.

7. Upcoming Events & Fundraisers

- Casino Night: Friday, March 2nd
- Silent Auction:

8. Adjournment

Moved L. Taylor	Seconded K. Stevenson	Carried
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