

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 6:30 pm

Location: General Wolfe Elementary school library

PAC MEMBERS (in order of sign-in sheet): Katie Stevenson, Susie McRae, Stephanie Willox, Stasa Jones, Lee Ann Ahrens, George Kyriakelis, Jonas Cacchioni, Kristin Rotte, Libby Taylor, George Yang, Luis Simao, Brent Nichols, Jenny Evans, Alex Fane, John & Bonnie Willmott, Jim Douglas, Peter Friedel, Caroline Bonshor, Lori Montgomery, Jennifer Smith, Stacy Kerr, Colleen von Dehn, Colleen Chan, Melissa Dangerfield, Francia Marbella, John Brodie

PAC Executive:

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

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order - Michael Nedelec

2. Approval of October 17th, 2017 minutes

Moved L. Taylor	Seconded K. Stevenson	Carried
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3. Special Guest – Janson Ho, VSB Seismic Office Director

- Wolfe feasibility study is complete. Election slowed down the process. Two additional school have been approved—Bayview and Begbie.
- Wolfe is being forwarded to government for approval. Government committed to 2030 for seismic upgrade completion. Begbie and Bayview may now become swing sites.
- Seismic process is tied to provincial budgeting cycle—budget is due Apr. 1st. Wolfe will be approved in 2018 with the new budget. Seven schools total will be put forward for next years' budget including Wolfe. Don't know where/when Wolfe is on the list, but all schools submitted will be approved. The list includes secondary schools which are much more complex than elementary schools. Some schools have to be demolished due to space limitations.
- Process start to finish takes 4 to 4 ½ years BEST CASE. Earliest approval to begin Wolfe project expected Fall 2018. Steps in the process:
 - Budget approval
 - Design – approx. 18 months
 - Permits (city) – 5 months to 1 year
 - Contracting tenders

- Back to government for check: are we on budget
- Ministry approval
- If there is another change in government the process will keep flowing because the project has already been approved.
- Expansion of Cambie corridor is being considered in Wolfe plans, along with a new school in Olympic Village.
- Don't know yet if Wolfe will be upgraded or demolished, not public info yet. All options have been submitted: Stay in Wolfe; move out; upgrade; replace; partial plan. Options per school range from 3 to 6.
- Wolfe has 3 separate areas that have been assessed. The gym and portables are relatively safe; the main building is not and will sustain the highest loss of life in the event of a major seismic event.
- Question from parents: can we put pressure on the city government to fast-track permitting? A: previous delays were due to complexity of designs.
- Janson's office meets with the city monthly and "they have a good working relationship."
- Schools are within budget 90% of the time.
- Of schools built in our era, roughly one-half are upgraded and the other half demolished.
- Further discussion after Janson left:
 - Mandate letter to speed up process?
 - If letters are to be written they should be supportive because we are so close to starting the process. The letters that the Wolfe community wrote are the reason we've been pushed to the top—don't want to jeopardize that position.
 - The earthquake early warning system is still in process with the quote moving through.

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

- It was great to see such a high turnout at parent teacher/goal setting conferences in October, it is one of the many ways parents their children here support the school.
- We had a highly successful 2 weeks of tennis at the end of October with one of the more skilled instructors we have had. He is also offering after school tennis lessons on Mondays that will run to the break.
- Play day was a great success again this year and the weather co-operated very well. It is wonderful to see the creative, collaborative ideas that the students come up with.
- We have 4 Teacher Candidates from UBC here who are just wrapping up their fall practicums and will be with us in the spring for longer practicums. It is great professional development working with these beginning teachers.
- On November 14th I held an information session on the Communicating Student Learning (reporting) pilot that all classes here are participating in. I sent an information letter home to all parents by email so everyone has the information I shared. Just a reminder that the first written reports will come home on Friday, February 2nd.
- I have been involved at the District level on numerous interview committees as a Past President of the Elementary Principals Association. Two weeks ago I was at interviews for the Director of Instruction positions, as well as away last week for the Superintendent interview. I am delighted that Suzanne Hoffman has accepted the position as Vancouver's Superintendent. She is currently the BC Ministry of Education's Superintendent for Learning Transformation, previously she as the Chief Educator (the title changed with the government), and before that was the Superintendent in Langley, where she worked to move the district out of a \$12 million deficit position. I have heard Ms. Hoffman speak at a number of BC Principals' events and have been impressed.

- Due to these interviews I was not at the Remembrance Day assembly, and I would like to thank Ms. Beeman for all her hard work organizing it, and Ms. Soper for the pop choir's contribution.
- New K registration: Some schools in Vancouver have been designated as "Full". We are one of them-we are in Tier 2 of the designation. Tier 1 is when there is a concern that all in-catchment students cannot be accommodated, and Tier 2 is when there is a concern that Cross boundary students may not be accommodated. This year we have 76 kindergarten students who will be moving up into grade 1, but only 37 grade 7 students moving on to grade 8. I am happy to talk to parents individually where this affects their family and explain more.
- And my last point is a sad one for our school community-Manuel Maderia has accepted a position at a school that is closer to home. Manuel had been a wonderful engineer here at the school (as well as a wicked floor hockey player) and will be greatly missed. His position has been posted and we should know who is replacing him in the next week or two.
- In the fall we were informed that the VSB would be giving each school \$32 of the Student Learning Grant which was announced by the government last Spring. The intermediate team has met and decided to buy sets of Social Studies textbooks which are aligned with the new curriculum and support student inquiry.

Teacher report-Ashlie Arbour-Polly and Nick Allan

- The grades 4 and 5 have had a wonderful trip to the VSO-the students greatly enjoyed the performance, and it will tie in nicely with the VSO program here at the school which will start in the New Year when Mr. Mathewson is back.
- Our volleyball teams are doing well, thanks to all the parents for driving the teams and cheering them on, and a special thanks to parent and staff coaches and drivers
- Looking forward, basketball season will start in January-if you know anyone who has the skills to coach a team or ref at games, please let Ms. Nichols or Ms. Walker know.
- Skating is booked for the end of January, February and March-thank you also for your support of this activity.
- And finally a big thanks you for the Spacenet. It has been a big hit with the students, and is a very well used addition to the playground.

5. 2017/2018 Budget and Treasurer's Report – Jamini Thakore

- Several requests put forward which were tabled except for the following motion. See 12/14 note for updated info.
- Motion to allocate \$1250 for Smart Board to replace broken one for Ms. Seger's room:

Moved L. Taylor	Seconded K. Stevenson	Carried
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6. Chair Report and update – Michael Nedelec

- Michael requested MLA Heyman to attend Jan. PAC meeting.
- Thanks to Stasa Jones for \$733 donation from Coast Capital.

7. Vice-Chair Report – Kristin Hanlon

8. Upcoming Events & Fundraisers: QSP, Frozen Foods, Purdy Chocolates

9. Adjournment