



GENERAL WOLFE PAC

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – April 14, 2015

Attendees:

PAC EXECUTIVE	
Michael Nedelec, Chair	Monica Luu, Vice-Chair
Harold Schellekens, Treasurer	Yori Lue-Kim, Secretary
ADMINISTRATION/TEACHERS	
Susan Nichols, Principal	Ms. Thomas, Ms. Collins
PAC MEMBERS	
Libby Taylor	Jen Kim
Tamara Litke	Dawn Dunkerley
Blair Wilson	May Ke
Dave Dunkerley	Harvey Chiang

These minutes are reflected in the order of the agenda.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Approval of February 17, 2015 Minutes

Motion to adopt the Minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting with the above mentioned correction.

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (J. Kim)	Carried
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3. Administration Report

Principal Report - Susan Nichols:

VSB budget consultations start this evening. The majority of the cuts have been kept from the classroom but continue to erode the support available to teachers and the maintenance of building infrastructure. Dates for giving a response to the proposals are April 15th at Mount Pleasant School at 7 pm and April 16 at 8 pm at the VSB. Written submissions must be made to the VSB 2 days in advance. This year the final budget will be not be passed at on April 30th as the province has appointed a special consultant, whose report must be considered before the budget can be passed, so that will extend the process until the end of June. A final budget pending the report will be completed by the end of April so that schools can be given staffing at the beginning of May. Currently, there are no teacher layoffs, but there will be staff who are surplus to their site (if there are more teachers than jobs at a particular school they will be

considered surplus and if they don't get another job will work as employees on call). There is expected to be an increase in elementary numbers and a decrease in secondary students, so this will hit secondary schools especially hard. Here at Wolfe we may be affected by a plan to combine band and music prep. We are still waiting a board proposal on this idea as at the moment it would not reduce the amount of time needed as the grade 6/7 students would still need to be split into junior and senior band due to different skills, and the question of instrument fees has yet to be addressed, as the board would need to consider how to provide instruments if band was compulsory. The consultation dates are on the VSB website.

I have started compiling the data from term 2 report cards, and working with Ms. Thomas in preparation for the School Goal setting day April 27. The SPC has set a time to meet after that to review the progress and the staff's goals for next year.

General Wolfe has finally been upgraded to the new fibre optic network for the wifi. Telus has done its share of the work, and this Thursday the VSB IT team is to come in and do the final steps so we can access the higher speed internet

We are delighted to share with you that the Welcome to Kindergarten team here at the school, Wendy Cameron, Cathy Thomas, Arnhild Hognestad, Kelly Lee, Ashlie Arbour-Polley, Robyn Fenydi, Jenn Thomson and Ravinder Jassal have won a national award from the learning partnership for the excellence of their Welcome to Kindergarten program. This award will be presented at the Community Appreciation event.

Thank you to the PAC executive for all their work on the budget for next year, especially Harold for all his time in compiling the numbers and speaking to the key people, and Michael for his advice and vision.

Vice Principal Report - Cathy Thomas:

We need to submit to the VSB the fees we intend to charge next year. There will be the usual \$25 levy for school fees charged by the board, a \$5 fee for performances if that is approved as part of our budget tonight, \$7.50 approximately for agendas.

We have busy unpacking new art supplies and gym equipment that have been purchased with the support of the PAC. We appreciate the ability to have quality supplies due to your support

FSA results went home with students after Spring Break. Marks did not indicate if students wrote the whole exam

We are starting to plan for sports day-we will be starting at 9:00 on Thursday May 14 and running the day right through lunch and completing the day's activities by 2:00pm. Spare Time has confirmed they can accommodate students at that dismissal time.

Ready set learn event Wednesday, April 22 at Hillcrest- 3 and 4 year olds with parents-community event for Wolfe, Brock and Fraser catchment areas.

Mr. Smathers' salmon will be released at the end of the month

The Child Run is coming up in June starting at BC Children’s Hospital. There is a school team for all families interested.

Teacher Report - Sarah Collins:

- Congratulations to Ms. Thomas who has completed her Master’s degree!
- Track and field teams start training this week- expect about nearly quarter of school to be involved- thanks to six staff members for coaching- Swanguard meet on Tuesday June 9th- thanks to PAC for funding the bus
- Night of Bands at Tupper- on Tuesday May 5th organized by Curtis Mathewson
- Spring Concert May 28th at 1:15 and 7
- Parent teacher conferences April 27 and 28
- Drama Club has started and will be presenting a play on social responsibility on June 19, 2015. Any parent help with this production is welcome and appreciated.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Harold presented the highlights of the financial position as of March 31, 2015. It is estimated that there may be surplus of approximately \$19,000 of revenue above expenses at the end of the school year. If that is the case, the \$19,000 will be added to the playground/seismic fund that is currently at \$24,000. Harold is requesting that all expenses requiring reimbursement are submitted by May 29, 2015 so that he can complete the year end banking.

Harold presented the 2015/16 budget. Harold, Michael and Susan Nichols have spent a lot of time reviewing parent fund requests, teacher fund requests in conjunction with the anticipated fund raising and the results of the family survey. The top areas of interest from the survey are arts and music.

The PAC welcomes the opinion of those families who feel that extra-curricular activities are the only area for PAC fundraising. However, the reality at this time is that fundraising is needed to support programs and activities that many feel are “needs” and not just “wants”. Any parents who would like to assist the PAC in engaging politicians, the VSB and Ministry of Education in a dialogue about current and future funding, please contact Michael Nedelec to coordinate these efforts.

A healthy and fruitful dialogue took place regarding the proposed budget. It was noted that teacher requests for technology were culled based on survey results. Request for Earthquake kits for each classroom (tools to help survival, escape in case of an earthquake) were delayed until further investigation of parent interest. A request for a full classroom (15) set of microscopes has been considered a priority.

Please see the attached draft budget. This budget will be on the agenda for approval at the May 12, 2015 PAC meeting.

Motion to reallocate funds from the 2014/15 budget, line item Science Club - \$750, to be used to purchase additional microscopes immediately as no science club was formed in 2014/15.

Moved (D. Dunkerley)	Seconded (L. Taylor)	Carried
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5. Family Surveys

Thank you to everyone who participated in the family survey. We received 126 responses and on average, 19 minutes was spent completing the survey.

Please check out the family survey results on the school website at <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/wolfe/Parents/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>

6. Upcoming Events

The two biggest fundraisers of the year are happening in the coming four weeks. Your support is greatly appreciated by the PAC, the school and the kids!

- **Silent Auction – April 23, 2015**

Jen Kim welcomes everyone to attend this adult event on the evening of Thursday, April 23. Childcare will be provided – please confirm if you require childcare. There is an auction program that details the almost \$20,000 worth of items for auction. We need as many attendees as possible so everyone can take advantage of the great items up for auction!

- **Walk-a-thon – May 22, 2015**

Jennifer West is coordinating the Walk-A-Thon this year and needs several volunteers to make it a successful event. The more volunteers, the smoother things go and the less work for everyone! Please see the attached matrix for the volunteers required and the time commitment for each task. Please contact Jennifer West regarding volunteering for this event.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Moved (T. Litke)	Seconded (L. Taylor)	Carried
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