



# GENERAL WOLFE PAC

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 13, 2015

### Attendees:

<b>PAC EXECUTIVE</b>	
Michael Nedelec, Chair	Monica Luu, Vice-Chair
	Yori Lue-Kim, Secretary
<b>ADMINISTRATION/TEACHERS</b>	
Susan Nichols, Principal	Mr. Mathewson, Music Teacher
<b>PAC MEMBERS</b>	
Libby Taylor	Ziad Alam
Colleen von Dehn	Alan Rentz
Grant Brumpton	Alena Straka
Blair Wilson	May Ke
Gil Stav	

These minutes are reflected in the order of the agenda.

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

### 2. Approval of November 18, 2014 Minutes

Motion to adopt the Minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting with the above mentioned correction.

<b>Moved</b> (L. Taylor)	<b>Seconded</b> (A. Rentz)	<b>Carried</b>
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### 3. Administration Report

Susan Nichols reported the following:

*December feels long ago, but I don't want to miss saying a BIG thank you for the parental support of all the initiatives that took place, very successfully, between the Christmas drive, the candy grams the winter concert and the sing along.*

*Basketball is getting underway and I am very grateful to all the teacher sponsors and parent coaches and drivers.*

*FSA exams for grade 4 and 7 students will be in February and a letter from the VSB should be going home to students in those grades this week.*

*Organization plans for next year are just starting. We have 43 catchment kindergarten students registered, and students have until the end of the month to register. We will probably lose some of those students to French Immersion as the lottery for that program is in mid-February. I know of a few cross boundary siblings (but official cross boundary registration has not yet started). We are designated a "full" school and I have to work with the Director of Instruction, David Nelson, before accepting any cross boundary students. As well, this year we will be working with the VSB to ensure that all the students at Simon Fraser have a spot for kindergarten. There are almost 80 registered K's there with space for only 40 to 50.*

*Each year the VSB is required to submit the following year's calendar to the Ministry of Education by the end of March. This will be posted to the VSB website for parent feedback once approved by the Trustees. I will send out the link for parents when it is available as well as share the dates with parents when they become official. As the VSB is projecting a deficit again next year, I am guessing the two week Spring break will continue, but the NPA did mention no school closures as one of their election items, so I recommend that people wait to see before booking extended holidays.*

*I have been in touch with Chris Atkinson, one of the Facilities staff involved with the seismic upgrades for the district. He has reported that Wolfe is included in a group of schools that were scheduled to begin a Project Definition Report in January 2015. They are still completing the 8 PDR's that were scheduled for January to June 2014 so the next group of projects, including Wolfe, has been delayed to September 2015.*

*As well, I have been in touch with principals from a few schools in regard to their playground costs and some general information. I will be working with Grant Brumpton on this important project.*

*Related to the school goal, Wolfe has purchased the math program "Reflex" and it is being used in many classes to help build student math fact fluency. We appreciate parent support for this program at home.*

*Issues have arisen with the primary grades playing and trading Pokemon and Yugioh cards and we are thinking of banning these toys from school for grades K to 3.*

*Many projects are coming up: skating; articulation with the high schools; variety of field trips booked; the Pink Day dance. The Spirit Team is up and running and are looking forward to Spirit Day later this month.*

*Wendy Cameron brought in author Dan Bar-el who put on a highly successful workshop on graphic novels with our grade 6 and 7 students.*

*Earlier today we had CTV and Global news on site. They were interviewing the School Board Chair, Christopher Richardson, about a proposed cost savings program involving selling school assets and leasing them back. Wolfe was chosen for the place of the interview as Mr. Richardson was already on site filming a group of kindergarten students for a physical literacy promotion.*

*Mr. Mathewson provided an overview of the current music program using Marimbas and other instruments. He demonstrated the use of one of the marimbas. He is currently using the Orff method, which is a music technic commonly used with children which simplifies them music and allows for accessibility for all ages and levels.*

*Wolfe currently has six marimbas, two additional instruments are being built and mallets will also be delivered shortly. Mr. Mathewson is hoping to obtain two more marimbas in the future along with a few other instruments, such as xylophones (\$300 to \$600 each).*

Mr. Mathewson emphasized the value of music education:

- Development of life skills
- Teamwork, repetition, breaking down learning into “chunks”
- Social emotional benefit – learning and performing in a non-competitive environment

He sees the primary grades one time a week and the grade 4/5s two times a week. He is currently working three days a week at Wolfe.

#### **4. Treasurer’s Report**

In Harold’s absence, Michael presented the highlights of the financial position as of December 31, 2014.

- Frozen foods raised \$1,000
- Direct drive raised \$8,600
- No jewelery night this year – looking of an event lead for next year

The 2015/16 budget process will start at the February 2015 meeting where the process will be explained and forms for fund requests will be distributed. In the meantime, Susan Nichols will follow up with teachers regarding funds not yet spent and Harold will follow up with parent event leads regarding funds not yet spent.

#### **5. Direct Drive/Playground Discussion**

A discussion took place regarding the fundraising goal for the playground. A parent raised a valid concern that the amount of the expenditure may not be justified and that alternatives need to be considered.

Grant Brumpton gave a presentation with regard to the VSB requirements for school playgrounds and a variety of options for equipment at various price points. The presentation was helpful to better understand the funds required to purchase different size and style of playground structures. The link to the presentation is attached below. It was agreed that further input from the students and parents is required. Grant will work with Susan Nichols to survey the students and Michael will spearhead the development of a survey for parents.

Link to playground presentation: [http://ftp.pwlparkpartnership.com/vNbro\\_mx9kWXgR](http://ftp.pwlparkpartnership.com/vNbro_mx9kWXgR)

#### **6. Upcoming Events**

- **Casino Night –Friday, January 23, 2015**

The casino committee has been working hard to provide a fun adult experience for Wolfe families and friends. The Casino night will be held at the Anza Club at Ontario Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. There will be a cash bar, craps table, black jack, poker and roulette. Don’t be intimidated if you are not an experienced gamer, this is a fun social night to get together and catch up with friends. There will be bidding on some great prizes at the end of the night. Thank you to Nester’s who is the titled sponsor and to all other businesses in the community who have donated a set of great prizes.

- **Social Emotional Parent Talk – Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30 – 8:00**

“Ways to Help Children Become Less Anxious and More Connection” - A great presentation from an Expressive Art Therapist who has a focus in dealing with anxiety in children. **Please contact Libby to confirm your need for childcare.**

- **Grant Writing Committee** – meeting Friday mornings. Volunteers needed. Contact Michael Nedelec for specific location and times.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.

<b>Moved</b> (B. Wilson)	<b>Seconded</b> (L. Taylor)	<b>Carried</b>
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