

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Visit www.generalwolfepac.ca



Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 14th – 6:30 pm

Location: General Wolfe Elementary school library

Meeting Minutes

PAC Members (in order of sign-in sheet)

Colleen Von Dehn, Nicola Gubbins, Jennifer Coleman, Libby Taylor, S. McRae, Marilyn Kynaston, May Ke, Jenny Evans, Susan Spruston, Stasa Jones, John Kim

PAC Executive:

- Michael Nedelec, Chair
- Jaimini Thakore, Vice Chair
- Harold Schellekens, Treasurer
- Monica Luu, Secretary

Administration:

- Susan Nichols, Principal
- Rose Thomas, Vice Principal

These minutes are reflected in the order of what was discussed.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm.

2. Approval of May 10th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes:

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (C. Von Dehn)	Carried
--------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------

3. Administration Report

Susan Nichols, Principal Report

Each year as we get to June I am once again amazed at how much has been done, and how much is still happening! I would like to give a special thank you to the PAC executive for their time, and support it has been wonderful to work with such a dedicated and talented group.

The PAC has successfully carried out many successful fun-raisers- the Silent Auction, Walkathon, The Poker night, frozen food sales and other events. The PAC has also supported the school in a myriad of ways-monthly fruit deliveries, Social and Emotional Learning presentations and activities, new kindergarten parent meeting, Community Appreciation, new marimbas, skating, performances, class parents, and in school volunteers. All of these events enrich the students' lives here and help to build a strong sense of community.

Things are still unsettled at the Board level-the budget is still in the hands of senior management as it has not been passed by the board. The board has until June 30th to pass a budget, at which point if a budget has not been passed by the board, the next decisions are up to the ministry. The Superintendent has a duty to move forward with decisions that allow the district to meet its payroll and financial obligations, so the proposed cuts have been implemented. There have been a few funding announcements since the initial budget-gifted staffing has been re-instated, as well as 10 of the 22 extra clerical positions. Zahra will now be with us one day a week. As well, the Long Range Facility Plan is a big item on the board's horizon. On Monday all schools will be having a staff meeting to share the list of schools that are being considered for closure, and the schools being impacted by extra students. In the creation of the list many factors were considered, including long range projections of population, special district programs, walking distances within catchments and the number of schools the population would have to be broken up over. The elementary schools on the consideration list have a population that will fit into just 1 or 2 nearby schools, the high schools will need to be split more ways. This list will become public at Monday night's meeting.

Staffing is underway for next year. Ms. Wallace and Mr. Allan are finishing up their temporary assignments here. We have no retirements, but due to budget cuts we are losing our vice-principal despite enrolling over 400 students, and Ms. Thomas has been re-assigned to Lord Nelson Elementary. We will also have fewer support staff next year due to a reduction in the number of special needs students-we will only have 6 SSW, and Ms. Lakhrisa Hatch and Ms. Tania Sehra will both be going to other schools. We wish all the staff the very best in their new assignments. We have a few new staff members who will be joining us-Ms. Christine Oades will be here in a grade 1 position, and we are currently interviewing for a 2nd grade 1 teacher. As well, Mr. Mathewson will be here full time next year working both as a music prep and resource teacher.

We had both a very success ultimate and track and field season. We had many athletes participate in both events season's finals, and appreciate the coaches and sponsors work with the students. As well, we had a great Spring Concert on May 30th and I would like to thank the staff of the divisions involved, as well as all the staff who were hard at work behind the scenes. As always, we are very lucky to have Mr. Mathewson here to coordinate it all. And finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Harold Schellekins and Monica Luu who giving up their positions on the Exec this year, and the rest of the PAC executive for all they have done again this year.

Discussion on school closures and capacity took place. Currently have funding instability, linked to inflation.

Parent Question: can a school in South East Vancouver (that may close) be a swing site?

Response: some of the schools that will be closed could be a swing space. Have to go through the process to close schools and decide which should be swing sites.

Rosemary Thomas, Vice Principal Report

Students are fine tuning their dance moves and singing voices for the upcoming Talent Show. This week has been very busy for the students and they are all eager to perform for their peers. The show will be on Friday in the gym after lunch. While the show is for the student body, there will be a three rows of chairs at the back if parents wish to see their children perform.

There are many items looking for their home in the Lost and Found. Some of these items are outside the office, with the rest by the south door. All unclaimed items will be donated on July 4th .

It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of parents as yourselves. From my first visit this time last year at the PAC AGM to the numerous events that the PAC has organized, there truly has been a sense of community and camaraderie at Wolfe. You enjoy one another's company and work towards making Wolfe the outstanding school that it is today. Teachers and administrators alike wish for a school like this where the students as well as the parents are committed to learning and the greater good for all.

While I am saddened that I have only had one year at Wolfe, I take with me the many memories of working in a community where everyone takes care of each other.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your children.

Rosemary told us a little bit about Lord Nelson where she will be next year. Lord Nelson is going through seismic.

4. Playground Update

- Survey will be sent out in September 2016 and put out for a vote on playground
- We will execute a playground to keep our commitment from fundraising.
- We will keep on top of the VSB to stick with November 2016 date for decision on seismic. We will have more information in November 2016.
- Aiming to have \$100,000 for playground.
- New Riley Park playground coming up. Little Mountain Neighborhood playground – oriented for 4-6 year olds. We are blessed to have a number of playgrounds in this area

5. **Nesters fundraising Grade 6/7 camping trip:** \$414 plus all the points were raised for Grade 6/7 camping trip. Nesters matched the points.

6. Treasurer's Report

Harold discussed we are on track for expenses that are coming in. We had a total of \$10,800 raised from Developers/Realtors. For the 2015/2016 year, with the Revenue minus Expenditures, we have a surplus of close to \$36,000. There are currently funds available for the playground.

Harold will work with Jaimini to transition the Treasurer role. (Jaimini is the Treasurer for the 2016/2017 year.)

7. Presentation by EarthBites

- This program is currently in 6 schools, started 2007

- It's a side business of Rocky Mountain Flatbread, educating/connecting kids about food with nutrition
- Team = group of nutritionists, urban farmers, sustainability in crafting
- They will work with you on how to make school garden as productive as possible. They would work with the VSB to get kids working in garden. Fall: garlic, greens, broccoli, build hoops and grow until November. Spring flurry of activity for feast at end of year.
- Make crafts with things from garden like making rosemary salts and bath salts. Connect kids with foraging.
- Winter months – crafting and sell at winter markets and money goes back to garden to buy soil, seeds, etc.

Options for signing up:

- Partnership with school and they come in once per week, 3 classes per week and over a course of year, see every classes 5 times.
- Workshop: cost per student \$8 per kid and come in. In garden or inside. Dependent on season. Fall might be a preserving workshop. Spring could do homemade soda workshop.
- Cost – 17 divisions would be \$14,000 for the year maximum. Can start slower. Depends on keenness and interest.
- Wolfe has 5 large garden beds. 7 bed are approx.. 4x4 square and then a little patch outside of gym. We have irrigation using hoses.
- This year there are 12 divisions planting. 11 divisions currently have something in gardens. Each division has their own bed/space and chose what they wanted to plant.
- Next step: Libby Taylor to liaise with teachers and come up with proposal with PAC in September. Workshop could be an option.

8. Discussions

Discussion: Tired of cuts to education? Here is what you can do to help!

Go to **Families Against Cuts to Education** <https://facebc.wordpress.com/>

Go to **Parent Advisory Network For Public Education:** <http://www.panvancouver.ca/>

Hot lunch Program

- **Update as of June 23rd:** Hot Lunch Program has been discontinued due to our participation numbers not meeting the 125 students a month baseline needed to make the program self-supporting. We have increased participation since earlier in the year, but the highest monthly participation was 105 students, well short of the 125 needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (J. Coleman)	Carried
--------------------------	------------------------------	----------------