



GENERAL WOLFE PAC

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 12, 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. Andrews
PAC MEMBERS	
Libby Taylor	Kate Martinez
Gil Stav	May Ke
Ian Luu	

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 April 14, 2015 Minutes

Motion to adopt the Minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting with the above mentioned correction.

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (I. Luu)	Carried
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3. Administration Report

Principal Report - Susan Nichols:

It has been, as always, a busy month. Last week the Fraser Institute came out with its rankings, which Wolfe did not appear on last year. As we have a very low participation rate, we do not do well in the rankings. This year we had 11 out of 46 grade 4 students write the test, and 8 out of 50 write grade 7's write the test. The Foundations Skills Assessments (FSA tests) are provincially mandated, but children can be exempted by schools for reasons such as Ministry Designation or ESL. As well, the elected Vancouver School Board sends a letter home to parents which explains the tests and allows parents to exempt students on the grounds of family emergency, illness or extenuating circumstance. The school exempted three special needs students and one ESL student this year, the rest of the students were exempted by parents, who did not wish to have their children participate for a variety of reasons. One point of view was shared by Sarah Collins in the Huffington Post:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/pj-sarah-collins/christy-clark-bc-teachers_b_7229176.html?utm_hp_ref=canada-british-columbia

Of the students who wrote the test, not all completed both sections of each test area, which is not separated from the children who wrote both parts and did not achieve well (we usually have a few

students who only remember the letter from their parents once we start to write the tests). Overall, we had too small of a sample to reflect the school's achievement, but did have several students achieving "exceeding" across the three disciplines, as well as some children 'not yet meeting expectations", which is what we were expecting given our evaluations of where the students are performing.

The VBE budget has passed with a few cuts affecting the schools. One of the cuts that did pass affects us here at Wolfe directly, and that is the removal of the district band allocation. Part of Mr. Mathewson's time here has been as a music teacher for when teachers get their preparation time, but part of the time (4 periods a week) has been district allocated band time. As a result of that cut, we will still have Mr. Mathewson with us for the same amount of time (as we are able to increase his teaching time here by those 4 periods), but that comes out of the teacher prep allocation time. As band students come from different classes, it is very complex to continue to offer a choice program of band. Some schools are making it so all grade 6 and 7 students are offered band, some schools are reverting to a music program for the whole class. We are hoping to use platooning (groupings of students) to continue to offer a senior band within the school day, and a junior band before school two mornings days a week. We will keep you informed as our plans move forward and the final VSB budget is passed at the end of June.

Also, final staffing allocations have been given to the school and we are sitting at a slightly lower allocation than last year, which means slightly less resource teacher time. School organization is in the process of being determined (as long as the student enrollment stays about the same) and next year the school will be all combined classes in the intermediate grades and a combination of multi-grade and straight grades in the primary classes. The school calendar for next year has also been completed, and will be sent home this week by email.

At the end of April, pro-D day staff again worked on the school growth plan. We are continuing with the math goal, with a focus on fact fluency and the reading and understanding of mathematical instructions, and with the district wide aboriginal enhancement goal. I have also met with Kate Martinez and Virginia Hong, the School Planning Council Representatives to review the goals and organization, and appreciate their thoughts and suggestions.

We are all looking forward to the Walkathon and Sports Day-please keep your fingers crossed for good weather! Thank you to Harvey Chiang, Jennifer West and their teams of volunteers for all their work on these events.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the Community Appreciation event May 21st. It is from 3-5 in the library, with babysitting for school aged children available by RSVP. This year it will be a special celebration as two winners of national prizes will be honoured by the Learning Partnership: the Wolfe School team is receiving the team award, and District Director of Instruction (and past Wolfe Principal) Denise Johnson is receiving the individual award.

Floor ball instruction and lunch time play will start for grades 2 to 5 in the coming weeks.

Teacher report – Ms. Andrews:

Ms. Andrews read a lovely poem written by one of her students.

Earlier this month we had a very successful night of Bands at Tupper, and a great school wide music assembly. Mr. Mathewson for his organization.

Track and field is underway-thank you to the parent and teacher coaches, as well as our volunteer coach from the UBC Thunderbirds.

We enjoyed meeting with parents to celebrate the student's work at the open houses/conferences last month. Attending these conferences is a great way to support your child's learning.

4. Treasurer's Report

Harold presented the highlights of the financial position as of April 30, 2015:

- Silent Auction raised \$18,000
- Six microscopes have been ordered as per motion made at last meeting
- Computers have been ordered as per technology budget
- Scholarships for Tupper and Eric Hamber secondary schools will go ahead as in past years

Harold presented the 2015/16 budget and highlighted the changes made since the first draft was presented at the April 2015 PAC meeting:

- Revenue from QSP Magazine sales was changed to \$2,600
- Craft Club budget was reduced by \$50 as the school was given a \$50 gift certificate to Dollarama
- Miscellaneous items budget was changed to \$1,000
- VSO budget was changed to \$2,750
- Earthquake classroom kits – no parent interest at this time, need help for next year to research sourcing/purchasing of materials

Motion to approve the 2015/16 PAC budget as presented at this meeting.

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (I. Luu)	Carried
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5. Upcoming Events

Walk-a-thon – May 22, 2015 – have a new parent lead for next year (Zoe Whitaker)

Wolfe Days at Nesters Market – Nesters store manager, Steve, offered General Wolfe an opportunity to fundraise during the customer appreciation day on May 24, 2015. Perhaps this is a good opportunity for grade 6/7 for kayaking in 2016 and/or the Stepping Up ceremony. Interest in teacher/parent participation to organize will be investigated.

PAC Elections – Michael, Harold and Monica will be running for election for the 2015/16 school year. There will be one vacation position. However, any parent is eligible to run for any position. The elections will be held at the PAC AGM on June 9, 2015 (followed by a regular PAC meeting).

Silent Auction – the organizing team for the Silent Auction is looking for new members as many of the current team are ready to step down. If you are interested, please contact Michael Nedelec or Jen Kim.

Grant Writing, Funding – Help is needed with future grant applications. In addition, the PAC will write a letter to the VSB and the Hon. P. Fassbender with regard to the PACs disappointment with the low level of funding provided. Ms. Nichols' budget for discretionary spending is approximately \$60 per child which is ridiculously inadequate to provide the technology and supplies to prepare our children for the future.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Moved (M. Ke)	Seconded (L. Taylor)	Carried
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