



GENERAL WOLFE PAC

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 15, 2015

Attendees:

PAC Executive:

- Michael Nedelec, Chair
- Harold Schellekens, Treasurer
- Monica Luu, Secretary

Administration:

- Susan Nichols, Principal
- Rosemary Thomas, Vice-Principal
- Carla Friesen, Teacher

PAC Members (in order of sign-in sheet):

Sarah Weber, Donna Rayner, Jenny Evans, Debbie Leboe, Ian Luu, Julie Nchols, Mary McCullum, Libby Taylor, Kate Martinez, Jennifer and Steve Coleman, Jessica Jackson, Kathy Yoshida, Alice Warren, Glynn Banwagen, Behnaz Tehrani-am, Marilyn Kynaston, Ulf Von Dehn, Natalie Markowitz, Serena Verma, Jaimini Thakore, Harvey Chiang, Mae Toor, Susan Degway, Tamara Murray, Emily Lee, Michelle Rainer, Kyle Robertson, Meghan Hunter, Colin Wang, Suzie Polzin, Susie McRae, Grant Brumpton, Ricci Chang, Gil Stav, May Ke, Dawn Dunkerley, Dave Dunkerley, Alana Rentz, Jen Kim, Patricia Tait, Kristy Whittaker.

These minutes are reflected in the order of the agenda.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

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

2. Approval of June 9th, 2015 Minutes

Motion to adopt the Minutes of the June 9th, 2015.

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (K. Whittaker)	Carried
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3. Chris Atkinson – District Principal

- General Wolfe is scheduled to begin the BC Seismic Mitigation Program in the fall of 2015. There are four phases to the program: structural testing (performed in 2004 and 2012), Project Definition Report (one year), Design Development (one year), and Construction (two to four years).
- The goal of the Project Definition Report is to determine if the buildings should be replaced, renovated or a hybrid of these two option. The Annex, Gym and main GWE building have each been assessed separately
- The Vancouver Project Office (VPO) is forming. This is a partnership between the BC Ministry of Education and the Vancouver Board of Education. The staff have been hired: a new Director was hired in

April; 4 project managers are currently in place and 4 more will start in October; additional accounting and purchasing staff will begin in October also.

- It is hoped that the VPO will expedite the overall process. Specifically the time for approval at each stage of the projects should be reduced.
- Vancouver has a lot of the buildings requiring seismic mitigation. Twenty projects have been completed, 24 are underway, and there are 20 more to do.
- Once our school is in the 3rd phase of construction, it will be extremely disruptive so students either:
 - Move to other school locations
 - Move into temporary accommodation
- An Ernst and Young Audit asked the school board to do what it could to get 95% capacity in each district. We have spaces in district. The Ministry has stopped paying for temporary accommodation (i.e. portables) in Seismic Mitigation Projects because there is still space in Vancouver schools.
- The size of the new school is determined by the long term enrollment projection. A formula determines the space for each specific area: classrooms, gym, library, multipurpose room.
- The advantage to renovating the current General Wolfe building is that we will keep all of the current space.
- A rebuild will provide us with a smaller school that is approximately 80% of the our current size.
- Siblings may be together or separated during the temporary relocation when school is being renovated. Both have been done in the past and it depends on what is available and timing of other projects.
- Queen Mary has portables and a portable gym
- L'ecole Bilingue and General Gordon are being bused to other sites
- Parents can also go to the VSB website for more information on seismic upgrades. There is general information on the process and specific information to each project at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/seismic-information>
- Susan Nichols has been in the enrollment management plan and General Wolfe is forecasted to be able to handle overflow. Cross boundary students will be accepted as long as there is enough space during the next few years for in-catchment students. Susan is working with the Director of Instruction who will direct how many cross boundary students can be accepted. Enrollment is expected to rise.
- Chris Atkinson is happy to return as often as requested to speak more at PAC meetings on the seismic upgrade

4. Administration Report by Susan Nichols, General Wolfe Elementary School Principal

It has been wonderful to have a 'regular' start to the school year. A big thank you to the PAC for all that has happened since school has started-Natasha Patton for a great Welcome back event, and for getting the fruit and veggie program up and running, I know Dawn Dunkerley has organized for the QSP drive to start and Halloween dance planning is underway, Kristy Whittaker and her team are making plans for Walkathon, Kate Martinez for is working on the PAC class rep email list up, and Grant Brumpton has been working to guide us through the playground process. As well, I would like to say a big thank you to Michael for his work on all these projects, Harold for his attention to detail in keeping the accounting all updated and communicated to us, and Monica for her work on the newsletters.

Staff Update-delighted to say that Nick Allan in the Grade 2/3 position has been confirmed for the year. Emma Barrios is with us in div. 17 until Ms. Jassal returns from her leave in November, and Ms. Rogers is here until Ms. Segers returns from her mat leave in October. We do have a posting for the position that Ms. Wallace is covering-the grade 1. Div. 14 position. The posting closes next Monday and I am hopeful that Ms. Wallace will get the position. If not, we will work to ensure a smooth transition.

One change this year is that we have lost our funding for a band program. Band is now within the timetable and part of the schedule where teachers receive their prep time. This has made for some very complex platooning at the grade 6/7 level which may not be sustainable over the years. As a result, we are running band only at the grade 6/7 level (sr. band and Jazz band). We are lucky to have an excellent music program here at Wolfe separate from band, with marimbas and Orf instruments purchased with support of the PAC, but the district cuts to band funding have impacted us.

The upcoming Pro-D day in September is a day that we will be working on the school math goal. We are having a guest speaker from SFU who was found with help from Virginia Hong, one of the School Planning Council members (SPC). We are looking forward to this day.

We have planned a fire drill and earthquake drill, and are preparing for a Code Red drill (lockdown) within the next month. If there is an emergency where we need to evacuate the school, we would assemble off site at General Brock School.

We had a successful Terry Fox run last Friday-many thanks to the parents who came out and cheered on the runner!

Our Sports teams are up and running-we had enough soccer players to make one Sr.girls team. Teachers have started planning for the cross country season, which is always one of my favourite sports as students are all working towards personal bests. Stay tuned for more information if your child is in grades 3-7.

Teacher Report by Carla Friesen:

Grades 1-3 Math focus will be on number sense to ensure students are fluent with counting forwards and backwards and how numbers work.

Grades 3-5 – will target factual work using Reflex Math.

Grades 6-7 – focus on multiplication but not using Reflex math.

Reflex math licenses are costly for lower grades and research has shown memorization factor should not be introduced too early. Reflex Math is a research based tool.

Parent raised topic on band cuts:

Interactive discussion took place regarding cuts to band and the impacts on students. Janet Fraser, Trustee from the VSB is tentatively booked for the October 2015 PAC meeting. Parents are welcomed to attend to ask more questions on this topic.

5. Treasurer's Report

In the interest of time and due to an interesting discussion on the seismic upgrade and cuts to the band program, the Treasurer's Report was postponed to the next meeting.

6. Playground replacement – Michael Nedelec

Fundraising – is critical to success of school because the provincial government gives us so little money. Letters by Michael Nedelec have been sent to Fassbender who did not respond after a number of follow ups. The new Minister Mike Bernier did respond. These letters will be posted on the PAC website page for all to read.

For the replacement playground, the plan is to also appeal to folks outside of Wolfe such as Realtors, Developers, Corporate (e.g. Vancouver Canadians, people go to games and use our playground), grants and equivalents. Developers give \$ to City but not to schools (example Hillcrest but not school). Suggestion to also canvas

students in private and preschools for donations. Companies have a community pillar, corporate social responsibility so they will be approached for donations. Debi Coll will lead this and speak on our behalf.

Our Treasurer, Harold, has set aside \$24K from 2 years ago. We can set aside another \$33K and we'd have \$57K in playground fund today! Great news!

We want to energize and raise as much as we can and spend frugally on the new playground. Any excess \$ will go to supplies/programs needed. Government is not funding computers. Parents are upset.

Playground options – Grant Brumpton presented some poster boards with illustrated options. There are 2 big suppliers in town. Cost summary \$75K - \$100K. We are steering away from green spaces with logs etc. The feedback from VSB is they prefer low maintenance and they have no money to maintain playground equipment that are higher maintenance such as the natural playgrounds. There is also a liability component. Feedback from the Wolfe students are being gathered for the playground options.

7. Upcoming Events

Kristy Whittaker - Walkathon

- Date: Oct 2nd
- No walkathon in the Spring
- Still need 40-50 volunteers to help on the day of the Walkathon
- Pledge sheets going home to families on September 18th.
- Prizes for kids
- Goal is to \$30K. Budget we have is \$13K. Last year we raised \$18K
- Everything we don't spend goes to playground this year and will go to the playground reserve.

QSP – Dawn Dunkerley

- Starting Friday, September 18th - magazines subscriptions, promote reading in family. Get your renewals in.

Other Announcements:

- Parent reps to be finalized by Friday, September 18th.
- Will take awhile to get class lists together and consent forms. If you signed up for PAC emails last year it will be assumed that you still want them this year.
- Please reach out to a PAC Executive if you want to help out Event Leads.

Vice Chair Election:

Susan Nichols facilitated the Vice Chair election: Jaimini Thakore has been elected as the 2015/2016 Vice Chair

Next PAC meeting Oct 14: goal to have Janet Fraser, our Trustee from the VSB here and a discussion on band programs

Motion to adjourn:

Moved (D. Coll)	Seconded (L. Taylor)	Carried
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