

# PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**Date:** Tuesday, April 4th, 2017 at 6:30 pm

**Location:** General Wolfe Elementary school library

**PAC Members (in order of sign-in sheet):** Harold Schelkens, Michelle Wiens, Libby Taylor, Nicola Gubbins, Kristy Whittaker, Serena Verma, Harvey Chiang, Susie McRae, May Ke

## **PAC Executive:**

- Michael Nedelec, Chair
- Katie Stevenson, Vice Chair
- Jaimini Thakore, Treasurer
- Donna Rayner, Secretary

## **Administration:**

- Susan Nichols, Principal
- Mr. Mathewson, Teacher

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

### **1. Welcome and Call to Order**

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

### **2. Approval of Feb. 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to adopt minutes:

<b>Moved</b> (D. Rayner)	<b>Seconded</b> (K.Stevenson)	<b>Carried</b>
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### **3. Administration Report by Susan Nichols, Principal, General Wolfe**

#### **Class Size Limits**

It is expected that class assignments for the 2017-18 school year will take longer this year due to the new organizational rules that was part of the Supreme Court case. As a result, the following class size limits are in place for next school year:

Kindergarten: 20 students max, no K/1 splits allowed

Grade 1-3: 22 students max

Grade 3/4: 24 students

Grade 4-7: 30 students max

Each class reduced by 2 for a multi grade class (i.e.: a Grade 4/ split is max 28)

Each class reduced by 1 for the first 2 special needs Ministry designated students, and by one more if a 3<sup>rd</sup> designated student is added.

There are class size floors of 15 in kindergarten, 17 in grades 1-3 and 24 in grades 4-12. **Although this adds some complexity to the organization of schools and classes, it does put more teachers in front of the students, which is a very good outcome**

Regarding counsellor, librarian, resource teacher time and other non-enrolling teachers, Vancouver is already in compliance with the new language, which addresses district wide ratios.

VSB budget process is starting. Susan attended a senior management consultation representing the principals, and the budget will become public Thursday night. It is anticipated this will be a far less painful process overall than last year. Rather than laying off teachers, we are most likely looking as a district at either hiring or reassigning them. The timeline for the budget process is on the VSB website.

Susan has no more information on the seismic update than discussed in previous Wolfe newsletters, although four additional schools were approved for the upgrade process. However the VSB and Ministry have approved the use of the seismic early warning system for General Wolfe (reviewed at Feb. last PAC Meeting). VSB will pay the costs involved.

The School Growth process has changed considerably. School plans are now based on the 'Spirals of Inquiry' model where we scan for areas of concern, develop plans on addressing our concerns, implement our ideas, then revisit and refine our plans over a 3 year process. We have started the scanning phase as a wrap up to the last set of report cards and an area of concern that came through in several areas was student social and emotional self-regulation and resilience. We will continue to gather data and develop our plans, and Susan will provide an update.

Sports Day will be May 19<sup>th</sup> and plans are well under way. Events will begin at 9:00 AM and run throughout the day. Spare Time is aware of the early dismissal on that day at 2PM.

Track and field teams have started training and it's expected about nearly a quarter of school to be involved- thanks to the staff members who are coaching

The Night of Bands is at Tupper on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and the event is organized by Curtis Mathewson. Note—just 10 or 11 elementary schools now have bands, which is down from 45 schools just a few years ago. Wolfe is one of the lucky schools, thanks to Mr. Mathewson!

Spring Concert is Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 and 7:00 PM. Thank you again to Mr. Mathewson and participating teachers for this event.

#### 4. Vice Chair Report – Katie Stevenson

- This is a cashless event!
- Silent Auction – Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30-9:30 PM.
- Main St. Car-Free Day – June 18, joint promo with Freybe and Nester's to raise funds for Wolfe.

### **Fruit and Veggie Program**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Natasha Patton for all of her hard work in supporting our healthy food initiatives in our school. All of our children have benefitted from your programs so thank to you for your guidance and efforts. We are currently searching of a new Coordinator for the Fruit and Veggie Program at Wolfe.

#### Job Description

There are about one dozen free produce deliveries to the school spread over the school year. Delivery dates are known in advance which makes for easier planning. The coordinator gets eight parents from a pool of volunteers to help rinse, sort & deliver the produce to the classrooms. Start to finish, each morning delivery takes approximately 30 minutes. We urge a parent/s to step up as coordinator of this program so the students can continue to get Fruit and Veggies delivered to their classrooms next year. Please contact Natasha Patton [njp.patton@gmail.com](mailto:njp.patton@gmail.com) for more information.

### **5. 2016/2017 Budget and Treasurer's Report**

Jamini reviewed the current financial position of the PAC. May is budget month for the PAC with a vote to approve next year's budget at the May PAC meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend for a better understanding of how the PAC spends the \$50,000 budget for the next school year.

A motion was put forward by Jamini to approve \$6000 of this year's budget surplus to be spent for Cloudbooks for the school.

<b>Moved</b> (L. Taylor)	<b>Seconded</b> (D. Rayner)	<b>Carried</b>
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6. May PAC Meeting – the date of the May PAC meeting will be moved to May 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the Provincial Election also being held on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

7. Adjournment

<b>Moved</b> (H Schelkens)	<b>Seconded</b> (L. Taylor)	<b>Carried</b>
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Adjourned at 7:35.