

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Visit www.generalwolfepac.ca



Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm
Location: General Wolfe Elementary school library

PAC Members (in order of sign-in sheet)

Kristy Whittaker, Nicola Gubbins, Krista Richmond, Jen Kim, Ian Richmond, Natasha Saksman, Colleen Von Dehn, Julienne Hills, Harold Schellekens, Jennifer Lum, Ninan Abraham, Harvery Chiang, Jennifer Coleman, Bibi Fehr, Debbie Leboe, Serena Verma, Libby Taylor, Debbie Leung, Robbin Simao, Colleen Chan, Karen Mok, Kristin Rotte, Stacy Kerr, Maria and Phil Gaudin, Julie and Brent Nichols, Ian Martin, May Ke, Mae Toor, Stasa Jones

PAC Executive:

- Michael Nedelec, Chair
- Katie Stevenson, Vice Chair
- Jaimini Thakore, Treasurer

Administration:

- Susan Nichols, Principal
- Amy Walker, Teacher
- Kelly Lee, 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 November 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes:

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (J. Kim)	Carried
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3. Wolfe Seismic update- Jansen Ho, Director of the Vancouver Seismic Project Office and Natasha Saksman, Manager of Project Office

The Vancouver Seismic Project Office is a joint Ministry of Education / Vancouver Board of Education undertaking, formed in 2015 to complete Vancouver seismic projects as efficiently and economically as possible. It is responsible for managing seismic Project Teams throughout the feasibility, design and construction phases. Each Project Team consists of VPO staff, school principal and consultants (architects and engineers)

They have a mandate to have all Vancouver School Seismic Projects completed by 2030 using their Capital Project Process (<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/capital-projects>)

- Project Identification- Long range facilities Plan, Project Identification Report, Capital Plan, Initial Ministry Support, Seismic Project Identification Report (SPIR)- Complete
- Feasibility- Project Definition Report (PDR)- estimated time 2 years, Ministry Support - approx. 6months-1 year
- Design- Design Development- between 1-3 years
- Construction- Project Tender and Construction- approximately 2 years.

General Wolfe has been in the Project Definition Report (PDR) phase since roughly January 2015. The projects were basically stopped when the ministry ruled that no more schools were going to be closed as the closed schools were going to be used as the flex space for schools during construction. General Wolfe's PDR is ¾ of the way through its feasibility study and is just missing the piece that states where the students are to be moved. A committee is dedicated towards the accommodation of all the Vancouver Seismic Projects. It is estimated that the feasibility study will be complete providing fully researched options and dialogue with the ministry on which option will be chosen at some point in 2017. Then there is an estimate of the Ministry taking 6months-1 year to determine option that will move forward.

What does this mean for Wolfe's Seismic Upgrade timeline?

- We are an estimated 1-1.5 years from a decision on what our project is going to be, and where we are going to move.
- Plus an estimated 1-3 years for Design
- Plus an estimated 2 years for Construction
- **TOTAL TIME TO COMPLETION OF GENERAL WOLFE SEISMIC UPGRADE: minimum 5 years, possibly much longer.**

Questions from the General Wolfe Community Answered

1) When analyzing the Provincial website — only 12.5% of seismic upgraded completed schools (20/160) are in Vancouver yet 52% of schools are in the PDR phase (22/42) and 31% of the schools yet to be addressed schools (37/118) are in Vancouver. Is the staffing level of your office sufficient to make up that tremendous lag of performance in Vancouver School Board relative to other districts? **Yes, all project positions that are needed are filled**

2) Did the suspension of the school closure process impede the seismic timeline for schools for their PDR? (Project Definition Report) **Yes, project group working to find spaces for students**

3) Where is Wolfe relative to the other schools in completion of the PDR? **Middle of pack of 22 schools**

4) At Wolfe — After a few years of missed deadlines we were told In January 2015 that our PDR would be done in 2015, in 2016 we were told it would be completed by September of 2016 — Its now January 2017 ... what is the timing now for our PDR to be completed? **Approval sometime in the next year to a year and a half, we will be updated on progress as it happens**

- 5) Who should we appeal too to hear our case? **Letters to Diane Turner, etc.**
- 6) Can VSB commit to timelines for school temporary accommodation e.g. 2017-2018 school year, i.e. How soon do we expect disruption at the school? **Timeline for temporary accommodation decisions 1-1.5 years, project design 1-3 more years then construction.**
- 7) Some school districts will advance design/ permits etc. in advance of full provincial funding approvals - will VSB do that here to accelerate the overall timelines (i.e. safer school sooner. **No advance design as it costs money for an option that might not be chosen**
- 8) If the school is heading offsite during construction, can they be kept together at one place , e.g. the South Hill swing site (as l'Ecole Bilingue did) **They know it is in the best interest of the community for the school to stay together and try hard to keep the students together but it is not a guarantee.**
- 9) If it is an upgrade (which may be fine, heritage etc.) we understand that the seismic design performance target is not the same as that of a new building. Will VSB at least study what the incremental difference would be to upgrade the structure to the same level as that of a new building? 100% seismic safety level, e.g. maybe thickening a few walls or adding a few columns might be all that is required to upgrade the building to the same level as new. **They are going to do everything they can to make sure the building doesn't collapse in the event of an earthquake that is their top priority**
- 10) Will the City commit to accelerating permit timelines in order to expedite the process? **Yes the city is working to accelerate timelines and waive permits where they can**
- 11) How many schools can they be updating at one time? **Unlimited, they can hire more people in the office to get the job done**

Next steps

- Susan Nichols to attend meetings and report back

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

Thank you

- To all parents for their support of all the December initiatives-both the new toy drive and the food bank drive were very successful

FSA exams

- Grade 4 and 7 students will start shortly and will be ongoing until February 19th.
- The school has will be excusing students where their level of English Language acquisition and or their learning needs make writing the tests inappropriate.
- Information is continuing to go home to parents
- May be the last year for this format of test, as it does not align particularly well with the new curriculum.
- Traditionally, very few students at Wolfe complete the test, which affects our school's overall results, as the percentage of test taking is part of the school's Fraser Institute rankings. As we all know, the Fraser Institute's rankings do not

tell the story of a school and a community, but it is helpful for all of you to understand why we are ranked as we are.

Organization plans for next year

- Just starting as per result of the court case,
- Not been given any information yet on what organization will look like
- Additional staffing this year goes, that process is underway, optimistic that we will be able to add additional resource support to some classes for the remainder of the year.

Calendar

- Winter holidays may be adjusted to align with other districts.
- Originally the Ministry of Education set the dates for the whole province-that stopped a few years ago, and now districts set their own dates.
- As many families have students going to school in multiple Metro districts, it makes sense to have the dates align.
- Dates will be shared with parents as soon as they become official.
- As the VSB is projecting a deficit again next year, I am guessing the 2 week spring break will continue, but I recommend that people wait and see before booking extended holidays!

Teachers report by Amy Walker

Basketball is getting underway-I am very grateful to all the teacher sponsors and parent coaches and drivers. Over 50 students are involved.

Skating is underway this week-each class will be going 3 times, and due to the great PAC support the only cost to individual students is their skate rental. Thank you for the lovely opportunity for Community fitness.

5. 2016/2017 Budget and Treasurer's Report

6. Upcoming Events & Fundraisers

- **Casino Night-** Save the Date Feb 18th
- Tickets available online <https://wolfecasino.eventbrite.ca>
- 7pm at the Anza Club
- Tickets: \$30- Ticket price includes the following: first drink, light snacks and some play money to get you started with the casino games.
- Buy your tickets before January 31st for a chance to win free babysitting that night
- Cash is not king—bring your credit card—this is a cashless event. We will have multiple square readers on site
- The theme is Casino Royale! Costumes are not required for entry...but prizes will be awarded for best male and female costumes.

7. Adjournment

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (K. Whittaker)	Carried
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Adjourned at 7:55pm.