

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018 6:30 pm
Location: General Wolfe Elementary school library

PAC MEMBERS (in order of sign-in sheet): Colleen von Dehn, Steph Willox, Libby Taylor, Kristin Rotte, Hope Walker, Julie Nichols, Harvey Chiang

PAC Executive:

- Michael Nedelec, Chair
- Kristin Hanlon, Vice Chair
- Jamini Thakore, Treasurer
- Donna Rayner Secretary

1. Welcome and Call to Order - Michael Nedelec

2. Approval of January, 2018 minutes

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| Moved L. Taylor | Seconded K. Rotte | Carried |
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3. Administration Report: Susan Nichols, Principal of General Wolfe Elementary

- Personnel Changes: Rob Schindel now an Associate Superintendent; also a new Director of instruction, Pedro DaSilva, who was the principal at John Oliver in his latest assignment. We also have full time day custodian, Herbert Zhang started on Monday. Many thanks to Tony Ma, who has been doing an outstanding job of filling in during the day, and is delighted to go back to his evenings.
- Kindergarten and new student registration have been busy this month. Wolfe is designated a 'full' school; Susan will work with the Mr. DaSilva and Mr. Schindel before accepting any Cross boundary students. Registration finished on January 31. 45 students enrolled for Kindergarten. Simon Fraser had over 100 kindergarten applications, it can accommodate 40, and had another 20 move to district programs. We will take as many as we can to end up with 3 kindergarten classes-probably about 15 additional students. Susan anticipates Wolfe will remain at 18 divisions next year. The District is anticipating a drop in enrollment next year, but we certainly are not seeing it in our neighbourhood! The cross boundary process is now underway. The school will be accepting priority Cross Boundary applications until tomorrow.
- The VSB has done a lot of work hiring, but continues to be short staffed. Here at Wolfe there have been over 27 days that either Susan or the Resource team have covered classes due to no teachers being available, and there are about another 15 days where no EOC was provided (usually for music or library) where the time was made up later. We have hired over 600 teachers in the past year, and still are short on staff. For more details please see http://www.vsb.bc.ca/sites/default/files/18_02Feb21_op_commlV_agenda.pdf (scroll down to the report from Chris Hudson).
- Susan continues to work with UBC and the VSB to get the seismic early warning system installed. The VSB has completed the electrical work with a data plug behind console and IT has been notified to make contact with Kent Johansen, the researcher. Now waiting for the production of the unit from the supplier. Janson Ho reports that the plan is to submit Wolfe Elementary to the Ministry of Education for seismic funding approval this year. The MOE has been notified of my intent and there were no objections.

- VSO Connects program: Curtis Mathewson and Susan Segers are the lead teachers for this program. As the grade 2/3's are going to the symphony on March 1st, we decided that it would make sense to have them participate in the 'ABC's of Instruments' program before Spring Break. This program involves visits by VSO musicians, who give a mini concert and then allow the students to explore each family of instruments. This unit will be done by classroom teachers.
- Another program we are doing is 'A morning at the office'. Grade 6/7 classes will visit the Orpheum, get a tour and sit in on a rehearsal in April. We also chose the 'Music in Motion' unit where Division 7 and 8 will work with a VSO musician and a choreographer to set a piece of fiction to dance-this will also take place in April. Mr. Mathewson will do the 'Composers Tool Kit unit' with the grade 5 and 6 classes-this unit will be done in May and supported by UBC school of music students. Also, there will be a 'Meet the Maestro' concert, date still to be determined by the VSO. In preparation, we get one piano a year tuned by the VSB, and have chosen to get the one in the gym tuned, hopefully before the Maestro's arrival. This is a two year program and we are hoping to engage all of the students with a program in one year or the other.
- The first of the two written reports that are part of the Communicating Student Learning pilot went home at the beginning of the month. Tomorrow night the VSB is holding a parent feedback session and invited each school to send an administrator and 2-4 parents. I will be attending with Cheryl Nedelec, Serena Verma and Libby Taylor. I am also encouraging the Board to seek wider feedback through an on-line tool-I will keep you posted!
- Camp is now booked for Sept. 24-26 at Camp Jubilee in Indian Arm (that is a Monday to Thursday). We will be taking 9 staff members, and to ensure proper supervision ratios I will be going to camp again this year (we need to provide 1 adult to each 10 students). Supervision is a bit trickier this year as we do not have student teachers in September who have helped out in past years. I really appreciate the staff's willingness to support this outdoor education opportunity. Cost is currently estimated at about \$330 a student-we have fundraised enough to bring it down to \$250 so far. Many thanks to Maryann Stuart and Kimberley Matterson for all their work. Maryann seems open to more fundraising activities, so if you have an idea I can let her know. Recently, I got a cheque for \$130 from Stongs for the points people spent there, and added that to the camp account. We will be collecting the first payment for camp of \$100 shortly, and second payment of \$100 in June and final payment (if need) in September. Last year I believe parents paid \$200 per student. PAC has budgeted \$2000 most camp years to support this event and it is greatly appreciated.
- Earlier this year we received a one time grant of \$32 a student-this was part of the \$50 a student that was announced by the Liberal government right before the election. With these funds the Intermediate teachers chose to get SS textbooks and teacher guides, the primary staff chose to get an iPad for each class, partly so they can explore electronic ways of recording and possibly sharing student learning.
- Staff will start to put together our annual PAC budget requests at the next staff meeting and get the information to Jaimini before Spring Break. I do have the results of a grade 6 who did a survey of all of the intermediate students before X-mas. Please remember that this was done before PAC paid for \$600 worth of balls that have been added to the outside equipment. His report found:
- February's social responsibility topic is Kindness again this year. Many thanks to the Humanitarian club for all their work collecting items for the Downtown Eastside Woman's shelter, and to all of the parents for supporting this event. As well, I would like to thank the many PAC members who are so kind as to share their time with us-the PAC executive, the casino and Silent auction committees, the fresh fruit group, the Social/emotional support committee, Parent ed, and all the parents who have driven on field trips, tied skates, attended meetings and supported the school in so many ways. Tomorrow we will be finishing off the month with a Pink Shirt Day assembly.
- The VSB calendar for next year was passed last night at the board meeting. I will send it out as soon as the VSB sends me the final copy so parents can start to plan. The last day before the Winter Break is Dec. 21, returning to school January 7th, and Spring break the last day is March 15th, and returning April 1.

Teachers report

- Ms. Lee reported about salmon in Mr. Smathers classroom and Owls visiting the grade 1 classes

- Ms. Walker thanked the PAC for skating, and reported that this week the senior boys and girls basketball teams start the City playoffs.

4. 2017/2018 Budget and Treasurer’s Report – Jamini Thakore

- Gaming grant received for \$7820 + Casino Night proceeds total \$11,000. Money can be used for non-curriculum based expenditures, e.g. skating.
- We are over-budget on gym equipment by \$300 and Body Science by \$400.
- Band has an allocation of \$1700, need decision on how to spend.
- Tech request for next year will include a Primary i-pad cart (price TBD) and completing class sets for intermediates.

5. Chair Report and update – Michael Nedelec

- Direct drive details will be coming soon.
- Playground update: retroactive funding unlikely. PAC putting a request forward for basketball cage, benches and other items. There is a \$5million playground fund available from the province, \$50,000 maximum per school @ 50% of total cost of playground.
- Cambie Corridor update / school sizing update – No new schools planned for our area but population expected to explode in the coming years with development of Cambie corridor. PAC Executive will be writing letters for Wolfe website to send to VSB, provincial and local governments to express concern.
- MLA Heyman to attend April or May PAC meeting.

6. Vice-Chair Report – Kristin Hanlon

- New chair needed for Silent Auction, ideally a co-lead for this year to learn the ropes from out-going Chair Jen Kim.
- Chair also needed for Casino Night.

7. Upcoming Events & Fundraisers

- Casino Night: Friday, March 2
- Next PAC meeting April 10th (subsequently changed to Apr. 4th to accommodate Mr. Heyman’s schedule)
- Silent Auction: May 3rd

8. Adjournment

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| Moved L. Taylor | Seconded K. Rotte | Carried |
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