

# PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**Date:** Tuesday, September 12th, 2017 6:30 pm

**Location:** General Wolfe Elementary school library

**PAC Members (in order of sign-in sheet):** Francia Marbella, Libby Taylor, Annie Low-Ber, Julion Prieto, Max Manley, Kristy Whittaker, Lori Montgomery, Debbie Leboe, Scott Cowie, Kristin Rotte, Nicola Gubbins, Stephanie Wilcox, Colleen Von Dehn, Doug Weiber, Lisa The, Caroline Bonshor, Gail Silverberg, Harvey Chiang, Harold Schellekens, Gil Stav, Rowena and George Young

## **PAC Executive:**

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

1. Welcome and Call to Order - Michael Nedelec
2. Approval of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes

Motion to Adopt Minutes:

<b>Moved</b> L. Taylor	<b>Seconded</b> K. Stevenson	<b>Carried</b>
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## **3. Administration Report – Susan Nichols, Principal**

- Susan began by giving a big thank you to the PAC for all that has happened since school has started, specifically--
  - Natasha Patton / Welcome Back event
  - Jenny Evans / taking over Walkathon
  - Stephanie Wilcox for getting hot lunch up and running
  - Deb Leboe for getting the PAC class rep email list up.
  - Big thank you to Michael Nedelec for his work on the playground and other projects.
- Staff Update:
  - Lisa Nordman has joined for the Grade 1 position
  - Melissa Guest is our new kindergarten teacher in Div. 18
  - Rebecca Fulton has accepted the part time kindergarten position

- Missing a long term replacement for Mr. Mathewson (thru Dec.), although position filled temporarily starting yesterday
  - Susan feels lucky to have a full complement of staff.
- Renovations proceeded at a good pace:
  - Mr. Smathers room was finished in time for the start of school
  - The new smaller staff room is ready.
  - PAC executive has kindly donated a new microwave to the staff, which is greatly appreciated.
- May not be able to get a music teacher this term, so are exploring other options such as drama. As such, we have not scheduled a winter concert yet. We will all be delighted to have Mr. Mathewson return in January.
- Many changes coming again this year at the Board level. As a district we have the upcoming Board elections. VSB is hiring a Superintendent, an Executive Director of Human Resources, an Associate Superintendent, and 2 Directors of Instruction. Susan is involved with some interview committees, as well as being on the Board of Directors of the BC Principals and Vice Principals' Association, so she will be away for the occasional day.
- For upcoming Pro-D day in September staff will review new curriculum with Linda O'Reilly, outside consultant. PLEASE NOTE: Our Pro-d day is the Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, not the Friday as noted on the VSB calendar!
- FSA (Foundation Skills Assessments) have been moved to the fall and the grade 4 and 7's are scheduled to write them between Oct. 2 and Nov. 10. Further info coming from teachers.
- Planning for the year's fire drills is underway, and first drill held on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. School was evacuated in less than 2 minutes, and had all assembled and reported in in 6 min 45 seconds. Next month there will be an earthquake drill, and we are preparing for a lockdown drill this fall. If there is an emergency where we need to evacuate the school, we would assemble off site at General Brock School.
- No seismic update since the last meeting. Since the budget has been announced and Capital school projects are an area of focus, Susan hopes we will have some more information very soon.
- We are looking forward to the Terry Fox run on Thursday. Susan appreciated everyone's flexibility last week when the air quality did not allow the event to proceed.
- Notices went home today (Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>) about Safe Arrival. Please note the phone number and email address and use them to report absences. Even if you have told the teacher about an absence, please also report it in case the teacher is away or forgets. If a child is late they will need to come to the office for a late slip so we do not think they are away.
- Staff was very excited last week to receive 64 laptops courtesy of the PAC funding. This puts us up to 15 in each intermediate classroom and a set of 24 for primary class use.

- Susan has booked the Symphony for grades 2-5; grades 4 and 5 are booked to see 'Let's Dance' on Nov. 15 and grades 2 and 3 are booked to see 'Carnival of the Animals' on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. As well, we have Robinson Crusoe by Axis Theatre booked for January 16, and Tiller's Folly, a musical group, booked October 16. Also, Tennis BC is coming to work with all the classes Oct. 23-Nov. 3.

#### **Teacher Report, Ruth Webber**

- Sports teams are up and running and there are enough soccer players to make a senior boys and a senior girls team. Teachers have started planning for the cross country season. Stay tuned for more information if your child is in grades 3-7.
- 'Meet the Teacher' night is Wed. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6PM, starting in the gym. Scholastic Book fair runs for the next two weeks. Buying books at the fair helps support our school library.
- On behalf of the staff, thanks to the PAC for the work on the playground and the laptops!
- There was quite a lot of work that went into making classes, and it was great to be able to move into classes quickly.
- Thanks to Libby for all the garden work and we are looking forward to eating some of the bounty Friday at the staff salad day.

#### **4. 2017/2018 Budget and Treasurer's Report – Jamini Thakore**

- Jamini reviewed the budget and passed out copies of the proposed budget for this year.
- Revenue and expenses are budget for \$49,400 for this school year.
- He noted that \$30,000 was transferred to the playground account this summer to pay for the new space net. There is \$58,000 in the General Fund as of today.
- Technology was the biggest PAC expense last year and we expect the same for this year.

#### **5. Chair Report and update – Michael Nedelec**

- Michael noted there are many ways to contribute to General Wolfe, most importantly with your time. We will continue to fund raise for the school's needs throughout this school year, as always.
- Michael discussed last year's school survey results and noted that our funding priorities will match what came out of that survey.
- This will include Greening the outdoor area, technology and fixing up "the cage", also known as the basketball court in the back of the school.
- Installation of the new playground structure is expected to be finished by late October. We've dedicated over \$90,000 to the new playground as of this writing.
- Vancouver by-election coming up on October 14th at City Hall. Voters will be electing one councillor and nine VSB Trustees. There will be an all-candidates meeting Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at John Oliver School from 7:00-9:00 PM. Advanced Polls are open Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. Please make sure to get out and vote for the candidates of your choice—municipal elections, and especially by-elections have a historically low turn-out.

#### **6. Vice-Chair Report – Kristin Hanlon**

- Kristin gave a further update on the playground. The PAC Exec will be organizing a “ribbon cutting ceremony” to unveil the new playground. Date TBD, pending a firm installation date.
- Discussed organizing a pizza party as part of the unveiling

**7. Upcoming Events & Fundraisers**

- Katie Stevenson discussed upcoming events/fundraisers and encouraged all interested parents to volunteer for any or all events. Katie manages the many volunteers and stressed the importance of having enough volunteers to contribute their time for a successful school year.
- We currently need class reps for 3 of the 4 Kindergarten classes—only Ms. Goldberg’s class has a rep. Please contact Debbie Leboe if you are interested in being a class rep for K or Ms. Oades’ class (Grade 1).
- Upcoming events:
  - September 29<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night, 6:00-8:00 PM.
  - Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> – Walkathon, 9:00 AM
    - 50 volunteers needed
    - Please contact Kristy Whittaker or Jenny Evans to volunteer
  - October 17<sup>th</sup> - PAC Meeting, 6:30 PM
  - October 25-26<sup>th</sup> – Family Photo Portraits
  - Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> - Halloween Dance – this is NOT a drop-off event, all students must be accompanied by a parent.
  - October 31<sup>st</sup> – QSP Magazine Fundraiser Kick-off.
  - Lori Striegler Montgomery raised the possibility of a ski club for Grade 4/5’s. She and her husband Ryan Montgomery will be organizing it. Stay tuned for further information.

**8. Adjournment--Motion to adjourn:**

<b>Moved</b> L. Taylor	<b>Seconded</b> K. Whittaker	<b>Carried</b>
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