

**General Wolfe Elementary School  
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Monthly Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 6:30 pm

**Location:** General Wolfe Elementary school library

**Meeting Minutes**

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

Marilyn Kynaston, Gil Stav, Libby Taylor, Kristin Rotte, Kyle Robertson, John Kim, Donna Rayner, May Ke, Harvey Chiang

**PAC Executive:**

- Michael Nedelec, Chair
- Jaimini Thakore, Vice Chair
- Harold Schellekens, Treasurer
- Monica Luu, Secretary

**Administration:**

- Susan Nichols, Principal
- Rose Thomas, Vice-Principal
- Regrets: Curtis Mathewson

**These minutes are reflected in the order of the agenda.**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

**2. Approval of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes**

**Motion** to adopt the Minutes of the September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

<b>Moved</b> (L. Taylor)	<b>Seconded</b> (D. Rayner)	<b>Carried</b>
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**3. Chris Atkinson, District Principal**

- Natasha, new Project Manager attended the PAC meeting tonight. She has joined the project office and has started for a month so far.
- Finalizing selection of consultants (architecture firm hires further consultants (electrical, mechanical etc) on board
- 20 projects done, 30 in process. GWE is the last 8 (#23- #30 in line). This includes all different stages, includes L'ecole Bilingue
- 7 schools are currently in design, 7 in construction

- Feasibility takes a year, then design after that.
- Would we be able to have an adult education center? Not impossible but extra costs involved and tweaks need to be made.
- General Wolfe School will likely be kept same size
- What about the Annex? **Answer:** Depends on enrollment projections (going up)
- During design, our school will be asked for feedback on what to keep and not keep. Will figure out whether we renovate, build new building etc. Make is safe and as cheap as possible.
- Parent asked: is there a typical outcome of our type of building? **Answer:** They have slight differences. Some schools do complete gut and nothing to be saved. Depends on heritage style. Certain schools have add-ons and makes it more challenging. General Wolfe is pretty clean of additions, makes it easier to put back together.
- Chris, what would you say to Janet Fraser? **Answer:** Not much to offer.
- No accommodation for neighborhood learning center space. Certain license requirements for say daycare, music room. Make music room as a performance space (movable walls), this comes out of neighborhood learning center space. Not a designated portion of program.
- We are looking at 4 years from now on when our project would be fully completed.

#### **4. Principal and Teacher Reports**

##### **Susan Nichols, Principal**

Each class has received playground options sheet and they were able to rate options 1-10. Need people to collate results. Sort into groups by grade, Grade 6 & 7 office monitors. Michael will take results to Grant Brumpton. Kristin Rotte has offered to volunteer helping with collating the results.

It was great to see such a high turnout at parent teacher/goal setting conferences in October, it is one of the many ways parents here support the school.

We had a lovely Remembrance Day assembly this year, and I would like to thank Rose Thomas for all her hard work organizing it, Ms. Collins for stepping in with the band, all the classes who presented and recognize Peyton Steward for playing the bagpipes at the assembly-it was a wonderful addition to our choir and bands

Our volleyball teams are doing wonderfully, thanks to all the parents for driving the teams and cheering them on, and a special thanks to parent coach John Kim and staff coaches and sponsor teachers Amy Walker, Carla Friesen, Nick Allan and Shannon Soper.

Looking forward, basketball season will start in January-if you know anyone who has the skills to coach a team or referee at games, please let me or Ms Walker know.

We have had Intermediate and Primary teacher meetings over the past 4 days and teacher expressed appreciation for the class 'pin' money and the money for literacy supplies. We have recently ordered a number of novel sets and new home reading materials, and it is exciting to get books into the hands of the students. I would also like to thank Ms. Cameron for all her work on this project. As well, all the grade 4 and 5 students had a great trip to the Symphony, which was centered around Roch Carrier's "the Hockey Sweater". We appreciate your support with that special event

We will be doing a Christmas Concert in the afternoon and evening of Thursday Dec. 10-mark your calendars now! We will also be having the traditional caroling in the mornings of the week of Dec. 14-18.

New K registration: Some schools in Vancouver have been designated as "Full". We are one of them-we are in Tier 2 of the designation. Tier 1 is when there is a concern that all in-catchment students cannot be accommodated, and Tier 2 is when there is a concern that Cross boundary students may not be accommodated. The concern isn't just that we can't take in 3 full classes of kindergarten students, but that if we continue to take in 3 classes of kindergarten students, there would be a year when we ran out of classroom and couldn't take any! (ie: 3 classes x 8 grades= 24 divisions, we have capacity for 17...). Part of the concern for this school is increased density for the next few years, but the boards projections have us at a fairly stable rate, so I am not particularly worried, but parents of students coming cross boundary need to know that we may not be able to guarantee spots to siblings. Students who are placed here by the VSB are another consideration, and I would work with the board in those individual cases. I am happy to talk to parents individually where this affects their family and explain more.

### **Rose Thomas, Vice Principal Report**

Rose Thomas provided a presentation on the new curriculum which is inquiry based learning and focusses more on childrens' interests. 9 staff will be going on training and then that team will train remaining staff. Teachers were asked for feedback and contributed to the new curriculum.

### **Curtis Mathewson, Teacher**

Curtis was ill and was disappointed to not be able to make it tonight. He would like to reschedule for the Spring.

## **5. Playground update:**

Michael Nedelec thanked the PAC Executives for the work so far. Daisy Brown, a Grade 3 student at General Wolfe collected a bucket of money during Halloween Night around her neighborhood and raised over \$76 to go towards the playground.

Playground discussion was also covered above during Susan Nichols report.

## **6. New PAC Website**

Jaimini Thakore provided an update on the new PAC website:  
[www.generalwolfepac.ca](http://www.generalwolfepac.ca)

Purpose of site:

1. Engage more parents by providing more information for new parents and topics of interest for existing parents. the goal is that information on website can draw parents to join and participate in PAC to support their school, their children and the community. The website allows more discussion and resources on topics such as seismic upgrade, parent advocacy, playground and curriculum.

2. Celebrate successes - examples: sports teams, caroling, xmas concerts

- FAQs have been updated recently.
- Twitter – tweet events,
- Calendar function will be available where you can add the calendar of Wolfe events to your smart phone.

If you have any feedback or additions to the website, contact Jaimini Thakore.

## **7. Renfrew parent evening**

May Ke, General Wolfe parent attended a parent evening at Renfrew Elementary and distributed a handout from the parent workshop on “10 Brain-Based Strategies to help children handle their emotions: (help move a child from a state of chaos to a state of calm) by Tina Payne Bryson.

## **Treasurer’s Report – Harold Schellekens**

Harold presented the highlights of the financial position as of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

- Halloween Dance – needs new event lead! The DJ has already been booked for next year! Please contact any PAC Executive if you’d like to volunteer to lead the Halloween Dance next year! We need a team of people to make it happen.
- Family photos – raised \$585, special thank you to Ms Cameron for volunteering her time on this.

- Walkathon – raised \$17, 444 so far! We were worried it would be lower so thank you all who supported the Walkathon! Some expenses still to come in but great to have cash flow early in the year rather than the end of year.
- Fresh to you Produce raised \$644 – thank you to Natasha Patton for organizing.
- PIN money flowing in
- Costs for VSO coming in.
- \$34K was moved to playground seismic reserve, now have \$58K in reserve.

#### 9. Reminders:

- Parenting in the Digital age presentation: Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>
- Rocky Mountain Pizza Night = Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Frozen Foods – Forms due Fri. Nove. 13<sup>th</sup>. Delivery: Mon. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>
- Janet Fraser, our school trustee will be coming to the Wed. Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting
- Casino Night – Fri. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Anza club, no specific dress code

#### 10. Alternative Recycling Pilot Program

John Kim shared that he led a pilot alternative recycling pilot program last year that proved very successful and kids were asking for it to be continued again. This involves recycling items that can't normally be recycled via the current VSB recycling efforts (i.e. mixed paper, rigid containers, etc.). The alternative recycling program involves having students recycle their foil lined packaging (e.g. granola wrappers, chip bags) and soft plastics.

John used to collect and keep the alternative recycling items in his garage much to his chagrin, and would drop it off at mobile recycling. As part of the pilot, he supplied wire framed bag holders to some teachers last year so that kids could recycle those items into those special bags. No cost to the school last year as it was funded through the City of Vancouver grant. This year, the City of Vancouver would not accept the application for a grant, but there may still be a zero cost to the PAC and the school as John will arrange for onsite pickup. John proposes an approval of funds from PAC of the amount of \$400 to purchase the bag holders and recycling bags. The bag holders can be re-used year to year.

#### Motion to approve \$400 in funds for alternative recycling bags:

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (H. Chiang)	Carried
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#### Action items:

- Susan to take to teachers and building engineers to confirm.
- Susan to look into bulk purchasing discount on bags

#### Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Moved (S. Verma)	Seconded (M. Knaston)	Carried
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