

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Monthly Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 6th – 6:30 pm

Location: General Wolfe Elementary school library

Meeting Minutes

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

Susie McRae, Denise MacDonald, Jennifer Coleman, Serena Verma, Jen Kim, Libby Taylor, Kristy Whittaker, Kristin Rotte, Francine Marx-Zatzick, Blair Wilson, Tamara Litke, Harvey Chiang, Juan Hou, May Ke, Janet D.

PAC Executive:

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

Administration:

- Susan Nichols, Principal
- Rose Thomas, Vice Principal

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

1. **Welcome and Call to Order**

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

2. **Approval of February 23rd, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 27th, 2016.

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (M. Ke)	Carried
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3. **Administration Report**

Susan Nichols, Principal Report

VSB budget process has started. Despite last week's provincial funding announcement, we are looking at a \$25 million dollar shortfall. This is partly due to the structural deficit where we have in the past made one time savings for ongoing expenses, partly due to a downloading of costs by the Ministry and partly due to having one of the lowest provincial funding rates in the country. The goal of the cuts is to keep as much away from the classroom as possible, but with a deficit of this size it is not completely possible.

Resource teacher and librarian time, band and strings programs, gifted support and office support have all been reduced or eliminated in this budget. Dates for giving a response to the proposals are April 12th at 7:00 pm (location to be determined) and April 14th at 5 pm at the VSB. Written submissions must be made to the VSB 2 days in advance. This year the final budget will be passed at on April 28th.

Currently, there are no teacher layoffs, but there will be staff who are surplus to their site (if there are more teachers than jobs at a particular school they are surplus and if they don't get another job, they work as employees on call). There is expected to be an increase in elementary numbers and a decrease in secondary students, so this will hit secondary schools especially hard. Here at Wolfe we will be affected by these cuts. The consultation dates are also on the VSB website.

The Project Definition report for our seismic mitigation is continuing. I remain optimistic that the June date for an announcement regarding upgrading or replacement. I will share the information with staff, parents and students when I get it and will probably call an extra parent information evening in June. It is important that the community gives the feedback on the long range facilities plan if we want seismic projects to move forward. The link to the survey about the plan is

<http://surveys1.fluidsurveys.com/s/VSB/futureofschools/>.

I have started compiling the data from term 2 report cards, and working with Ms. Thomas in preparation for the School Goal setting day May 2nd. The province has changed the process for school goals, so this year's school plan will be a wrap up commentary on the work done this year.

We need to submit to the VSB the fees we intend to charge next year. There will be the usual \$25 levy for school fees charged by the board, a \$5 fee for performances if that is approved as part of our budget tonight, \$7.50 approximately for agendas.

FSA results went home with students this week. Marks did not indicate if students wrote the whole exam.

We are starting to plan for sports day-we will be starting at 9:00 and running the day right through lunch and completing the day's activities by 2:00pm. Alona is aware of this and Spare Time is able to accommodate students at that dismissal time.

Vice Principal Report

Any parents interested in a brief discussion reviewing one of the four Key Themes for the VSB's Strategic Plan please contact me at the school. I am hoping to have a small panel from the school parent community to be involved in discussing one of the themes to provide feedback for

the School Board. Please contact me before Wednesday April 13. From there I will set up a day and time to meet for an hour.

Senior girls basketball team made it as far as the City Championships, losing in the closely fought final championship game. Thank you to all the sponsors and coaches.

Track and field teams start training this week- expect about nearly quarter of school to be involved- thanks to the staff members who are coaching- Swanguard meet on Tuesday, June 2nd- thanks to PAC for funding the bus.

Night of Bands at Tupper- these dates are coming up and are organized by Curtis Mathewson. We will let families know the date we are attending as soon as we know, most likely the 10th or 11th of May

Spring Concert on Monday May 30th at 1:15 and 7pm. Please note the date change from June 2nd due to a conflict with the Swanguard track meet

Parent teacher conferences April 13 and 14. Some teachers are doing open houses, others are doing student led conferences. Information notices were sent home-if you haven't seen it yet please check your child's backpack.

4. **Hot Lunch Program (Rosa Spinelli from Wolfe and Antoinette from Hastings)**

- Having a VSB staff member assigned to the school to run hot lunch program, offers leadership opportunity for students in school.
- It is one more adult for students to be attached to and have relationship with kids. Leadership program.
- VSB cannot subsidize if there isn't a need. Need is based on various data.
- Need 125 children to participate, only 98 currently enrolled. Once lunch program is gone, it cannot be reinstated.
- It's a huge amount of work to do more than one day per week for a separate hot lunch program based on volunteers. Not the same as having a staff assigned.
- Questions to save lunch program:
 - 1) Can we raise cost of hot lunch instead of asking for 25 more children per month to keep the hot lunch program? Susan has asked for differential pricing but told no.
 - 2) What is the real problem? Not fully paid and not enough money to cover cost. We are cost recovery program that are not recovering the cost.
 - 3) Has there ever been more than 90 kids in it? Initially it was 200-300 kids because it was fully subsidized.
 - 4) Month to month, how much do numbers fluctuate? Between 90-100. Can we have people sign up for the full year instead of month to month? - Susan to ask Jennifer Cook.
- Jaimini had contacted Jennifer Cook to inquire about menu changes. Response from Jennifer: this is a fixed program, menu changes have to be done globally. No dietary preferences. Due to 26 schools, it is all or none. They are happy to take comments and feedback on menu but there is no way that it will be a customizable menu.
- 5) Question: can kids sign up for only certain days per week?
- Parent feedback: lack of flexibility in program. Huge revenue opportunity for PAC to afford other activities.

- Parent comment: program meant to feed kids who are hungry/inner-city school.
- Parent comment – need to reach out more to parents to get the numbers up.
- Jaimini - 3 pronged approach: 1) get word out, 2) change in payment options to keep it? 3) ability to ask Jennifer for partial days of the week. 4) can family share? Yes! Find families to split. Might lose \$ though if this is the case.
- We can put monthly menu on website. Parent reps can email monthly menu out.
- Other ideas to market lunch program: advertise with kids, have monitors visit each class.
- September is deadline of hot lunch being taken away. We have 2 months to get the word out and the numbers up.

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

- Harold discussed recent highlights. We have \$3000 for playground.
- \$5000 coming from Clarkdale for playground.
- Casino Night raised \$5000 overall.
- Expenditures spent on library. Microscopes have been ordered.
- Last year we had a Direct Drive and we MAY still do that again.
- Do you have a funding request for an idea you would like to lead? Each spring the PAC asks for requests for financial support/proposals from across the Wolfe Community: parents, teachers and administration (for the coming school year). These requests are used as input into the PAC budget which in turn forms the plan on how the funds raised from the fundraising activities throughout the year will contribute to the Wolfe community!
- Even if you need funds for an event that took place this year, please submit a new budget form for next year (2016/2017 school year)
- BUDGET for next year – you have ideas for yourself to run, then put together a proposal (e.g. earthquake kids thanks to Colleen Von Dehn).
- Based on parent survey we do our best for budget.
- Meeting minutes will be sent out with budget request form.

6. **Playground status update**

- To consider: seismic has adjacencies to playground. If shovel goes into the ground next June for seismic upgrade and we spend all this money on playground and then we have to hypothetically move to a different school then should we put a new playground in and have it sit empty while new school is being built?
- June – we will know more with Project Definition Project. We will know in 2 months.
- If we renovate, heavy equipment will be brought in.
- If playground is moved by VSB, it will come out of \$40,000 as part of new budget.
- Option: build playground in phases? Build part of it now and then add to it in future years.
- We can also ask Superintendent where we can build it so we don't have to move it.
- Details and feedback from parents will be sought once we have more information from Project Definition Report.
- Barometer is on PAC website, target \$125,000. Playgrounds are very expensive, the cost is not because we are proposing an extravagant playground.
- We have put aside \$60,000 so far for playground.

- Question to Susan Nichols: Is it a big issue for kids right now with the lack of playground? Response: No because they are more concerned with grass field. We are a big soccer school. Kids like using the empty playground space for soccer. Grass field was ranked 3rd as a choice.
- How many kids are coming home upset with the missing playground? Haven't heard of any yet.

7. Upcoming events

- Silent Auction – Thursday, April 21st
 - Last year raised over \$18,000. Low cost. Hope to raise more this year. Kudos to the committee. Lots of gift certificates available. Tickets are \$15 each and includes drink and childcare. Over 150 great items.
 - Childcare only for school aged kids.
 - Tickets available tonight at PAC meeting. Tickets will be in the office for sale but people need to bring exact change to purchase.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Moved (L. Taylor)	Seconded (M. Knaston)	Carried
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