

# PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**Date:** November 20, 2019, 6:30 pm

**Location:** General Wolfe School, South Hill Elementary School library

## Agenda

**PAC MEMBERS (in order of sign-in sheet):** Kristin Rotte, Libby Taylor, Robbin Simao, Stephanie Willox, Adam Rucker and Caroline Bonshor

### **PAC Executive:**

- Donna Rayner, Co-Chair
- Hope Walker, Co-Chair
- Kemp Edmonds, Vice Chair
- Jaimini Thakore, Treasurer
- Claire Wilson, Secretary

**Administration/Teachers:** Nancy Bourque, Principal, Elisha Bonnis, Sarah Nafrey and Curtis Mathewson, teachers

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** – Donna Raynor & Hope Walker

2. **Approval of October 2019 minutes**

<b>Moved</b> Kristin Rotte	<b>Seconded</b> Robbin Simao	<b>Carried</b>
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3. **Administration / Teacher Report:**

**Nancy Bourque, Principal:** There are many activities under way. The grade 4s and 5s attended a VSO concert, which they enjoyed. Field hockey has started for all grades. Ms. Segers is leading volleyball intramurals.

The Communicating Student Learning report cards (or CSLs - based on the growth mindset philosophy) are going home the last week of January or first week of February. CSLs have now been implemented for all K-7 VSB students. Report cards will no longer contain grades in the traditional sense. Teachers will be working on assessing each child. There is an online tool that teachers can use for formatting the CSLs, which saves the information electronically. If a child changes schools, the information will follow to their new school instead of copying and transferring physical documents.

**Elisha Bonnis:** Elisha is the representative for the VESTA, the local teacher's union. The province is proposing to change to the funding model for kids with special needs. On the current model, some children undergo an assessment and receive a diagnosis and ministry designation, and then funding is allocated to a school district for that individual child based on the designation. Note that other children with behavioural conditions such as ADHD are not eligible for designations and support. The proposed change is to a prevalence model, which allocates funding based on the statistical prevalence of children with a certain special need in a given population. Public assessments and designations would no longer be required. The teachers are concerned with the potential impact of this change. The diagnoses and designations are important to identify actual areas of need, and the current allocation of funding to individual children

guarantees funds to a school for that child. Under the new model, the VSB will have the discretion to distribute the pot of funds they receive from the province for children with special needs as they deem appropriate. There is a concern that funds may not be allocated in a way that reflects the special needs student population in a particular school. Teachers and parents may be forced to advocate for a “piece of the pie” for students, but without the benefit of assessments and diagnoses, the information to make a good case may be lacking. The lack of assessments, diagnoses and designations will no doubt also have an impact on the content of IEPs for children. The prevalence funding model was implemented in Ontario, and there were comments that it has not been successful there. Teachers are concerned that there has been inadequate consultation regarding this change and that parents should have an opportunity to provide input before a decision is made. Teachers are urging parents to contact their MLA as soon as possible with feedback regarding this proposed change of funding model. A brochure with further details was distributed and can be obtained from classroom teachers. A link to the brochure online can be found [here](#).

**Curtis Mathewson:** The music program at Wolfe is participatory in nature, accessing kids’ creative impulses to develop skills. Choir is running Monday and Friday at lunch for students in grades 2-7. It would be good to see more intermediates in the choir. The next opportunity to join is in January. Theatrics is happening on the same days as choir. Funding was lost for grade 6/7 band about five years ago. The aim is to try to run a band program every two years so students will have an opportunity to participate one of the two years; therefore, Wolfe may have band next year. The winter concert will be held at John Oliver on December 12 at 6:30pm. Drop off will be at 6:10 pm. A spring concert date is in the works. Caroling in the halls will be held the last week before break. The grade 2s and 3s will have an opportunity to attend a VSO performance in February. Thank you to the PAC for funding this program. The intermediate students who attended the VSO this week enjoyed the experience.

#### 4. Chair Report and update – Donna Rayner & Hope Walker

- **Bussing update:** Bus drivers appear to be following protocol and returning children to school on the rare occasion where a child is not picked up from Wolfe at the end of the day. Nancy reported that she spoke to the supervisor regarding the concern about speeding and safety. There is a camera on the bus and a device on the speedometer, which notifies the supervisor if the bus exceeds the speed limit. The supervisor has had no concerns to date. Nancy has asked the older students riding the bus to model good behaviour on the bus.
- **Direct drive:** Donna met with Michael Nedelec regarding planning for a direct drive to raise funds for improvements to Wolfe when we return. This is in the initial planning stages and will likely get underway in the new year.
- **Grade 6/7 Camp fundraisers:** there are two fundraisers under way for the Sept. 2020 Camp trip: Purdy’s and Pointsettias. Information will go out by email soon. A parent suggested that it is important to get the grade 5/6 kids involved in fundraising since the trip is for them. It was agreed that this is a good idea in terms of future fundraising ideas.
- **Upcoming community events and fundraisers:**
  - November 28 – Social at Hood 29.
  - January 31 – Casino Night. Jaimini and Kemp are leads. This will be held at Creekside Community Centre in the gym. It is a joint event with Henry Hudson and False Creek Elementary Schools. 140-200 people are expected to attend. Allocation of funds raised will be based on ticket sales for each school. A website is being set up for ticket sales. Volunteers will be needed for the event.
  - February 7 – Friendship Dance in the gym, 7-9 pm. The Halloween Dance is booked for October 30, 2020.
  - Date TBA – Dance-a-thon with the hip hop instructors who worked with the kids in the fall.

#### 5. 2019 / 2020 Budget and Treasurer’s Report – Jaimini Thakore

The net revenue from the walkathon will be approximately \$19,800 which is similar to last year’s total. The budget will be adjusted to remove the revenue expected from QSP, which will not be running this year.

## 6. New Business

There was a suggestion regarding an initiative to promote the spirit of giving in December. One of the parents stated that last year the older grades held Secret Santa gift exchanges, which were not universally well received by students and parents. A group of parents would like to suggest that the money and effort be put toward a charitable cause such as diaper bags for new parents in need or food hampers. Families could contribute money or items. These parents would be pleased to organize the event and are seeking the support of teachers to help raise excitement for the project. Nancy will speak to the teachers about the idea and see if the teachers would like to participate. She advised that some teachers may prefer to continue with Secret Santa. If parents have concerns with this, she would encourage them to speak to the teacher directly. Robbin will get in touch with the class reps to circulate some ideas and information.

## 7. Adjournment

<b>Moved</b> Libby Taylor	<b>Seconded</b> Kristin Rotte	<b>Carried</b>
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Next PAC Meeting is January 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm.