

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: January 19, 2021, 6:30 pm
Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

PAC MEMBERS (by Zoom title): Cindy & Bon, Veronica Solimano, Francina Marbella, Sameena Nahal, McEachern-Waugh, Jenny Evans, Anna Rucker, Adam Rucker, Paige, Serena Verman, Sandy, Leslie Shoji, Cameron McLean, Maria G., Colleen von Dehn, Maria McClean, Zouzan Yousef, Katie Lysakowski, Lincoln, Anne Low-Beer, Trevor Zeck, Stephanie Willox, Laurie McNeill, Rowena Y., Katrina Humphries, Ryan McRae, Alice Ching, Michelle Wiens

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 / Ms. Whelan and Mr. Mathewson, Teachers

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** – Donna Rayner & Hope Walker
 - Donna welcomed all participants. Participants were muted for the meeting.
 - Questions were posed to Nancy and the Executive via the chat function.

2. **Approval of November 2020 minutes**

Moved Katie Lysakowski	Seconded Adam Rucker	Carried
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3. **Post-seismic spending priorities – discussion**

- At the February 2020 meeting, the PAC identified priorities for spending the funds that have been raised by parents over a number of years, and which are earmarked for post-seismic legacy projects. The top priority identified at the time was technology, closely followed by an outdoor classroom and playground updates. The Executive believes that as a result of COVID, the priorities for spending have changed and would like to revisit last year's discussion.
- COVID has prompted the government to make some investment in technology and it would be prudent to see to what extent Wolfe's technology needs can be publicly funded. Further, technology is a spending priority that comes and goes, and the PAC may maintain a yearly budget for it instead of drawing on capital.
- There is no public funding for an outdoor learning space or playground upgrades (except a small amount of federal \$ for outdoor ed supplies (\$10 per student). Schooling during COVID has highlighted outdoor learning as a good option for student and teacher health and safety as well as broadening the student experience. The many benefits of outdoor learning mean that it will likely continue post-COVID. The teachers and Nancy are strongly in favour of having a dedicated learning space outside at Wolfe. As a result, the Executive is strongly

recommending that the top priority for legacy spending be an outdoor learning space and is seeking feedback from the membership.

- There is currently \$83,000 in the reserve fund. The Executive is proposing that the majority of that amount (with some holdback TBD) be considered for use for an outdoor learning space. The Executive opened the floor for feedback from the members on this proposal.
- Nancy noted that a committee has been formed with teachers and parents to propose ideas regarding an outdoor learning space and seek cost estimates to present to the PAC. Nancy is consulting with other schools about their experiences. The vision is for an outdoor seating area suitable for primary and intermediate students, which is inclusive and accessible. The extent of the project would be budget dependent, but it is also the type of project that could be accomplished in stages by putting something basic in place and then adding on pieces over time as funds are raised. In Nancy's experience, this type of project could take 1-2 years to complete in terms of consultation with parents, students and VSB, and then construction.
- After a discussion of the issue, the Executive asked members to indicate with the "thumbs up" on their screen if they agreed with prioritizing an outdoor learning space for expenditure of post-seismic reserve funds. The vast majority of members attending posted a "thumbs up". The Executive asked if there were any objections, and there were none.

4. Administration Report - Nancy Bourque, Principal

- Nancy introduced Ms. Whelan and Mr. Mathewson. Ms. Whelan teaches Division 7 this year (grade 3/4). Ms. Whelan has a background in outdoor ed and has been a valuable resource for the teachers this year. Mr. Mathewson is a music and resource teacher. In his role as head teacher he provides valuable admin support to Nancy.
- Term 1 report cards (CSLs) will be sent home at the end of January.
- Feb. 24 is Pink Shirt Day. Division 2 is working on creating content for a virtual assembly. The finished video will be posted on Teams.
- Between mid-Feb. and Spring Break, students in grades 4 and 7 will be writing the Foundational Skill Assessments (FSAs). Any parents who would like their child to be excused from the FSAs should send an email to that effect to Nancy, including the child's name and division number. The information about which students are writing and which are excused will be sent to the Ministry.
- There will be a meeting of the Seismic Committee on Feb. 12 regarding progress on the school. The project manager has advised Nancy that we are still on track to start school back at Wolfe in September. The move-back date is not yet known. Nancy will advise in due course if parents will be permitted to assist with packing and unpacking. If so, a call will be sent out for volunteers.
- VSB will not allow school photos to proceed. It is unclear whether this will be permitted sometime in the spring.
- VSB has cancelled all inter-school sports for the remainder of the school year. Field trips and overnights camps will not be permitted.

5. Chair Report and update – Donna Rayner and Hope Walker

- Direct fundraising drive: Leslie Shoji has generously volunteered to lead the direct drive, which is a method of raising funds by asking for money directly from families and other sources (e.g. corporate). The Executive is very grateful to Leslie for taking on this project. Although the PAC had discussed 2 potential direct drives (one for general revenue and one for post-seismic), it is anticipated that only one will go ahead this year. The purpose of the direct drive will be to raise \$20,000 to cover the projected shortfall in fundraising this school year. This would put us in a good place to budget for the 2021/22 year, which will hopefully be closer to normal in terms of student activities, programming and field trips. Usually, the additional revenue would be raised at a spring silent auction, which is a community event-based fundraiser. However, we are unable to do in-person fundraising events because of COVID. Look out for further information about the direct drive fundraiser in February.
- Online silent auction idea: Jenny Evans has offered to look into whether it would be feasible to run an online silent auction in April or May. Jenny explained that she is aware of a platform that could be used to run the auction but is hesitant about asking businesses to donate this year given that many are struggling. Jenny will consider the idea further and report back.

- Purdy's fundraiser: a big thanks to everyone who ordered Purdy's chocolate before the holidays. The PAC raised \$1,600 in one week. The members in attendance indicated that they would like to see another Purdy's fundraiser for Easter.
- Seed fundraiser: a parent approached Donna about a fundraiser involving a company that sells seeds and plants. Donna will connect with the parent about whether they would like to pilot it this year.

6. Budget and Treasurer's Report – Jaimini Thakore

- Jaimini shared information about the budget and spending to date. We are slowly spending what was raised and are in a good financial position.
- Jaimini will be stepping down as treasurer at the end of the year after many years of service. The PAC is very grateful for all of Jaimini's contributions in this role. There will need to be a new treasurer elected for 2021/22. Anyone interested, please contact Jaimini for information. Jaimini explained that the role is not complicated and does not require someone with an accounting background. The treasurer works closely with Rosemary who is very skilled at bookkeeping. Jaimini would be willing to spend next year in a consulting role to assist with the transition.

7. PAC Bylaw Amendments – Claire Wilson

- Claire went over the history of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. According to the Bylaws, to adopt amendments, there must be 14 days' notice to all members, which was done in November via email to all Wolfe families. The notice included a copy of the specific amendments proposed. At the November meeting, the Executive discussed the reasons for the proposed amendments and opened the floor for comments. Members were also invited to provide comments by email before this meeting. No comments were received.
- The final step is to vote. To be adopted, a 2/3 majority of those voting members present at the meeting must vote in favour.
- A vote was called. There were 29 voting members present. At least 2/3 voted in favour. No one opposed the amendments. The amendments passed and are adopted.
- Steps will be taken to finalize the amended Constitution and Bylaws and post them on the PAC website.

8. Parent Talk with Dr. Gunderson – January 27

- The Executive organized a Zoom presentation for parents with Dr. Lisa Gunderson of One Love Consulting on the topic of raising antiracist children. Teachers have also been invited to attend. A Zoom invitation has been circulated via Rosemary and a reminder will be sent out via the Google group and through parent reps.
- See more info about Dr. G.: <https://www.oneloveconsulting.com>

9. New Business

- None

10. Adjournment

Moved Laurie McNeill	Seconded Anna Rucker	Carried
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Next PAC Meeting is February 23, 2021.