

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: January 18, 2022, 6:30 pm
Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

PAC MEMBERS (by Zoom title): Laurie McNeill, Anna Rucker, Adam Rucker, Mark Williams, Lynn Gosselin, Sue Spruston, Annie Low Beer, Colleen von Dehn, Serena Verma, Helen Pang, Veronica Solimano, Francia Marbella, Lindsay Funk, Trevor Zek, Sameena Nahal, Stephanie Willox, Ryan McRae, Ashley Palmer, Erin Haskett, Sandy, L. Striegler, Jonathan, Anh, Vince T., Jana, Maria

PAC Executive:

- Hope Walker, Chair
- Kemp Edmonds, Vice Chair
- Leslie Hoolaeff, Treasurer
- Claire Wilson, Secretary
- Maddy Kipling, Member at Large / DPAC

Administration: Nancy Bourque, Principal

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Hope Walker

- Hope welcomed all participants. Participants were muted for the meeting.
- Questions were posed to Nancy and the Executive orally and via the chat function.

2. Approval of November 2021 minutes

Moved Adam Rucker	Seconded Anna Rucker	Carried
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3. Administration Report:

Nancy Bourque, Principal:

- **New teacher:** There is a new teacher for Division 4 this term, Ms. Phoebe Jones, who taught grade 4/5 at Wolfe last year. Everyone is very pleased to see her back.
- **Kindergarten:** The deadline for priority Kindergarten registration is Jan 31. After that, enrollment is not guaranteed.
- **Return to school updated guidelines:** The Public Health Office (PHO) imposed new mandatory measures for January. Not much has changed for Wolfe because the school was already following most of these measures, which were previously just recommended. The following things have changed at Wolfe:
 - Students must eat at their desks and can't roam around the classroom at lunch without their masks.
 - Desks must be in rows "1960s style" instead of facing each other in groups.
 - Lunchtime clubs are postponed until February.
 - Windows must be open.

- The biggest change is that health authorities will no longer send notification letters regarding school exposures. When a child tests positive for COVID, only their family will be deemed "close contacts" and will have to either self-isolate or self-monitor depending on their vaccine status. Fully vaccinated people can go about their day if they have no symptoms; people who are not fully vaccinated must self-isolate. Families are being asked to do their own contact tracing by informing close contacts of their COVID positive status. Nancy emailed BCCDC information sheets, which contain details. Nancy and staff are working to adapt to the change. Vancouver Coastal Health has advised that exposure letters are no longer effective because Omicron's incubation period is about 24 hours so by the time public health can get the letter out, the virus has already spread. Also, because Omicron is so prevalent in the community generally, and schools mirror the community, all family and staff should assume that they are likely to be exposed somehow daily (through work / school / community).
- The BC Self Assessment test has been updated.
- Nancy and staff are very grateful to parents and caregivers who are doing a fantastic job monitoring their children daily and keeping them at home when they have symptoms. They know it can have a significant impact on work to keep kids at home and it is much appreciated.
- Wolfe is supposed to receive rapid tests later in January for distribution to students or staff who develop symptoms while at school. The school still has some gargle tests from Children's Hospital and will use those in the meantime. These are PCR tests, which are done with the child at home and then dropped off at Children's or any LifeLab location.
- The PHO contact for VSB is authorized to ask teachers for proof of vaccination. However, Nancy has been advised that VCH is the mostly highly vaccinated health region in Canada, and so it is likely that the vast majority of teachers are vaccinated.
- **Functional school closure:** The hope is that it will not be necessary to close schools due to Omicron, but Wolfe has been preparing just in case. If Wolfe or VSB schools generally cannot open because of staffing shortages, education will move online. This could be on very short notice, and parents may receive an email at 8:00 am the day of the closure – as soon as Nancy receives the information and can disseminate it. Online learning will resemble what was in place in the Spring of 2020: a focus on math and literacy and about one hour of virtual instruction per day. If a child's regular teacher is sick, it could be a different teacher instructing the child. Onsite instruction will remain available for essential service workers. The staff is preparing for a possible transition to online learning by updating their Teams pages, ensuring all students can log in, and designating colleagues as co-owners of the pages in case coverage is required. Some teachers are sending kids home with workbooks and other resources just in case.
- **Seismic news:** There were a few thousand dollars remaining in the seismic budget, which Nancy used to purchase four more interactive projectors with whiteboards. Now all classrooms in use will have one.
- Outdoor classroom project: Nancy has not received any updates from VSB Grounds regarding quotes for benches. This is very frustrating, but Nancy will continue to follow up. The likely cause is staffing shortages.
- **Ready Bodies Learning Minds:** The SSWs have set up a Ready Bodies Learning Minds Lab (sensory room) in one of the empty classrooms. The RBLM lab is a circuit designed to help children develop the skills necessary for learning readiness and mastery of the environment. It focuses on muscle tone and core strengths, and it stimulates children's sensory system so they can be better regulated in the classroom.
- Big thanks to the PAC for funding the gym equipment refresh. The equipment is arriving and staff are very happy to be receiving it.
- **Q&A for Nancy:**
 - Regarding the outdoor learning project, Nancy confirmed that Wolfe is not permitted to install a permanent structure with a covered top. This is a VSB rule.
 - Nancy confirmed that VSB Grounds is of the view that there is nowhere suitable to install an amphitheatre structure, which was the first choice of the outdoor classroom committee as a project. It would be a good idea for the PAC to re-think this plan and Nancy will organize a meeting with the committee to discuss. It would be good to get VSB grounds to attend the school for a walk through to discuss ideas. As stated above, this is moving slowly because of staffing shortages.

4. Chair Report and update –Hope Walker

- **Teacher appreciation:** It would be nice to show the teachers how much we appreciate them showing up and teaching our kids so wonderfully given the significant stress they must be under. Wolfe parents and caregivers

are so grateful to the teachers for being there to teach in person under difficult circumstances. Hope proposed to write cards and buy small plants and deliver them to the school. Any volunteers interested in assisting, please contact Hope.

- **February dance:** Due to Omicron, the dance has been moved to October 2022. If it can go ahead, we will need some volunteers to coordinate it as the prior leads have stepped down. In the past it has been one of the highlights of the school year for the kids. Anyone interested, please contact the Executive for further details.
- **Hot lunch:** Major thanks to parent volunteer, Stephanie Willox for reviving the hot lunch program through C'est Mon Cafe, which will commence service on Fridays. Rosemary circulated an email about how families can place their orders. The PAC would also like to thank Nancy and school staff for facilitating the reintroduction of this popular program. Fifty cents from each order goes to the PAC.
- **Indigo Fundraiser:** Thanks to Lynn Gosselin for suggesting this passive fundraiser through Indigo. The Executive is in the process of setting it up – the PAC will receive a percentage of the sales through the Wolfe fundraising site. Kemp will post details on the website when available.

5. Treasurer's Report – Leslie Hoolaeff

- None this month

6. Succession Planning – Hope Walker

- There will be at least one position on the Executive for the 2022/23 year. The Secretary position will become open and possibly others. Please consider serving on the Executive, which is a great way to contribute to the Wolfe community. If you are interested, feel free to reach out to a current member. Elections are in June.

7. New Business

- **Picnic table in recognition of Susan Nichols (past principal):** There are PAC funds earmarked for this. Hope will confirm the amount. The Executive will take steps to try to move the project forward, which will again require the involvement of VSB Grounds.
- **St. John Ambulance First Aid Course:** A parent asked whether the PAC would consider funding Level 1 First Aid for students. Nancy advised that anything in-class needs to be initiated by a teacher, however, once Wolfe is allowed to have outside groups in the gym again, the PAC could consider funding after school sessions. This is something that can certainly be considered and brought forward again when the COVID measures are lifted.

8. Adjournment

Moved Serena Verma	Seconded Annie Low Beer	Carried
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Next PAC Meeting is February 15, 2021