

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: Tuesday January 16, 2024, 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

PAC MEMBERS (by Zoom title): PAC Exec, Kemp Edmonds, Div 2 General Wolfe, Leslie Hoolaeff, Div 1, Dorcas & Gavin, Ehren Gruber, Elaheh Adel, Gina Lei, Helen Pang, Lynn Gosselin, Rachel Kielb, Claire Wilson, Sameena Nahal, Steven (Div 4), Veronica Solimano, Sara, Adam

PAC Executive:

- Kemp Edmonds, Chair
- Wyle Baoween, Vice-Chair
- Leslie Hoolaeff, Treasurer
- Sophia Male, Secretary
- Lynn Gosselin, Member at Large

Administration/Teachers: Susan Dent, Principal
Shannon Soper, Teacher
Steven Bartlett, Teacher

- Welcome – Kemp Edmonds
- Land Acknowledgement – Leslie Hoolaeff
- Approval of the minutes from Nov 21, 2023:

Moved Claire Wilson	Seconded Lynn Gosselin	Carried

<https://www.generalwolfepac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/PAC-Meeting-Minutes-Nov-21-2023.pdf>

- **Call to Order** – Kemp thanks Susan and asks her to give the Administrative Report
- **Principal's Administrative Report – Susan:**
 - Hello and seems like a while so it is nice to have another meeting and first up is staff updates. We have a new OA – Office Administrator – so if you are in the building say hi to Audrey – she has a lovely Scottish accent. Division 3, Maria Terezakis is back from her maternity leave so Emma Lindsay who was covering the lead has moved down to Division 16 and is covering a leave for Mary Zheng. So all of our classes are staffed.
 - Thanks to the PAC for programs like square dancing which was heavily funded by the PAC. One of the teachers said she loved square dancing and thanks Shannon for organizing it and the kids that were “too cool for school” at 6 and 7 years old were smiling and swinging by the end. Kids got joy from it. They are learning more than just the dance – learning how to regulate their behaviour.
 - Saleema Noom is also organized by the PAC and we have her booked for April. The parent presentation will be on Monday April 15th and then the in-class presentations are April 17th and 18th
 - A big thank you to the whole community for the holiday hampers. We distributed 17 and some went to families at our school discretely and others went to families at other schools. Many families gave gift cards which was great too.
 - A big thank you to Kemp and Leslie for the tech committee and I'm sure they will speak about that later
 - The mural project is coming along with the former Wolfe student who is putting together the proposal and has a budget and we will talk about that later.
 - Head lice – we have a lot in the school right now and it's very normal. When we were in covid and keeping our distance we weren't sharing head lice but it's common. More information will go into the Wednesday Weekly, but about a 1/3 of the classes have head lice. There is no stigma. Just let us know if you have it in your family and we put out an anonymous email and it is not a health hazard but it does need to be dealt with as a community. Susan has had a lot of experience with lice, so she has sympathy and it is not something to freak out about
 - Activities at school – basketball is back up, some students want to have D&D club and they found a teacher sponsor so that is up and running on Fridays, and some kids wanted to do student council which is great. Susan wants it to be called “Student Voice” so we can consider different structures and she has a variety of kids interested and they've had

five different candidates. Don't want to look at repeating colonial structure. Been a joy watching kids wrestle with ideas that society has to wrestle with as well like who gets to vote etc. It was a great conversation. And it's all their volunteer time.

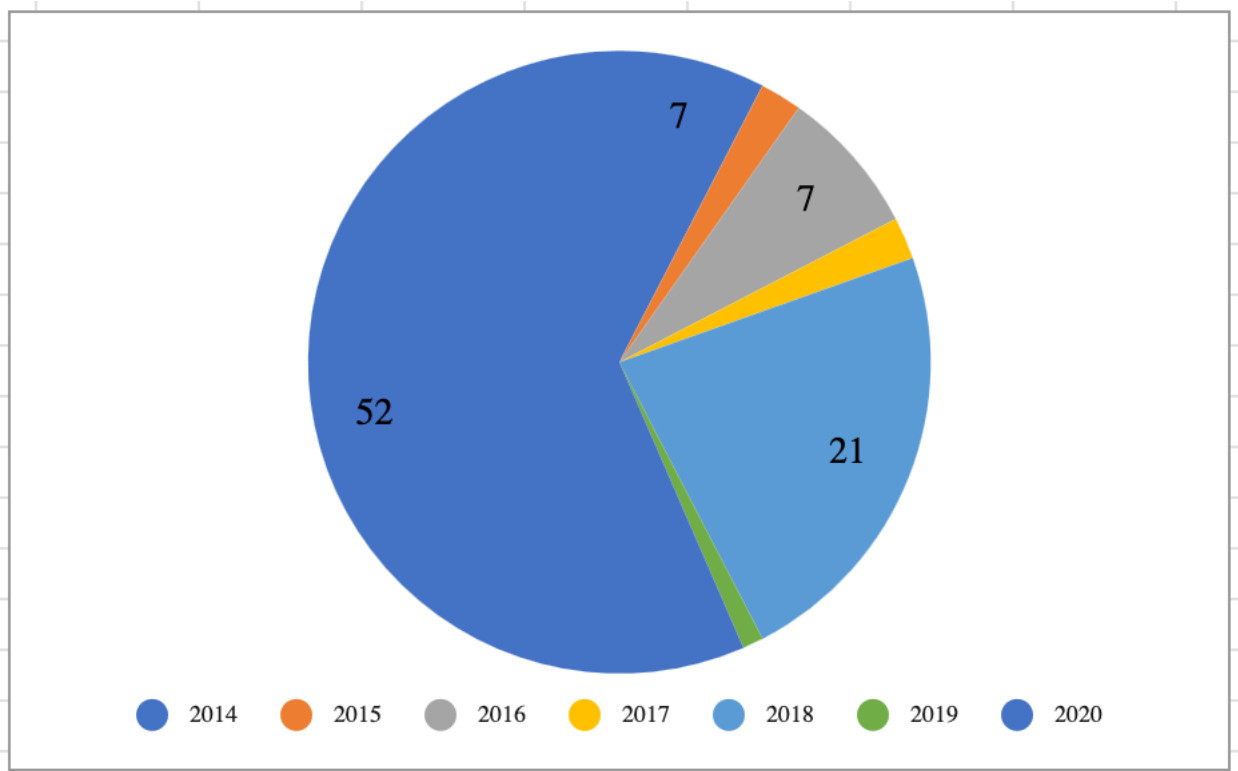
- Fun things – there was a commercial shot at Wolfe in the fall and the link will be in the email coming out tomorrow – it is in Spanish so you might not know what's being said but you will recognize some of the places.
- School closures – people are talking about snow – announced by 6:30 am in the morning - check the website. Vancouver is the last district to close and even if there is a snow day tomorrow our school is closed anyway for a PD day.
- Kemp raises a **Question from Chat – are their lice checks at school?** Susan said they used to do them and often members of the PAC would volunteer to do them but we aren't allowed to do those anymore and even teachers aren't allowed. So it's something parents need to do themselves.
- **Kemp's Chair Report:**
 - First off **thank you** to the teachers, staff at the school, administration. A big thank you to Hope Walker for organizing the Purdues holiday fundraiser. Thanks to the movie night leads for organizing the movie night and all the volunteers – Claire and Wyle, and the student that helped out. Also thanks to the class parents for organizing the teacher gifts. And for creating communication channels. And Sameena for coordinating that as well. Saleema Noon communications will continue to go out through multiple channels so you will receive a save the date soon. Thanks to Wyle for his newcomer's group and bringing people together to learn and overcome language barriers. And that goes to my next note about the library and spaces – the library is open to being a space for clubs.
 - **The Mural Project** – thanks to Susan and the student – named Ben, in grade 11 or grade 12 and Shannon knows him. He's still in high school. He's interested in putting a mural around the sport court and he's actually raised 2/3 of the funds which is rare as it's a significant amount of money and he has budgeted it out so we will work together with the PAC to allocate more funds. The total cost will be \$4500 and our portion will be \$1500 which is pretty impressive of the student to raise 3k. So the plan to work with the teachers and the administration to settle on a design. Kemp asks Susan if there is anything else to add. She says that he partly raised money by making waffles at his school and sold them to students. He also has a part time job and has donated his own money to the project and even made an xl spreadsheet for the budget.
 - **Hot Lunch Update** – Kemp says there is a plan to survey the parent group and look into adding another day for hot lunch and look into other vendors so if you want to get involved, email us. Kemp asks if Claire would like to add something and Claire suggests

Helen speak. Helen has been doing hot lunch for 2 years. Helen says that the last year and a half has been figuring things out after covid. Her sense is that people do want a change and she wants to be able to do this as seamlessly as possible for caregivers and parents. One of her goals is to introduce a new vendor while we have a current vendor so we don't lose the opportunity for hot lunch. This allows parents to learn a new system for ordering if we decide we like the new vendor. Trying to figure out how to make hot lunch more accessible and appealing. Helen said she has been talking to Susan and Susan said they are going to have a staff meeting to possibly introduce having a 3rd day added. Susan said they did talk about it that day and said the only concern a couple of teachers had was around equity since it would mean that some kids would now be able to have a 3rd hot lunch day when others don't have any. And then a couple primary teachers said parents were frustrated since they didn't want their children to have hot lunch and it's not financial. It's that there is push back from the kids who say "everybody else is having it." Some teachers find managing 2 hot lunch days enough and wouldn't want a 3rd. Sometimes there is a lot of waste and packaging too so they are interested in seeing other vendors. Helen says we need to understand that if we switch vendors we would need to pay for a 3rd party ordering system so we are learning what that cost is, the ongoing fee etc. So we plan on figuring out a new ordering system and then surveying the parent. Claire adds that with "C'est Mon Café" they have their own ordering system, but virtually every other vendor uses a 3rd party ordering system like "Munch a Lunch" but the upside of that is you can add many different vendors. When the survey goes out while parents might care about what kids of food is offered, it's important to realize many options require having a volunteer infrastructure in place to go pick up food from restaurants, bring it to the school, etc. Helen has done research and there is one vendor where they would bring the food to the school like "C'est Mon Café." Helen first says she wants to know if everyone else is interested in doing the research. Kemp says he thinks most people are interested but he could put out an email. Kemp wonders if there are other options other than \$300/year for the ordering system. Claire says there is a start up fee but then there might be ongoing fees or transaction fees. So she says the PAC should build that into the pricing. Kemp also said saw some vendors have a range for prices. Helen says there is one they are considering from the group of "hot lunch ladies" with a database of 10 schools with 300 parents from each schools. One leading vendor does a variety of costs and each item is priced differently. The feedback is that for expensive items they don't add as much to the price. The variable cost allows families to not have to order a whole meal, but add something to a meal. So more selection. Kemp asks if the survey would be the next thing and Claire says yes, a limited survey. And then maybe come back at the end of the year with an exit survey. So once they do the research they will come back to the PAC with an ask for the set up cost.

- **The Tech Committee Update:**
- **Kemp** – thanks to Steven and Shannon for being here. Kemp says they met to discuss replacing technology in a cyclical manner and what he says that's about is the end goal is to create a few options around how we cycle and replace technology at Wolfe. And it will

be up to the PAC to vote on that and it will be a significant expenditure – like proposing an annual budget cost and then we can decide on how much technology we want to replace. The reality of the VSB situation is that it is unknown and there is no quota, no quotient, no measure against the amount of students etc. Suddenly they just drop 10, 5, 50 laptops at a school and then that’s it and the school then goes from there. So we want to see what are some tiers – annualized at high 4 figures at the high end or the other end like 5 k. What we are looking at is a quota for student, and we aren’t going to show anything tonight but Kemp is going to invite Steven and Shannon to speak. There is a spreadsheet which shows how many computers we have and what years:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XhAUJL6_7UXSkNBbpE6PvJrqrYPpOku/edit#gid=749039526

- Notably, laptops by year are as follows:



- **Shannon** – run down of the xl spreadsheet. We have been maintaining our group of laptops, the ones we have are from 2014, we have 7 from 2014 and the shelf life on a laptop is generally not more than 5 years for one device and we have multiple students using them. So we fight hard and take good care of them and the kids work hard to treat them respectfully. They get cleaned physically, make sure they are charged and fixed. So we work hard to make sure we have working laptops – right now there are 92. 18 laptops that are 2017 and older. In 2018 we got 21 laptops from the VSB. In 2020 we got a batch of 52 at the beginning of covid. Our concern is keeping them working well and what it’s going to be like in the future.

- **Susan** says it's actually Shannon taking care of them and watches them like a hawk and one of the things they want to look into is getting technology that can have its life extended. Sometimes there are cheaper computers that can be upgraded. Susan also says that she doesn't make a tech purchase without first asking the VSB to make sure they aren't about to do something around technology. There's not an expected program so we have to go forward not knowing what will happen down the road. She asks Steven if he wants to add something...
- **Steven** says he doesn't have much to add but when he came to Wolfe he was shocked how old some of the technology was and wants to echo Shannon has done an amazing job keeping the technology working.
- **Kemp** says the tech committee will meet before the next PAC meeting and the goal for this year is to replace as many as the 2017 devices as possible. And we will vote on the plan of action in future PAC meetings and he hopes the attendance increases and that this will be noted in the minutes.
- **Claire** asks if we have thought about having a specific PAC or parent meeting just on this situation and technology topic in case people might be more willing to show up and get the full picture and find out about the budget etc. She says she doesn't think a lot of parents know the state of the laptops or know how they are used or what the benefits are. Like some people think kids shouldn't use laptops and others think everything should be on laptops. She says she knows in West Van they expect the kids to bring their own tablets and then the PAC subsidizes ones for people that don't have the ability to do that. So maybe we could have an info session to explain why we are doing this, what we teach on laptops etc. And Claire asks about the PAC budget for the next year, and says we don't raise as much money as we used to. So in terms of trimming the PAC budget we tend to fund the same items every year. So are we going to figure out what not to fund in favour of technology instead of that math or science program, etc. skipping white hatter next year. From her experience on the Exec we pretty much make 30k every year now but don't get beyond that.
- **Susan** – to answer your question, when we get down to the nitty gritty those will be the questions we will have to ask – what are our priorities at the school? And we need to do that thoughtfully and carefully since the technology is used more by intermediates but the science program Claire mentioned is used by the primaries. The staff is very collaborative but these are the conversations we need to have. Susan said she wanted to talk about that because she says we have the capital fund and some people might say well that would fix our laptop problem but then we might be pushing the problem down the road. She thinks an info night would be useful and Shannon and Steven are articulate. Also we need to help kids organize themselves online too. Claire said we could do a direct drive just for technology too but we don't know how that would go or it could be controversial since some parents would rather have a playground. So it's nice to

have it build into the budget. Susan says Kemp and her are also looking into grants and if anyone is aware of a tech grant she is happy to put in the work to apply for the grant. We looked at our kids and we have 100 in grade 6 and grade 7s. Our dream would be one device per child. 11 of the 100 students bring their own device too and we could tell parents if they have an older laptop a child could bring their own laptop. So we are looking at making parents aware that kids can bring their own device but the school can't be responsible for damage to it. .

- **Kemp** says most of the work is fact finding – the goal for this year is to replace older devices and to have ideas and understanding surrounding making multi-year decisions since that's the only way to get the grants. Everyone bringing their own device is an interesting proposal and there is a lot to do and think about... An info night would come long before decisions are made.
- **Comment from the Chat** – Kemp reads a comment from the chat saying that the VSB does not take donated laptops and has strict rules about what they service. Kemp says this should be noted for the minutes – we are not in a free technology space or world. We exist within the Vancouver's School district's support of devices they allow on their networks and into the classroom. Kemp asks Susan to clarify. She says you can't donate an extra computer to the school that we then take responsibility for but if your computer can access the internet and can support "Office 365" then your child could bring their own laptop that you are maintaining at home. So we can bring in outside laptops but it's attached to a child not donated to the VSB. Shannon and Steven know all the specs as to how that works. Susan says there are some iPads they don't want on the VSB system because they gum it up and slow it down. So there are some rules and we are looking at everything. She is grateful for the partnership between the PAC and the school. Kemp says he thinks grants are exciting.
- **Leslie's Treasury Report:**
- Leslie doesn't have a lot to report since the last meeting. There are a few things she is reconciling from the VSB account she needs clarification on. We haven't deposited the money from the movie night so nothing is exciting to report. Susan says the only thing slowing down the VSB account in supporting Leslie is the change in OAs since we had rotating OAs and Audrey is into her second week so we have the questions but don't have all the answers yet.
- **Kemp** – says there is a note in the Chat about the Playground Equipment Program, the Social Enhancement Program, the annual facility grant – from Dorcas and Gavin. These are provincial grants. Susan says she is not familiar with them but she is happy to look into them.

- **New Business** - Someone in the chat asks if teachers will get the day off if there is a snow day the next day. Susan said it's interesting since it's the flexible Pro D so some are in school and some not. The VSB will decide if schools will be all open or all closed. She said she would bet on schools being open since the VSB has to decide on how unsafe it is for kids to go to school versus staying home if their parents have to go to work. Teachers will be all in and all out. Teachers would not get a different PD day but they are always professionally developing.
- **End of Meeting**
- **Next PAC meeting Feb 20, 2024.**