

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: Tuesday Oct. 17, 2023, 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

PAC MEMBERS (by Zoom title): Maria McClean, Andy Lenigan, Zamir Polotov, anne’s iPhone, Fran’s iPhone, Leslie Hoolaeff, Micah, Lynn, Dorcas & Gavin, Abi Garlle, Wyle, Natasha Gordon, Luca, Veronica Solimano, Kelly, Edward Leung

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

- **Welcome & Land Acknowledgement** – Kemp Edmonds

Kemp shares youtube video on the history of Vancouver from 7000 BCE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgNMp3GHKyw>

- **Approval of the minutes from Sept. 19, 2023:**

Moved Annie	Seconded Claire Wilson	Carried

<https://www.generalwolfepac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/PAC-Meeting-Minutes-Sept-19-2023.pdf>

- **Principal's Report:**

- **Staffing** – Andrew Buttle has joined Wolfe as the teacher for Division One
- **Supervision Aids** - there are a minimum of two and then potentially more depending on the enrollment of the school. We have 3 supervision aids but with our current enrollment we could go down to 2.
- **Lost and found** – Waiting for a trolley that is coming for the lost and found items. Susan just went through them and only 25% had names on them. Please continue to put your names on your children's things.

- **Upcoming Events:**

- **The Foundational Skills Assessment** for grades 4 and 7 - the 3 questions for assessments – “where am I?”, “where am I going?” and then “how will I get there?”

Susan shows us a slide show from her laptop and explains how it works.

The BC Ministry website provides the following if parents want more info:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/assessment/fsa/en-foundation-skills-assessment-for-parents-and-caregivers.pdf>

FSA's will be wrapped up by Mid November.

- **Great BC Shake Up** – This Thursday Oct. 19th at 10:19 am, going to practice drop and cover and hold procedure, and looking at new routes on the field. We have a metal fence and power lines around our school so we are working with the district to discover the best routes to/from the school. In the event of an emergency, parents also need situational awareness too - knowing how to approach the school and to look for signs of where to collect kids.
- **Question from Chat:** A parent's son is in Grade 6 says he and his friends aren't allowed to play on playground at lunch and recess? It sounds like they can play on the space net but wondering about if they are or not allowed to play on the actual playground? Susan says they just aren't allowed to play “grounders”, or tag - racing in and out - as kids have been kicked in the head while kids are on the monkey bars... but generally everyone is allowed to play in the playground. The grade 6 and 7 students have been told they can't play kicking games in the front or side as well since they are too big and have kicked balls and broken windows.
- **The Halloween Dance** is coming up Oct 27th and **Movie Night Dec. 1st...** reminder all kids need to come with an adult.

- **Communicating Student Learning Slides** – used to be called “report cards” but no longer static and more dynamic. Susan shares her slides about the new changes in how we are reporting learning now. The new procedure is in alignment with the new curriculum.
- There are **Provincial Proficiency Scales...** from K to 9. Vancouver already implemented this. The change will be that the proficiency scale has changed. The core competencies and students being able to self-assess is taking place in all grades. Wolfe students took part in the pilot so they have been doing self assessments for 8 years already. What is the same is timely reporting to parents throughout the year. Letter grades are still happening from grade 10s to 12 but not from K to 9.
- **Communicating student learning** – we used to call it report cards, but it’s no longer a static report card. Why it’s new – new curriculum piloted it in 2016 then assessment happened in 2019 and now we are implementing... We want kids to understand they will have to keep learning throughout their life, and the goal is being proficient – philosophically ... and when it comes to their assessments, please don’t ask students “why are you not extending?”. Your child is doing just fine if they are “proficient” – that is the goal, for students to be “proficient.” To support your children – keep talking to them about their learning all the time, talk to your classroom teacher and make sure you are attending the parent/teacher conferences coming up. Susan goes over dates of conferences and dates of when report cards go home.
- Susan talks about new students coming to Wolfe from all over and who are new to the country since there is room in all our grades, and says that the PAC has created a new group to help people, and introduces Wyle. But first there is a question from the chat:
- **Question:** Are there anything we can do to get General Wolfe a couple more Resources Teachers and SSWs (School and Student Support Workers)?
- **Susan Answers:** Yes and No. The yes part is always talking to district about what is happening at our school. But at this point there is no extra support to come our way. Resource teacher support is set with staffing in the spring and generally doesn’t change unless a new division is added. So it is based on enrollment. But we are in the same position as all the other schools. Susan doesn’t have a strategy to recommend for parents but parents are encouraged to talk to the school board if they can.
- **Question** from Kemp: Halloween costume rack, is it coming in? Susan says it has been ordered so hopefully soon. Claire mentions in the chat we have extra costumes from last year.
- **Chair Report by Kemp** – Kemp asks Wyle to introduce himself

- **Wyle and the Welcoming Committee** – Wyle introduces himself, says Susan did a great job introducing the idea. Basically for any family that is new to Wolfe and who doesn't speak English, the PAC is setting up a committee to help families. Initially the group will be to mentor new students and their families. Still figuring out the details, but most likely we will communicate as a PAC, with Susan, and then through the Class Reps. Hoping to launch it in a couple weeks. Kemp says anyone interested in helping out should reach out to the PAC email
- **Class Reps** – for those that are not familiar, class reps are parents that help coordinate between parents and the teacher. They create a list of contacts for the parents, and arrange a teacher gift at the holiday period and at the end of the year for the teacher and potentially, teachers. We still have 6 divisions needing a class rep that are listed in the chat:
 - Div.2 - Soper
 - Div.5 - Furnell + Yu
 - Div.6 - Tsoulos
 - Div.7 - Smathers
 - Div.12 - Essar + Arbor-Polley
 - Div.14 – Oades
- Can let us know or contact Sameena directly if you would like to be a class rep.
- **Halloween Costumes Swap** – we are excited about that and will have the rack up until the Halloween dance
- **Halloween Dance** – volunteers are coming along... happening the 27th... Things kick off at 6 and it's 6 – 7 pm for early grades and then 7:30 – 8:30 pm for older grades. A few more volunteer positions are needed
- The **Vancouver School Board** meets once a month, but we are going to send out an email through the PAC about their meetings if you are interested in being involved.
- **Movie Night** is coming up. We will be sending out an email to choose the movie and we will be needing parents to help if you are interested and Kemp thanks Susan for her help
- **Capital Projects** - we have funds in the capital projects fund if you have ideas of creating something at the school for your child's legacy. Some are within our control and some are not. The city manages the sidewalks and the school board manages everything else. The roundabout gardens are gardens anyone in the city can work on and the grades 6/7 do gardening around the school through the city.

- **Chat discussion about shade/temporary rain cover for outdoor learning...** Kemp asks if pop up tents available? Susan says she has been talking about having tents and the staff are looking at them. We just need to be careful since they break very easily. So we need to find the right degree of simplicity and durability.
- Grass is beyond the school and a school board decision. Some parents have expressed wanting grass/more grass at the back field
- **Leslie's PAC Treasurer Report:**
- Update on where we are at. We raised money at The Welcome Back event – we collected almost \$3500 so thanks to everyone who came out and supported the event. We also received revenue from the gaming grant – received around \$7200.
- In terms of using money in the budget, we are talking about painting benches outside with anti-graffiti paint. Kemp asks Susan for an update. Susan says she has asked for a quote, haven't heard back yet. Leslie says we can spend \$521 to paint benches and looking for a motion and will come from the capital and not the budget for the year, coming out of the reserve fund

Puts Forth Claire Wilson	Seconded Dorcas & Gavin	Carried

We ask if anyone is opposed to let us know, otherwise it passes, and it passes.

- **Fruit and Veggie Report** – Now they only covering 75% of the fund for the fruit and veggie so the school has to cover the last 25%. But sometimes the amounts are all over the place so it's hard to know if we have enough food or too much food depending on the day and food. If we have too much food we bring it to Spare Time, Susan said. Leslie asks if we want to add to the yearly budget \$650 to cover the amount to get 25% more food? Claire suggests maybe we should just observe for a couple months and see how things go. Helen was in favor of putting it forward, but seems no one is wanting to pass right now, so we decide to defer for another month.
- **Question in the Chat** on the topic of **Hot Lunch**, would it be possible to switch the hot lunch program to Tuesdays & Thursday? That way, we can fully utilize the potential benefits of the program. Instead, right now only able to use it 6 times every month due to Pro-D-Day and Stat Holidays that are mainly on Mondays & Fridays. Kemp tells people to get involved in the hot lunch committee if they would like to be involved.

End of Meeting

Next PAC meeting No 17, 2023.