

Parents' Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Wednesday, Sept 30th, 2020

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Via Zoom

PAC Executive

Jennifer Hickey (JH), Co-Chair; Leah Kimura (LK), Co-Chair; Bonnie Leong (BL) ; Treasurer; Courtney Hall (CH), Secretary

School Representatives

Daniel Knibbs (DK), Principal, Lisa Pathyil (LP), Vice Principal

Members at Large: Terry Smith

1. **Welcome and Introductions (LK and JH)** Provided an explanation regarding what the PAC does, and fundraisers that have been completed related to previous goals. With this year being unprecedented, not sure what the focus or goals will be at this time.

2. **Building of Exterior playground/active space**

Waiting for the old school removal to be complete and the site needs to be prepped. The playground structures to be installed were approved in June 2020. Landscaping will also need to occur, and the rubberized accessible track will also be installed. Plans are on the website.

3. **Financials** (as of Aug. 31st, 2020)

- a. General account \$8,000 (approx.)
- b. GIC \$98,749
- c. Gaming account \$59,455
- d. VSB account \$6,913
- e. PAC account \$155,824
- f. **TOTAL: \$328,959**

Have not heard from 2020 gaming grant yet but should hear soon. Typically receive approximately \$8000-9000 (calculated amount given per student). Gaming grant requires more accountability for funds and PAC typically gives this grant to teachers for stipend; however, PAC needs to prioritize teachers' wish list this year. Meeting with admin to follow.

As per usual, if there are any questions regarding financials, the PAC is always happy to share documents.

4. **Elections**

- a. **Chair/Vice-Chair** – No interest currently. If interested, please connect with Jen or Leah.
- b. **Secretary** – Jo Gyurkovics
- c. **Social Media** – Rebecca Goulding and Lyndsay Sung
- d. **Treasurer** – Bonnie Leong staying on
- e. **DPAC rep** – no interest; will point families in direction of DPAC’s newsletter
- f. **Members at Large:** Taryn Hayes, Rachelle Siemens, Terry Smith, Rebecca Goulding, Tiffany Bentley, Matthew Hinton

As Jen and Leah will be staying on, there will be a focus on more committee work this year. Leah will continue the playground/track/new grounds committee. Jen will continue to liaise with admin on topics/issues as they arise.

- g. New Playground Concept: track with 4 fitness nodes, play equipment includes a narrow strip (i.e. “ninja strip”), and Kindergarten play space
- h. Will be approximately \$155,824 to have the playground spaces and fitness nodes fully installed; however, hoping to have parents install to keep costs down, but that will be COVID-dependent

5. **Outdoor Classroom Environment** - Presentation by Rebecca Goulding

- a. Engages in curriculum through an outdoor environment
- b. Possible focus after playground/track is completed
- c. Used Squamish Elementary plans, also Ecole Pauline in North Vancouver (approx. cost \$75,000)
- d. Includes: gazebos, rock learning circles, open water space, etc.
- e. Allows for classrooms to occur outside
- f. Need to discuss with VSB/Superintendent to determine if this is something that the VSB would allow, typically have not allowed playground material to be “natural” items
- g. Could focus on back corner rock circle for now, and is there a way that teachers can be supported to teach in that location now
- h. Next steps:
 - i. Grant proposal ready for phase 1
 - ii. What other considerations need to be identified?
 - iii. What do teachers want?
- i. Questions:
 - i. Has VSB provided any direction re: outdoor learning spaces?
- j. Added information: Current space where garden boxes are will be turned into additional parking spaces.

6. **Admin Report**

Demolition delays, but hopefully school will be down soon. Conversations need to happen around playground and the timeline for that and the landscaping, but most likely will be occurring in the spring of 2021. The site has been mitigated and therefore the dust is not a safety risk. The crushed concrete will be used as fill. The remaining demolition will not occur with people/children/staff in the new school building. Late spring ribbon-cutting ceremony for new playground/space.

Damage from demolition occurred to new school building due to an excavator. Approximately \$100,00 in new damages.

It has been a strange start to the school year. Not a lot of spaces for new students in primary classes, but more so in intermediate classes. Approximately 60% of students returned in June. Overall, the students appear to be adaptable; however, staff are limited by breaks and timing and are working more continuously than previously.

Covid contact tracing is guided by VCH. Health assessment documents were handed in, plus continues to need to be completed daily. Parents do not need to send in updated version.

Different learning options means that staffing has needed to be creative to allow for interactions students on virtual learning platforms. Approximately 60 students are in option 4; however, have been invited to school events when possible (i.e. Terry Fox Run, given library access).

Continuing with staggered start to assist with congestion. Not able to drop chain at field as it will give parents the impression that they can go on the grass field.

Frog Hollow/Child Care Facilities students are to come to and leave the school like the rest of the students

New Reporting Format – strengths-based approach with what to work on provided and ways to support a child's learning.

There have been 3 new teaching staff: Ms. Katsamatis (Gr. 2/3), Ms. Shomura (Gr. 5/6) and Ms. Carnegie (Gr. 7).

New support staff: Mr. Simon Rotheisler, Ms. Danielle Garrett, Mr. Jimmy Liang, Ms. Norma Meza Mendoza

New Engineer: Leo

If any parents have any questions, they can always email Dan or Lisa.

Next PAC meeting date will be in November via Zoom