

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Date: Tuesday May 14, 2024, 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

PAC MEMBERS (by Zoom title): PAC Exec, Kemp Edmonds, Susan Dent, Adam Rucker, Alfonso Solimano, anne’s iPhone, Claire Wilson, Helen Pang, Leslie Hoolaeff, Lynn Gosselin, Lindsay Funk

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 and Land Acknowledgement** – Kemp Edmonds
- **Approval of the minutes from April 9, 2024:**

Moved Claire Wilson	Seconded Annie LB	Carried

- **Call to Order** – Kemp thanks Susan and asks her to give the Administrative Report
- **Principal’s Administrative Report – Susan:**
- **Staff Update:** Mr. Allen is a proud dad with a baby girl and he’s on paternity leave and Maggie Yu who was supporting Division 15 has come back to cover his class for the last of the year. Mary Zing is back from her leave and so division 16 has their regular teacher

- **Highlights:** we had an Earth Day assembly that was student led which was lovely, and a Heritage Fair focused on themes of oppression and resistance in Canada which was thought provoking. She's proud of the students and all their hard work. We had the walkathon last week which was a chance to be funny and silly for the school. Lots of great costumes and spirit and the weather was good. Red Dress Day which is about murdered and missing Indigenous girls was last Sunday so there were some projects in the school relating to that, some of the staff wearing red on the Monday.
- For those of you in the building, the **Student Voice Group** is putting together a "week at a glance" for the students like the Wednesday Weekly where they provide information to the students, and they are adding graphics so the little ones who don't have their reading yet can still see what's going on. We are being supported at lunch time Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by the Hamber Leadership clas. They are sending 5 students and they just play with the kids, doing ultimate or basketball with them. It's helping the grade 7s too to know some of the students they might meet when they go into high school.
- **Sports** has been full on. We had a few weeks where we had badminton, track and field, and ultimate all going on at the same time. Badminton has wound up and it's track and field and ultimate still going on. Sports Day is coming, cheer practices are happening, class photos are coming May 22 and Welcome to Kindergarten is coming May 28. Our numbers are continuing to go up, right now we are sitting at 399 and if the children come and go as we are expecting we might hit 400 before the end of the school year.
- Some of you might have noticed work is taking place on the wall for the **mural** and it's ready for painting. Susan has the permit application into the City of Vancouver since they need to approve it since people can see it from their homes and the street and she thinks they are on track to paint in June.
- She says the bulk of what we do in school is in the classroom learning with their teachers so she encourages parents to check in with their teachers to find out what they are doing, what they are learning about etc. And when they tell you they know something new, ask how they know that.
- **Questions for Susan:**

Kemp: Question about the **Pro D days**... is that something for next year?

Susan says the school calendar has to be published for families by the end of May. She says the district has fixed Pro D days, and there are 2 that we can change, but they are going to stick with the regular ones that the VSB is doing for next year. And then they

were given windows for conference dates so are working on those and they will go out to parents in the next couple weeks.

School fees? Fees for agenda, \$5 performance fee, and the standard school fee of \$35 but if families can't afford these things please talk to her.

- **Devices...** Kemp asks about this at the school board level, etc. He wants to set the table for future conversations since there are some changes on Susan's end. We already have a policy if anyone is wondering that has been in place at Wolfe. And he passes it to Susan to update us:
- **Susan** says they are still waiting to see as she isn't sure what the requirements will be from the province and how the district is going to want us to adjust. Every school is supposed to have a policy as part of this program and Wolfe already had that when she arrived and they haven't changed it. The rules are basically you are not allowed to have your cell phone out or your device since there are lots of things now like smart watches. You can't have your device out 20 minutes before school when supervision starts, 20 minutes after school, and any time in between without adult permission. At the higher level some of the kids find it useful to play music, or to look at something they are using as an inspiration for art, but they have to have the teacher's permission and it's a three strikes and you're out sort of rule. The second time the teacher takes it, the 3rd time it comes to Susan and parents have to come get it. The device thing is complicated since the "tool and the toy" are the same thing, so this is something we keep watching and monitoring because we have kids that don't have the self-regulation tools to not go on their phones. So this will evolve, and part of the practice is that there will be language about digital devices within the code of conduct which hasn't been there so far. So the code of conduct will be aligned to have that piece in it. At the day to day level we will probably stick with a similar policy. But it will also involve conversations with parents because as parents also get used to using their devices and having that convenience, we need to talk about how that convenience interrupts student learning. Since we have parents that want to touch base with their kids to give their kid a notice or see how they are doing and then phones starts pinging, the child doesn't know what to do. Since they don't want to interrupt other students to ask for permission. So we need to have that conversation and "conversation education" is going to get us further than hard fast rules. The other thing they are finding is that we need kids to come to school to develop relationships with adults there who they see as safe people that can help them. Susan says she's had the experience when she was a teacher where she would hear a child crying in the bathroom and the kid is calling their parents having a problem at school and asking their parent to help solve the problem when there are adults there that can help them solve the problem. They are used to going to their phone so that's what they do, and then you have an upset parent that doesn't know how to help their child, and an upset child, and adults in the building don't know there is a need. And if you need to call your parent you can come to the office and we can call your parents there.

- Back to Kemp – **Teacher Appreciation Lunch** – Susan is helping set the date. If anyone is interested in assisting, we will be putting out notices. Kemp dropped his contact information in the chat, and if you'd like to help out it's about helping select what teachers would want to eat that won't go bad if they are eating through out the day, and then picking up and delivering food to the school. Susan says the teachers really appreciate it and especially at the end of the year when teacher's gas tanks are low.
- Kemp brings up handing out popsicles on Friday for **Sports Day** and asks if anyone is interested in helping out to let the PAC know. Susan says 10:30 am should be a good time for the popsicles since that's when teachers are doing their snacks.
- **Chair Report – Kemp** – thank you to Annie and Claire for all their help with the walkathon. It was easy to donate online which was great. We will find out more on the totals soon
- **Fruit and Veggie update** – Kemp says what has happened is the funding that used to go to this is now going to a series of other programs. So how this works is the provincial gov has changed the funding arrangements and the funds are then allocated to the school boards. And then the school boards are now moving towards a program to send money to lunch programs in schools where kids don't eat enough, and schools where kids need help with food. You can read through the links. Susan says that if there are families that need help with lunch we can provide bagged lunches. Kemp says it would be 4k a year to keep doing the program on our own. Kemp asks Helen to add something and Helen says it's a bit of a luxury for our school since our school doesn't need food as much so it's not quite necessary for our school. There isn't a huge demand so not necessarily an area we would want to put funds to. She said people are also contributing through hot lunch so we are building a fund to help out families.
- Back to Kemp – **Bike Racks** – Kemp says a parent wants more bike racks on the east and south entrance... asks Susan how to go about this and she says she doesn't know about bike racks but she does know there has been conversations about some of the bike racks might not have been put back to where they were before the seismic upgrade. She says if people want more bike racks she can look into the process. Kemp says it's probably a Sept and May/June issue with the weather and Susan says there are people that bike year round and people can also lock up to the fence.
- **Welcome Back BBQ** – happening Thursday Sept 5th during the first week of school. Still looking for a lead, it's a great event.
- **Move Night** will be our last event of the year coming up and Kemp thanks the leads and says it's Wyle and Kelly and Claire and asks if Claire would like to share what the movie will be. Claire says she is not a lead but Wyle is not here, and that "Migration" won the poll. More talk on our terrible popcorn machine...

- **Kemp – Clothing Swap** – we have decided to do the clothing swap at the beginning of the year vs the end of the year so we are moving it to late Sept and haven't nailed down a specific date, and if anyone is interested in getting involved it's a pretty easy event. Wednesday or Thursday has been talked about in terms of what day of the week.
- **Treasurer's Report – Leslie** – Leslie says she will go over the budget and has her treasurer's report. She shares her screen and explains things. She says we are already bringing in fundraising money from hot lunch which is great. Nothing is very exciting except we have exceeded our budget for school spirit events and concessions and we still have another school spirit event so she wants to move money. We haven't used all of the body science money and we haven't used our misc money so she wants to move funds from those categories. Moving \$500 from body science to school spirit to pay for our movie license and any costs related to movie night. And then \$350 to concessions. So we need to put forth a motion to make budget change:

Put Forward by Claire Wilson	Seconded Helen Pang	Carried

- Next up Leslie goes over her **budget** – shows the changes and has sent changes to Susan for her review. We have prioritizing where we spend funds and want to focus on the school spirit events since we are not back to pre-covid levels of fundraising... Leslie is proposing a new fundraiser for the fall with her jewelry company. Have adjusted a few programs, appreciation events, scholarships. Have left Social And Emotional Learning in the budget but need some leaders. Lowered the grounds budget a little bit and have adjusted school spirit and PAC concession budgets. We have lowered some of the performances budget. Grade 6/7 camping and kayaking is lowered.
- Question about the Cameron Lowe scholarship – didn't happen this year since a student didn't qualify but will be left on the budget for next year. Some scholarships are at the high school level for Wolfe students
- Question about fundraising for grade 6 and 7s... camps are like \$300/out of pocket if kids don't fundraise. Kids used to fundraise pre-covid. The question is who is the one that starts up the fundraising initiative. Discussion about how we should budget for older grade events so parents of the older grades don't have to put out too much money... Susan points out some fundraisers like hot chocolate machines need adult helpers so it's hard to find parents to help out at events right after school. Talk of how much we spent on Stepping Up.
- Discussions about how expensive busses are and how busses are hard to find. And participation event costs are going up too so the costs might be higher than we have budgeted for. Seems like grade 6 and 7 expenses are the highest so we might want to

have a minimum for the budget but hope to fundraise for more. Kayaking is expensive. Camp is every 2nd year and they alternate. Susan says there is no rule that teachers have to bring kids camping. Annie brings up that if we had some guaranteed funding the teachers might be more likely to organize. Susan said costs for everything is going up every year so we don't know how much camp will be. And the busses have gotten so expensive and more than before. Susan said Ms Beeman had to call 7 bus companies to get a bus so they are hard to find too.

- Thanks to Leslie for all her hard work. Leslie says we will send out the link to the budget with the minutes and agenda for the next meeting. Sadly Leslie won't be there so hopefully things will be approved easily. We can make changes throughout the year too.
- Claire asks about the **Welcome to Kindergarten** event and if someone will be there – Leslie says she will be there. This is a good time to tell parents about the PAC and so many parents don't know what the PAC is. Talk about how we can try to get more people to show up to meetings.
- **New Business?** No new business comes up.

End of Meeting

Next PAC meeting and last of the 2023/24 school year is June 18, 2024.