

George Jay PAC Meeting  
11 Dec 2019  
6:30-8:10 pm  
George Jay Library

**In attendance**

Executive: Angela Cooper-Carmichael (President), Zeta Lay (Treasurer), Roberta Hamme (Secretary), Lilli Bauer Patey (Member-at-Large), Alicia Power (Member-at-Large)

Staff: Melanie Postle (Principal), Brent Kelly, Leila Durzi, Deanna Reid

Parents: Andrea Walker Collins, Val Cortes, Eileen Coyle, Colleen Danks, Jennifer Di Fabio, Kristy Domineck, Rebecca Freedman, Nicole Freesman, Cara Gibson, Emma Gillespie, Robert Kemp, Barbara Lejj, Matthew Payne, Sylvia Raju, Keely Roscoe, Michael Stewart, Sarah Sweeney

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Angela)

2. Agenda accepted as circulated.

3. Presentation on Vic High Lands (Grace Lore)

The land swap has been approved by the district, but still lots of opportunity to be involved. Grace has been working with a group of neighbours advocating for land swap. Motivated by the region's desperate need for housing. Caledonia proposal is for rental housing, including many 3-4 bedrooms, at a range of rental prices. Educational use of land a concern for many. However, walkability to school and family-friendly affordable housing is important for educational outcomes too. Next step is approval by City Council. Citizens can still make requests to city about safe active transportation, greenspace, and educational opportunities associated with the project. Flex use space will be included, perhaps expanding local daycare or out-of-school care opportunities. Andrea Walker Collins attended recent steering committee meeting on additional amenities to come from project funds from the city (1.2 – 1.9 million for capital upgrades). A survey is being prepared for community input. Vic High will be state-of-the-art when our kids get there, including a new theater and an observatory funded by a private donation. Concern raised about whether the new field would be turf, as Oak Bay's is falling apart. Suggestion that we ask district trustees to come to PAC meeting for a discussion. Funds may exist in district budget to build another 3 schools.

4. Minutes of 13 Nov 2019 PAC meeting accepted.

5. Reports on previous action items

- a. Eileen to post a picture of remaining T-shirts on Facebook – still to do
- b. Cara and Angela to create a survey on initiatives PAC should find grant funds to support  
Huge potential opportunities exist for fundraising by the PAC. Need community input on a vision for what to put effort toward. Would like to get parents involved in grant writing and for the PAC to host grant writing workshops. The survey needs a few more people to look at it. Action items for Cara: send draft to Alicia and Lilli and Melanie. Refine further and send out to the wider school community. A subcommittee will need to be formed to look at survey results and create a fundraising vision from them.
- c. Update on Class Dojo (Cara) – Cara went to board of education on this who were very receptive. A privacy complaint was submitted. Use of the Class Dojo application has ended at George Jay and one other classroom in SD61, and the board is looking to stop it everywhere. SD61 wants to make list of all apps in use and vet them. PAC thanks Cara for taking on the privacy issue here.

6. Principal's Report (Melanie)

Joy returns Monday. Deanna and Brent have been filling in. Thank you! Deb Whitten (deputy superintendent) has made funding available for Joy to be a full-time administrator.

Ministry of Children and Family Development planning daycare units adjacent to George Jay. SD61 still waiting for approval from ministry. On site daycares happening in waves. George Jay will be in next wave.

Learning studio. Will be built at SD61 Tolmie site, but still creating appropriate space to do this. Studio may also be used for out-of-school care after school, depending on use of space during school hours.

Accessible playground equipment order is moving forward. SD61 is helping with some extra money and installation.

Early learning project with Ministry of Education in development. Will provide access to new-K students. There will be an open house lunch at Fernwood to gather more data. The program is meant to engage more of the community and connect them to the school.

New bike rack from Ready Step Roll program is coming. A high school in SD61 is building scooter racks; we are asking for one of those too, as scooters are not safe inside the school.

SD61 is redoing their strategic plan in January. They will be looking for feedback from parents and staff.

Naming consultation process has been completed and a document presented to SD61 OPP subcommittee. Full analysis not done yet. Board will be making decisions on how to

move forward in the next few months. Find more info on the results of the consultation process at <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/community/keeping-or-changing-the-name-of-george-jay-elementary-school/>

## 7. President's Report (Angela)

### a. Discussion of draft Constitution

Constitution and bylaws subcommittee has been meeting monthly. A draft of the constitution incorporating comments received in November was presented. Hope to pass constitution at January meeting. Suggestion made to change references to parents to parents/guardians. Discussion ensued on whether constitution should be specific on who we are promoting or advocating to, but general decision to leave as is.

### b. Emporium

3<sup>rd</sup> storage container needed for all the donations (\$59). Cordova 55+ society has been bringing car loads of stuff every day. Active push from their society. Action item for Angela to send special thank you letter. Sarah Sweeney to buy discounted tape for Emporium. Volunteers needed every day to deal with incoming donations. Items will be moved into gym Monday night. Set-up starts at 9am on Tues. Can use staff room for food. Discussion on whether we could do more for larger families, given the extensive donations. Concern that we don't have the capacity to wrap more than 4 gifts per student. Would need to be clearly written out on form to parents / staff.

*Motion to look at a system next fall for getting additional tickets to larger families. – passed.*

### c. Angela to attend City Council meeting on Dec 12 re: crosswalks at Bay & Chambers, Cook & Princess, and police liaison program

Plan to reiterate need for lighted crosswalk at Princess (already on books to update) and at Bay/Chambers. Problem at Chambers and Bay equal to Princess. Please let PAC know if you're aware of an incident that could be used to advocate for this issue. Also plan to ask city to reinstate police liaison program immediately. Angela contacted police board, but they state more budget needed. Angela asking council to increase budget (for 2021 budget). Decision to cut liaison program may have been political. PAC believes it is important for police to be present in school in positive capacity.

### d. *Motion to form a PAC subcommittee on equity and diversity.*

Incidents with racist language occurring at school. Important that we combat this. Grants are specifically available for this. PAC wants to support administration, staff, and parents to deal with this. Motion passed. Angela, Sarah Sweeney, Colleen Danks, and Val Cortes all volunteered for committee. Action item for Angela: get in touch with Lisa Gunderson (One Love Consulting).

- e. Update on George Jay name change. BCTF voted to support name change. Public consultation results: 50% for name change, 38% against, remainder wanted more info. Angela to speak at Jan SD61 board OPP subcommittee on whether to form subcommittee. Suggestion that the PAC could lobby SD61 to form the subcommittee. Counter-suggestion that enough people are against the name change that the PAC should not take a position. Request that Angela make clear she is appearing at board meeting as a parent, not as the PAC president. Whether to keep the Jay mascot still unclear. In fact, much that will happen at the subcommittee level will not be the school's decision, though we can press for our opinions.
  - f. French Movie Night - Jan 10 Will be in library. We will get popcorn (bring own corn and oil to pop at movie theater). Any ideas for which movie? Suggestion to ask for input from French teachers and parents. Action item for Val Cortes: find a movie.
8. Treasurer's Report (Zeta)
- a. Zeta getting up to speed on the budget. Report presented (see Appendix). Statements to be circulated at meetings. Wreath fundraiser profit was \$375. Raffle money still to be deposited to gaming account. Updating sponsors of PAC account at Coast Capital. Cheque signers will be Eileen, Gillian, Bonnie, and adding Rozee and Lilli. Need to reconcile which money going to / coming from which accounts (Gaming vs. General). Plan to use Gaming up as much as possible. Action item for Roberta: put new treasurer e-mail on website.
  - b. \$200 for Emporium hot chocolate passed last meeting is within budget.
9. Secretary's Report (Roberta)
- a. Update on staff granting program  
13 applications received. All excellent ideas worthy of support. Total request ~\$5000. *Motion to allocate \$2000 from Finn and Izzy donation to Staff Granting Program - passed* Suggestion to consider preferring teachers in the next round who did not apply this time. We should particularly advertise to those teachers. Suggestion to consider an evaluation rubric that favours school wide benefit. However, the Staff Committee was very supportive of single classroom applications as well.
10. Health and Wellness subcommittee Report (Andrea / Alicia)
- a. Raffle update – still have ~100 tickets left. Can sell tickets until 5pm on Wednesday, Dec 18. Tickets / cash should go to Zeta or apple box (clearly labeled). Suggestion made for a Joyful Jay to pull the winner. We should ensure it is someone who didn't buy tickets.
  - b. HAWC is planning a fair at 2-5pm on 24 April (Friday). Please get involved with planning  
Need ideas for fun things to do at the fair.

11. Adjourn meeting

Next meeting scheduled for 8 January 2020 at 6:30pm

<b>General Account</b>			
October 1 Balance Forward	\$11,282.52		
Total new spending	\$773.26		
Total new income	\$4,680.24		
<b>Current Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$15,189.50</b>		
<b>Gaming Account</b>			
October 1 Balance Forward	\$12,969.76		
Total new spending	\$2,531.62		
Total new income	\$840.51		
<b>Current Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$11,278.65</b>		
Total New Spending	\$3,304.88		
Total New Income	\$5,520.75		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$26,468.15</b>		
<b>Wreath Fundraiser</b>			
Total expense	\$1,554.26		
Total income	\$1,925.00		
Profit	\$370.74		
Outstanding	\$175.00		
<b>Raffle</b>			
Total expense			
Total income			
Profit			
We're updating sponsors for the Coast Capital accounts			
PAC will be connecting with Meadow to have her removed			
Adding Rozee as sponsor (and Lily?)			
Currently have three cheque signers: Eileen, Gillian and Bonnie			
Once sponsors re-set Rozee will be another signer			
Need to reconcile monies from General account to Gaming			
<i>Books are in the counsellors office and available to teachers and parents to borrow</i>			