

George Jay PAC Meeting

13 Nov 2019

6:30-8:10 pm

George Jay Library

**In attendance**

Executive: Angela Cooper-Carmichael (President), Kim Drapeau (Vice President), Roberta Hamme (Secretary), Maritia Gully (HWAC rep)

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

Parents: Brooke Albers, Andrea Walker Collins, Val Cortes, Colleen Danks, Jennifer DiFabio, Kristy Domineck, Skye Fox, Nicole Freesman, Cara Gibson, Emma Gillespie, Corey Kowal, Kate Lackey, Zeta Lay, Barbara Leij, Thea McDonagh, Ginger McStravick, Matthew Payne, Laila Peterson, Hannah Rellve, Leslie Rewega, Skye Stegenga, Sarah Sweeney, Hailly Wagner

Guests: Carolyn Howe (GVTA)

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Angela)
2. Agenda accepted as circulated.
3. Teacher's Union contract negotiations (Carolyn Howe - Vice-President of Greater Victoria Teachers' Association)  
Summary: GVTA admires advocacy from George Jay parents, particularly statements made at school board meetings. BC Teachers Associations are bargaining with province now. Saanich school district currently on strike. Diversity of situations among districts around BC makes bargaining especially challenging. Bargaining began in February but deteriorated quickly. Contract expired at the end of June followed by mediation in July through September; report of mediator recently released. Spending on education relative to GDP in BC has been decreasing sharply since 2001 (2.62% to 1.95%), while much of the rest of Canada has remained constant. BC educational spending is \$1800 per student behind national average. BC teaching salaries have fallen behind other provinces while cost of living has been increasing. Many districts are now struggling to attract qualified teachers. In past negotiations, Victoria teachers made significant improvements on class size by accepting lower salaries. Some districts in BC have no language around class size. BC teachers want to set a provincial standard for class size while protecting superior conditions like Victoria's. The province wants to eliminate all class size standards throughout the province. The other big issue is the review of funding for special education. Province wishes to move away from specifically identified special education students. However, in past, funding has decreased when delinked from designations. Without funding linked to

designations, there is little incentive to put in the extra work to assess. The waiting list for assessment is currently much too long. PAC members are urged to contact your local MLA and attend upcoming rallies. Contact Carolyn directly for more info at [firstvp@gvta.net](mailto:firstvp@gvta.net)

4. Presentation by Save Vic High Lands (Corey Kowal and Skye Fox)

Summary: Corey and Skye became frustrated with the overcrowding of our school and so got involved in presenting to the school board. Concerned about whether the academic needs of students now and in the future have been properly considered in surplus Vic High land to the city to build Caledonia Project housing. Also frustrated by lack of transparency. A deal has been in place on this project for 3 years but public consultations started only months ago. School district's own analysis suggests that the catchment boundary change will only minimally help elementary and middle school overcrowding in the face of downtown core population growth. Both Vic High and Oak Bay High are projected to be above their capacity, and these projections tend to be underestimates. Also financially a poor deal: district plans to give away \$3 million in land and to lease other land for \$4.5 million over 60 years; this total \$1.5 million is less than the \$30,000 per year that the district gets from renting the land to the movie industry. Concerned about: 1) missed opportunity for visioning exercise for this land, 2) community pitted against each other in choosing between affordable housing and education, 3) equity in terms of students in the urban setting having the same opportunities and safety. District is not adequately planning ahead for new schools in downtown core. Lands should not be surplus and not for so little.

5. Minutes of 9 Oct 2019 PAC meeting accepted.

6. Reports on previous action items

- a. Eileen to inventory what T-shirt sizes are left and post on webpage/Facebook. – Remaining T-shirts are youth x-small, small, and x-large. Could make bags out of the smallest ones. Action item: Eileen to post a picture of shirts on Facebook.
- b. PAC executive: place a volunteer sign-up sheet for bread on PAC board near front of school. – The bread program is going well. Suggestion made to let members know what help is still needed for bread program.
- c. Maritia: look into Sign-Up Genius. – Kate has set up a Sign-Up Genius form for the Emporium. It seems perfect for our needs, but we will see how it works out with this event. User friendly. We still need to be set up a PAC account instead of using Kate's personal account.
- d. Cara: create google drive documents to share with PAC and teachers on granting. – Cara created this but not shared it yet, because the constitution and bylaws need to be

updated to apply for most grants. Also, it is important to find out what PAC members want to financially support. Action item for Cara and Angela: create a survey to get feedback on what initiatives to support and then distribute to PAC members.

7. Principal's Report (Melanie)

- 4 new whisper bikes arrived. Nearly every class has access to one. These have work tops instead of handle bars. Help student self-regulate without leaving classroom.
- Ready Step Roll Walkabout was very productive. Items noticed: yards overtaking sidewalks, students crossing roads cannot be seen well, problems with bike being ridden on school grounds. One solution: more signage, including asking bike riders to dismount.
- Staff thanks PAC for the new granting program. Everyone is excited and energized about it.
- Working on code of conduct, kindness, and restitution. Students receiving more direct instruction on what it means to be kind and inclusive. Y charts, posted on FreshGrade, show children's perception of what kindness looks like. Pictures of these will be sent home. Samples will go up on school website. 30-sec interventions starting, which are a quick check-in on kindness.
- Monthly assemblies starting. Remembrance Day Assembly was beautiful.
- George Jay Reflection sheets have been developed to help build accountability for behavior. Emphasizes that no kids are bad but may make poor choices. Emphasizes how to fix. The sheets guide mediation between two kids with an issue. Focus on what kid could do differently. Sheets are being sent home and parents do homework on the back, including speaking to child, hearing their understanding of what happened, and talking about how it could have been handled differently. These need to be signed and dated. Also, staff will ensure that parent of child who was wronged is communicated to about the event. If both kids involved made poor decisions, then both get reflection sheets.
- City has not asked for field to be closed yet, but is expected at some point. Staff is proactively planning for field closure. Staff will further discuss splitting recess and lunch hours next week.
- Learning studio construction will take place offsite.
- Brent Kelly was introduced. He is a retired principal and will be supporting George Jay while Joy is away as well as interfacing with the district.

8. President's Report (Angela)

- a. Update on Constitution and Bylaws renewal subcommittee  
Met once so far. Subcommittee has several examples of other school's constitutions and bylaws to work from. Process will take several meetings.
- b. Emporium & EA Hot Chocolate

Storage for Emporium items has been ordered. Requesting donations of items and wrapping paper starting 2 Dec (sports balls are a great donation). Angela to request that no foil paper be donated / used for sustainability. Effort will be made to keep donations from clogging office. Emporium set up is 17 Dec 17; Emporium on 18 Dec; open to public to buy a bag at 3pm 18 Dec. Potluck by PAC and by staff. Silent auction begins 2 Dec (items for auction being accepted now). Volunteer sign-up website will be sent out shortly (including organization of donations each day morning and afternoon, removal of garbage and dangerous items, bag and tag).

Motion to approve \$200 for hot chocolate subject to checking budget for available funding – unanimously approved.

- c. PAC support of 3rd grade swim club  
Traditionally PAC has paid for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade swimming, but not for the last few years. We would like to consider doing this again but need to consult budget when Treasurer in place again.
- d. Memorial plaque for Corrine Smith (former PAC president) – General agreement that PAC would like to move forward on a memorial plaque.

#### 9. Vice President's Report (Kim)

- a. Movie Night (Nov 15th) – Movie will be Wonder Park. Disney movies are possible in the future. Fresh Slice pizza will be available for purchase as well as chips and juice boxes. Will take place in the gym. Pizza at 5:30 and movie starts at 6. Bring blankets and pillows. Volunteers needed. Plan to offer popcorn at future movie nights.
- b. Halloween Dance - \$1747.65 received from event. Expenses were higher than in past with Fernwood Pizza. Total profit (not including this year's investment in new decorations) was \$487.65.
- c. Childminders at PAC meetings – Increase in people attending means more kids to watch. Childminders have been given access to a Disney plus account, G only.

#### 10. Treasurer's Report ()

- a. Nomination of candidates for a new Treasurer – Zeta Lay has volunteered to become treasurer. No other volunteers.
- b. Election of new Treasurer – as Zeta is the only candidate, she was acclaimed (approved) subject to passing a criminal record check and training by past PAC executive members.

#### 11. Secretary's Report (Roberta)

- a. Member mailing list – A new mailing list has been created. Still finding a few typos in some addresses. You can tell you are on the mailing list if you get e-mails with a subject

line that begins [GeorgeJayPAC\_members] If you are not getting these e-mails, please contact georgejaypacsec@gmail.com to sign up.

- b. Update on staff granting program – Roberta and Angela presented on new staff granting program to staff meeting today. Applications due at end of November. Staff Committee will consider applications first and then make recommendations to PAC subcommittee for funding. Subcommittee will meet in early-mid Dec to make decisions.
- c. Develop informational flyer for teachers on \$250 allocation to each for extracurricular activities – Informational flyer was developed and given to teachers earlier today at staff meeting. A pdf will also be available to staff through their google drive.

#### 12. Health and Wellness subcommittee Report (Maritia and Andrea)

Provision of weekly fruit and veg continuing. Thank you to Leila and volunteers. More volunteers needed for this. HAWC will send a survey to teachers to see whether the program is meeting needs. An informational bulletin board on flu prevention is being posted. Planning meeting for HAWC Spring Fair at 3pm on 10 Dec in library. HAWC considering sponsoring soccer or rugby after school.

- a. Raffle update – Half of the raffle tickets distributed so far. Thank you to sellers! Still 500 to go. Get in touch with Andrea, HAWC folks, or new treasurer to get tickets. A table selling tickets will be at Owl Designer Fair next weekend. Volunteers needed at fair to sell them (criminal record check required).

#### 13. Student ratings via ClassDojo and similar apps (Cara Gibson)

ClassDojo is in use in at least one class at George Jay. It is a behavior management app. Students get positives or negatives each day, tallied at end of week. Scores are compared and highest score gets a small award (pencil). Concerns: 1) Some kids may never be able to be the best in a week, leading to high anxiety. 2) Rewards conformity. 3) Punitive use is potentially damaging. 4) Monster avatar erases gender, race, and other individual differences. 5) Data stored in US, indefinitely. This is illegal by BC privacy laws. A better option, sanctioned by the school district is FreshGrade, which is more like a portfolio of student work and experiences, without the behavior management aspect. FreshGrade data stays in BC, and FreshGrade will delete child's data when asked. Many parents like the portfolio aspect of FreshGrade. District can restrict use of some apps but there are so many available that they rarely do.

#### 14. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Next meeting scheduled for 11 December 2019 at 6:30pm