

George Jay PAC Meeting  
10 February 2021  
6:30-7:41pm  
Virtual Meeting over Zoom

**In attendance**

Executive: Andrea Walker Collins (President), Sam Albers (Vice President), Zeta Lay (Treasurer), Roberta Hamme (Secretary), Melanie Cullins

Parents: Jo Addison, Kate Berniaz, Pader Brach, Kristy Domineck, Cathy Fowlie, Leylo Gacal, Myra James, Danielle MacKenzie, Erin Macklem, Karla Marshall, Matthew Payne, Kim Persley, Hannah Rellve

Staff: Melanie Postle (Principal), Sarah Winkler (Vice Principal), Rebecca Bathurst-Hunt

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:30pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Andrea)
2. **Agenda accepted** as displayed.
3. **Minutes of 13 January 2021 meeting accepted**
4. Reports on previous action items
  - a. **Advocacy plan for enhancing EA support** (Andrea)

Andrea spoke with Deb Whitten (District Deputy Superintendent) about EA support. George Jay has highest number of EAs of any school. Andrea communicated parent concern about delayed access to educational psychologists for designation testing. Some families are choosing to pay themselves for private testing and cost is high. Deb expressed surprise and disappointment and promised to look at schedule for designation testing sessions. District is considering continuing testing during summer to alleviate wait times. Designation has impact on providing EA support to school as a whole, but then school decides how to deploy EAs to specific students. Parents should know that when testing has been requested, there is a process for moving forward with getting support for students under the assumption that a designation will be given. Allows students to begin getting support immediately. A challenge is the availability of on-call EAs for situations when an EA is ill or otherwise out of the school. Still working on how PAC can effectively advocate around this issue.
  - b. **Cook St sidewalk expansion** (Roberta)

Motion was passed at last meeting to request City to expand sidewalk on Cook Street next to the school the way they have in North Park and elsewhere to allow for better social distancing. City plans to complete this in late Feb or early Mar.
5. **School Streets program planning** (Kate)

Planned dates for pilot School Streets on Queens St is April 6-9.

Mel has talked to traffic officer who works with George Jay. Officer plans to be there for at least the first day but hopefully all week.

Looking for volunteers to help with event. Hannah will organize cone duty and training.

Need help with communication to families, neighbours, staff, and on social media. Need help with surveying people at end for impact. To volunteer, e-mail Kate at < [kberniaz@gmail.com](mailto:kberniaz@gmail.com) >. Kate will also post a request for volunteers on social media.

What activities can we add to the event as a celebration? Music? Sidewalk chalk? Bubble machine rental? Bubbles blown by humans is a potential COVID risk. Look to pass a small budget for this at the next meeting. We've been told by city that we could paint the centre of the Queen St. roundabout. An artist could do the outline and kids could paint in the area. Event dates do not align well with My Great Neighbourhood Grant intake but could do later. Action item: Andrea to look into when next granting opportunity would be and how it could be used for a mural in the Queen's Street roundabout.

Spirit days could be associated with the School Street week – scoot one day, walk one day, etc...

## 6. **Principal's Report** (Melanie)

The first stage for special needs assessment is a Level B assessment. Staff need to be qualified to give this. Then staff can build recommendations and put strategies in place to start working on supporting students before formal designation testing. School is currently training staff on how to help implement these strategies.

City has pledged to put up no idling signs on Queens and maybe on Princess if additional signs available. Mud pit has formed near the Gaga Ball court. City will look at drainage options.

Scaredy Cats filming is complete. The new sand the film company provided is wonderful.

January Pro-D Day training was phenomenal. Staff offered a mini-conference with ~10 sessions available including drum making, restorative practices, writing tools, etc....

Planning a similar day again soon. This week is tapestry day for several districts, gathering over Zoom.

Staff planned how to facilitate equity scan today. Information has been sent home to families involved. Grade 5 students will complete a survey. All staff, as well as indigenous parents will be asked to complete a survey. Aim is to identify areas where the school is doing well and what needs work.

COVID protocols are continuing to be challenging, and new protocols will be coming soon.

Changes at elementary level will not be so large. Mask wearing will continue to be optional at our school. Staff will wear masks at all times except when eating/drinking or are behind a Plexiglas shield. Reemphasize policies for line-ups, moving in hallways, etc... to keep learning groups apart. Procedures for who will need to clean what and when are being clarified. Many staff would appreciate kids wearing masks.

Several classes are making cards for the elderly at the local Glenwarren Lodge care home.

Suggestion to make thank you cards for the city for the new lighted crosswalk at Princess and Cook. Crosswalk should be operational in March.

7. President's Report (Andrea)

50/50 draw is all set up and now just a matter of buying tickets. A flyer will be going home for this round (tomorrow or next week). Please help spread the word! Tickets can be sold to anyone in BC. First winner was in Burnaby. Hope to match raffle sales from last year to support emergency supplies for the school.

Leslie has volunteered to spearhead our spring grab bag event. Aiming for the last day of school before Easter. Hybrid class will get theirs earlier again, similar to Halloween grab bag.

8. Treasurer's Report (Zeta)

Showed account statements / balances. Lots of deposits going straight into gaming account as part of the 50/50 raffle. Received a cheque from Mabel's Labels for ~\$60.

Revenue cash should be twice the winner's earnings; not all deposits included in spreadsheet yet. Andrea and Zeta to reconcile the account within the next week. 10% of revenue goes to Raffle Nexus.

Silent auction funds are almost fully deposited. Also received \$277.50 donation from Sobeys (Thrifty's cards) donation.

Requested school to remind staff about using their extracurricular funds from the PAC.

Request made for nominations for treasurer role. Concern expressed that we are not reaching all parents with appeals via e-mail. A flyer or other means might be needed.

Andrea suggests that PAC should look at reconciling our budget for this year. Excess funds could be directed to bigger ticket items identified in the earlier survey.

Thank you from Andrea and the whole Exec to Zeta for her hard work organizing the treasurer role.

9. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion subcommittee report (Zeta)

Subcommittee is putting together a survey. Considering how to ensure the survey reaches a larger community than just the people who read and respond their e-mail. Planning how to improve and better communicate with parents/staff on equity and diversity.

Hoping for a presentation by Lisa Gunderson to the PAC on 8 March. Working to get a firm date. EDI subcommittee to provide direction to Lisa on the content of presentation.

Jo has provided information to the subcommittee on reconciliation process. Subcommittee will continue work to address this.

Thank you to the school/Mel for sending out the code of conduct. Wonderful for parents to have access to this clear resource when issues arise.

10. Strategic Planning Committee update (Jo)

Great meeting last week. Code of conduct will be an evolving document. A key part of the code is that attention is given to both parties in a disagreement. Code to be posted on school website.

Interacting with EDI subcommittee on how to handle racial or other harassment. Education around what has happened could be required beyond the procedure for a normal bad behavioural incident. Considering how the school can help to educate families about these issues. One idea is for staff to offer workshops for parents that are in-line with curriculum, for example understanding indigenous issues paired with Orange Shirt Day.

Need to address both student and home situation. Would still need to look for staff to volunteer for this.

A number of literacy programs in progress at George Jay, including literacy intervention in FRIM, reading strategies developed for use across district, and the story-maker story studio program. District is becoming more supportive of George Jay's unique situation. Workshops for parents in planning stages, including an anxiety workshop. Considering how best to offer workshops, perhaps with recording. Guidelines around cell phones at school have been developed.

11. Adjourn meeting – 7:41pm

Next general meeting is scheduled for 10 March 2021 at 6:30pm