

George Jay PAC Meeting
9 Oct 2019
6:30-8:15 pm
George Jay Library

In attendance

Executive: Angela Cooper-Carmichael (President), Kim Drapeau (Vice President), Andrea Walker Collins (Treasurer), Roberta Hamme (Secretary), Maritia Gully (HWAC rep), Alicia Power (Member-At-Large), Lilli Bauer (Member-At-Large)

Administration: Melanie Postle (Principal), Joy Nugent (Vice-Principal)

Staff: Mitchel duPlessis, Jennifer Loukras

Parents: Brooke Albers, Joanne Buxton, Colleen Danks, Kristy Domineck, Ann Ferguson, Cara Gibson, Kate Lackey, Zeta Lay, Christina (Len) Lenic, Sarah Sweeney

Guests: Jon Ferguson, Colby Heddon

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Angela)
2. Treasurer's Report (Andrea) – Amounts deposited and withdrawn in last month were summarized (see Appendix for full Treasurer's report, motion to accept report was passed). Highlights: Received our 2019-20 Gaming grant funds of \$9800. Normally, this grant is \$20 per student; this is only 490 students based on the amount received. Action item for Andrea: follow up on why amount is lower than expected from current enrollment. Many donations received for BBQ, making actual spent \$600 compared to \$2000 budget. Honourarium spent so far is over budget by \$250 for the year. \$450 was made on T-shirt sales at the BBQ. Action item for Eileen: inventory what T-shirt sizes are left and post on webpage/Facebook. Melanie has been in contact with Passion Sports to start an on-line store for George Jay Spirit Wear. A PAC table could be set up at the upcoming Book Fair.
 - a. Raffle Update - 40% of raffle tickets have been distributed for sale. Funds from raffle will go into Gaming account. More parents are needed to help sell tickets. See Andrea in office on Tuesday mornings for tickets. Action item for Andrea: send blurb about raffle to Melanie to include in newsletter and send raffle poster to Joy for inclusion on school website. Suggestion to advertise some examples of what raffle funds will be used for.
3. Report on Ready Step Roll (Colby Heddon, Active School Transportation Program Assistant, CRD Regional and Strategic Planning). Summary of progress presented (see Appendix for report). 5 schools are participating to develop a school travel plan for non-car commuting. Initially, students and parents were surveyed (38% participation rate). ~50% are walking; ~30% going by car, but many interested to switch to active transportation. Time pressure and convenience in morning are main issues necessitating commuting by car. Many would like to see additional street crossings and trails, as well as lower vehicle numbers and speeds. Next event is Oct 23 – 7:45-9:45am for a School Walkabout. Parents and students

welcome. Plan to look at problem areas in person then come inside to brainstorm solutions. Families can also send concerns by e-mail to Colby at cheddon@crd.bc.ca

4. Agenda accepted as circulated.
5. Minutes of 11 Sept 2019 PAC meeting accepted.
6. Reports on previous action items
 - a. Andrea to check in with the city on status of Cook Street Mural grant. Funds from this grant were deposited with the school district as an official non-profit. Reimbursement proceeding through district now.
 - b. Andrea to reach out to Victoria Foundation to see if they require non-profit status for grant applications. Yes, non-profit status is needed for many grant applications. It would help the PAC to be a registered non-profit again.
 - c. PAC executive to develop a motion for an official position on the Caledonia Project. Affordable housing is needed in Victoria. However, concerns exist re: the reduction of space per student at Vic High and the potential for further overcrowding at George Jay, Central Middle School, and Vic High. Unclear to what extent these concerns have been considered in the development of the project. Discussion surrounded the need for more information and whether it is appropriate for the PAC to take a position or better for individual families to get involved in advocacy. Action item for Angela: arrange for Save Vic High Lands to present at next PAC meeting.
 - d. Angela, Kim, and Lilly to spearhead volunteer recruitment and organization of bread program. Bread bagging is happening during breakfast club in gym. More volunteers needed for bagging and for pick up from Cobbs. Action item for PAC executive: place a volunteer sign-up sheet on PAC board near front of school
 - e. PAC Executive to form a subcommittee to work on grab bag fundraiser, especially finding a different theme. This is on hold until January. Valentine's Day is a possible theme.
 - f. Roberta to renew BCCPAC membership. Done.
 - g. Roberta to finish draft of staff granting form and send around for suggestions. Grant subcommittee (Alicia, Andrea, Roberta, Mme. Rebecca, Eileen could not attend) met on Friday. Roberta updated the draft form based on meeting. So far, approved by all committee except Mme. Rebecca. Grant applications will go through Staff Committee first then to grant subcommittee. Teacher \$250 allocation needs its own flyer. Action item for Roberta: develop informational flyer for teachers on \$250 allocation to each for extracurricular activities.
7. Principal's report (Melanie Postle)
 - Jennifer Loukras has been spearheading Walk and Wheel. Prizes were donated by local organizations. Each class got punch passes, each walk or wheel to school enters them in for a prize draw.
 - Small team went to Vancouver for meeting at the Ministry. George Jay is a "Wonder School" with community wrap-around to get kids ready for kindergarten. The new early

learning curriculum will now go up to age 5. Victor School will not be ready to be a Strong Start site until after December. Getting Strong Start back at George Jay is a high priority when enrollment decreases.

- Plan is for the music program to go into the new Learning Studio when ready in Spring. Building permit has been applied for and likely approved. District will consult school on modifications to basic design. It will be sited on the blacktop.

- Joyful Jays is a new program to notice kids for positive things. Winners get their pictures up on bulletin board and receive a book. Kids and parents are being encouraged to keep their hands out of the Joyful Jays bin (presently a glass aquarium). Discussion of whether a polling box could be obtained for Joyful Jays votes or something donated from Monks Office.

- New mural created for bulletin board.

- New grant money has allowed school to order "Second Step" kits for K-3. Also funds were obtained for 8 more classroom libraries. The library is planning to upgrade their French collection for grades 4-5 and is putting together a book list to buy.

- Funds from Santas Anonymous have funded 4 more whisper bikes with tables.

- George Jay will be a polling station, both advance voting and normal election day. This will impact gym activities and create parking problems around school. Action item for PAC executive: add a notice on PAC facebook page about election parking.

- Pack in and pack out is a new district initiative. Recycling at the school has been too cross-contaminated to be viable. Parents will see more of kid's lunches coming back home.

- Update on Language of Consent Books – Counselors are eager to have these as a resource at George Jay. Zeta will purchase and PAC will reimburse her.

- Lilli and Melanie plan to meet next week on inclusive playground. Building of the equipment (availability of needed machine shop equipment) has been the issue. We are on the list for creation of our outdoor circuit, but a period of good weather is needed.

- Orange shirt day awesome. Pictures will be posted on website and twitter.

8. President's Report (Angela)

a. Halloween dance will be 18 Oct, early this year. Big Dog will DJ. Sound system booked.

Volunteers needed for raffle and bake sale tables, which will be down in hallway by bathroom. One bake sale table to be nut aware and one nut friendly. Suggestion to use "sign-up genius" to recruit volunteers. Action item for Maritia: look into Sign-Up Genius. Plan to offer Fernwood Pizza at \$2 per slice. Suggestion for PAC to also consider Domino's. The location on Bay St is currently managed by a George Jay parent, potential for a great deal.

8b. BBQ very successful. \$2000 budget, \$1400 left over. Request for \$330 of this to be allotted for child minding at PAC meetings. Number of kids needing to be looked after has grown substantially this year. Perhaps we can work out a system for an extra person to be on call. Suggestion for the rest of funds to be granted to Annie Shum to take kids to the Symphony (school bus rental needed etc..). Counter-suggestion for the extra funds to go into new staff granting program. Ms. Shum could apply for these funds through program. Motion passed to add \$1000 to grant program and \$330 to childminding budget.

- 8c. Renaming process. Discussion that teachers felt hurt about statements that teachers are in favour of name change. Staff wanted to speak for themselves. No harm intended by PAC representatives. School board recently passed a motion to consider renaming. First, a school-based consultation will go forward. Then a committee will be struck to consider. A survey will go out next week to everyone through district webpage and other means. School to send the survey link to all parents. Conclusion that no renaming subcommittee is needed within PAC until school consultation concluded.
- 8d. Constitution and bylaws committee has been formed. Need to set up first time to meet.
9. Vice President's Report (Kim). Last year some fundraising was done through a bottle drive after New Years. Discussion on whether to repeat this year. PAC has an account with the Bottle Depot (just mention us when you drop off your bottles), but a local place to drop off bottles would be useful. Volunteers would be needed. Info to be posted on the PAC board.
10. Secretary's Report (Roberta)
- a. Membership list. A spreadsheet database with the contact info from the blue PAC forms sent out to parents through teachers in September has been completed. Contact info from spreadsheet has been added to georgejaypac gmail account. If anyone is not getting e-mails from georgejaypac, we may have a typo in your e-mail address. Please contact georgejaypacsec@gmail.com and we will fix this.
 - b. Non-profit status. As noted earlier, non-profit status would help with grant applications. The PAC became a registered non-profit society in 1993, but lost the status in 2005 for failure to update records each year. Reapplication is relatively easy but will require updated bylaws and constitution.
11. Health and Wellness Committee report (Maritia). HAWC is creating a mailing list from the parents who indicated on their blue forms in September to share their contact info with the HAWC. Newsletters will be created to be sent to that list. HAWC plans an evening parent education seminar with Allison Rees and Life Seminars (<https://lifeseminars.com>). Have arranged for all George Jay parents to get 30% off her seminars. Planning a plant sale for next year in early Spring. Alicia has applied for a \$1000 grant for the spring HAWC fair.
12. Fundraising via grants (Cara Gibson). Cara suggested that it would help teachers and the PAC to have a centralized place for information on granting resources. This could include a listing of different opportunities that would be available and their deadlines, as well as boilerplate text about George Jay that could be used and modified by people as they write grants. Suggestion was eagerly accepted. Action item for Cara: create google drive documents to share with PAC and teachers on granting. Cara will also join PAC grant subcommittee.
13. Rainbow club (Ann Squires Ferguson). Ann spoke on behalf of her son Jon, who transitioned to being a boy between kindergarten and grade 1. George Jay has been wonderful supportive community for them. Bulletin board is up in the school with gender spectacular postings. Each class is exploring identity and gender. Ann and Jon suggest forming a

Rainbow Club focused on inclusion and diversity, meeting once a week at recess. Teacher Jennifer Loukras (Room 211) volunteered her room and to be the staff sponsor. Wednesdays or Fridays would likely be best to reduce conflict with other clubs. PAC asked for \$250 for resources. Suggestion to first reach out to craft stores and Munk Office for donations. Motion passed to support Rainbow Club in principle. Suggestion to consult further with students and staff.

14. Inspirational Wall Painting (Sarah Sweeney). Sarah spoke about the potential to paint inspirational quotes on the walls throughout hallways to inspire kids and parents. Melanie requested that Sarah send an e-mail to her with her idea. Artists available to help with installation.

15. Katherine O'Connor, school librarian, is looking for volunteers for Book Fair. Action item for PAC executive: Sign-up sheet to be posted on PAC board.

Next meeting scheduled for 13 November 2019 at 6:30pm

GEORGE JAY PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL | TREASURER'S REPORT

October 9th, 2019 PAC Meeting

GENERAL ACCOUNT

\$11,127.72 - 2018/2019 Balance Forward

\$689.26 - Total New Spending

\$1,472.50 - Total New Income

\$11,910.96 - Current Balance Forward

GAMING ACCOUNT

\$2,999.70 - 2018/2019 Balance Forward

\$590.42 - Total New Spending

\$9,970.00 - Total New Income

\$ 12,379.28 - Current Balance Forward

\$1,279.68 - Total New Spending

\$11,440.50 - Total New Income

\$24,290.24 - Total Current Income

Notes:

1. We received our 2019/2020 Gaming Grant for a total of \$9,800, which does not match our entire student count of 521 students at \$20 each. (If reflective of the actual population count the grant should have been \$10,420)
2. Our Welcome BBQ spending was \$1,409.58 under budget.

3. Our Honorarium spending was \$250 over budget.
4. We made \$450 selling t-shirts at the BBQ, and \$170 selling Raffle Tickets.
5. To date, about 40% of our Raffle Tickets have been distributed to parents for selling. We need more parents to sign up to sell tickets.

George Jay Elementary is part of the Ready Step Roll: Active School Travel Planning 2019-2020. This program brings together students and parents, schools, municipalities and community partners to increase walking and wheeling to and from school. When more students walk and wheel to school we have healthier and happier kids, safer school zones and greener communities for all.

Ready Step Roll is a 15-month program working with a school travel planner, Colby Heddon, from the Capital Regional District.

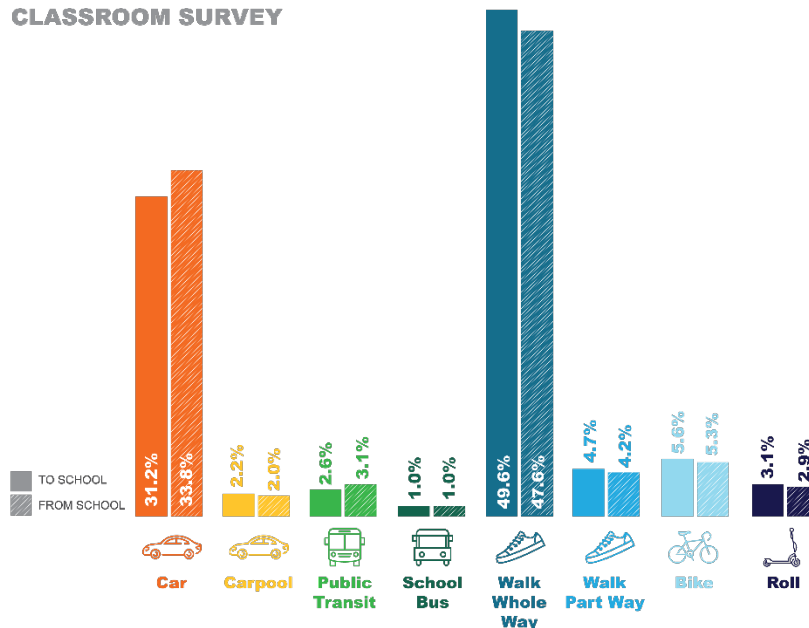
WE ARE HERE ☺



SURVEY RESULTS

For one week in May 2019 students were asked how they travel to and from school.

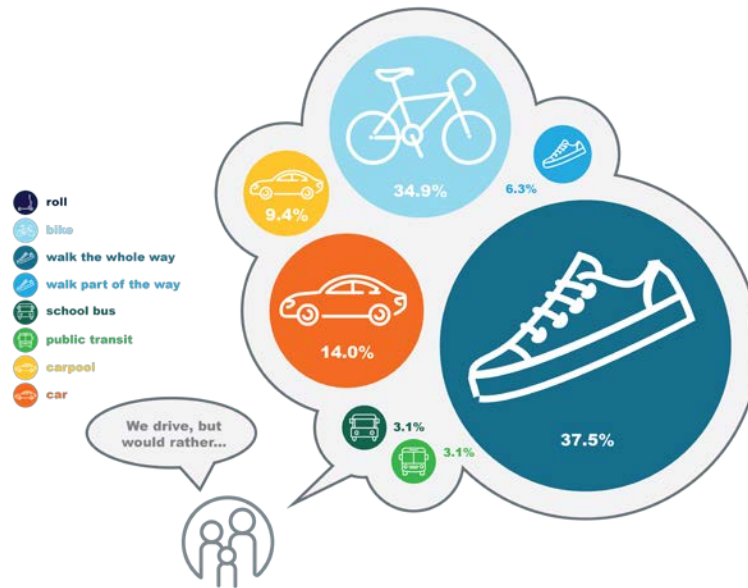
MODE TO/FROM SCHOOL CLASSROOM SURVEY



An on-line school travel survey was distributed to parents between May 13 and June 16, 2019. From George Jay Elementary, 186 families completed the survey representing approximately 38% of the school’s population.

Over 80% of all families attending George Jay Elementary live within 1.6km of the school. This is about a 15 minute walk. Due to relatively small catchment almost all student live within 3km of the school.

Of the approximately 30% of parents who drive to school, many would prefer their children use active travel.



The **main reasons George Jay students are being driven** to school:

- Convenience/time pressures
- Distance is too far from home
- Age of student

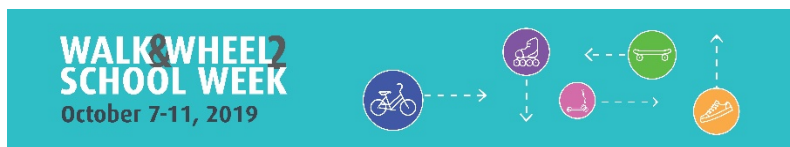
Parents would **encourage their eldest child to walk or bike to school** if...

- Additional street crossing (for walking and bikes)
- Continuous sidewalks/trails/bike infrastructure
- Lower vehicle volumes/speeds

Key safety concerns along the route to school:

- Cook St – Vehicle volumes and speed
 - Cook St and Princess – Vehicle speed, drivers not stopping at crosswalk, request for flashing lights
- Chambers – Vehicle volumes and speed, poor visibility, lack of crosswalk (Chambers/Princess)
- Bay – vehicle speed, limited crosswalks, narrow/disconnected sidewalk
 - Bay and Chambers – Request for flashing lights, drivers not stopping at crosswalk
- Fernwood - Vehicle volumes/speed, drivers not stopping at crosswalk (Denman/Gladstone), lack of crosswalks (Pembroke/Walnut)

WALK AND WHEEL TO SCHOOL WEEK



The Celebration Station at George Jay took place on **Monday, October 7th from 8:15am to 9:00am** – we were impressed with the enthusiasm and participation in active transportation shown by several students even in rainy weather.



Neighbourhood Walkabout

Wednesday, October 23rd at 7:45am

You're invited! A neighbourhood walkabout brings together parents, school, municipal staff and community partners to visit the safety concerns identified in the survey and brainstorm improvements.

Get in touch! Colby Heddon, Capital Regional District, cheddon@crd.bc.ca, 250-360-3180

www.crd.bc.ca/ready