

George Jay PAC Executive Meeting
11 Sept 2019
6:30- 8:20pm
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: Rebecca Bathurst-Hunt, Aly Mackay, Marcy O'Keefe, Ailinh Trinh (Teachers), Leila Durzi (Family Liason)

Parents: Jami Perry, Sonja Childs, Matthew Payne, Val Cortes, Robert Kemp, Sarah Sweeney, Eileen Coyle, Melanie Cullins, Colleen Danks, Jennifer DiFabio, Chirstina Lenk, Laila Peterson, Rebecca Freedman, Warren Wunderlick, Zeta Lay, Ann Squires Ferguson, Catherine Innes, Andrew Poucher, Nicole Fraser, Rozee Hyder, Emma Gillespie, Shelley Baart-Gaylor, Sam Mason, Skye Stegenga, Rayna Green, Joyce Rosario, Elham Khezri, Kate Lackey, Brooke Albers

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Angela)
2. Agenda accepted as circulated.
3. Minutes of May 2019 AGM meeting accepted.
4. Introductions – PAC executive, administration, and staff introduced themselves. General introductions not done due to large number of people in attendance.
5. Reports on previous action items
 - a. Andrea to check on city grant for Cook Street mural – Angela reported that the grant has been approved, but we are still waiting for funds. Action item: Andrea to check in with the city on status.
 - b. Andrea to investigate financial rules for fundraising raffles – completed.
 - c. Scott to transfer treasurer duties to Andrea over summer – completed.
 - d. Angela to attend community planning meetings on new Fernwood development – Angela reported that she has been attending weekly meetings of the Fernwood Land Use Committee regarding SD61 leasing property at Chambers and Gladstone to the CRD for 60 years to build 155 units of affordable housing. Housing is needed but addition of so many units to our catchment may create further over-enrolment. Questions exist regarding whether the land is being used appropriately for educational purposes and whether Victoria High will require additional space in the future. Andrea reports that the City Council is motivated to build high density housing and open to good ideas on reducing negative consequences. Should the PAC have an official position on the

development? Action item: PAC executive to develop a motion for an official position on the development.

6. Principal's Report (Melanie)

Fr 4/3 class: The French 4/3 classroom (formerly Parent Room) was to have floor tiles installed over Christmas Break. Will now happen over the Sept Pro-D long weekend. Posting to hire a teacher for the French 3/4 classroom to begin 12 Sept for a week. District interviewing, but there is a province wide shortage of certified French immersion teachers and there are several vacancies within the district. If a certified teacher cannot be hired, next best choice is a good teacher with French skills but not certified for French immersion. To provide stability, the school is hoping to convince a retired teacher to fill the role until a new teacher is hired. Other French immersion teachers are working to support the class in the interim. School has been awarded an Odyssey grant (www.myodyssey.ca), which will provide a French language assistant full time in the school.

Outdoor spaces: Still waiting for city permit for outdoor learning space. Will have roof but no walls and be wired with electricity, like a large gazebo. The kit has ordered, and ready to build. It will be cleaned every day. Commissionaires check school grounds at 3am daily. More area near school property is now paved and accessible. We are next on the list to have our outdoor self-regulation circuit painted.

Misc: Leila Durli's (Family Liason) office is now near the front entrance, across from office. Enrollment is at 521 currently; projections were for 540. A motion sensor light is being installed outside to discourage night visitors. Joy has been updating website.

- a. Inclusive playground equipment – JP is making a model of the play table to test, and will then cut the pieces on Spectrum School's plasma cutter. JP has also offered to make other accessible items as well as large 3-D animal models for playground.
- b. George Jay visioning exercise – Staff has worked over several Pro-D days on forming a vision for the school, with exercises identifying strengths, opportunities, problems, and threats. Summarized as George Jay's bold steps in the next 5 years (posted at <https://georgejay.sd61.bc.ca>). This strategic plan will guide future Pro-D activities. Theme for this year = Kindness (yourself, others, this place). A common language being developed around kindness that will be shared with parents via e-mail and website. Theme will be part of the code of conduct. One goal is more communication with families. Incredible dedication over summer from teachers at George Jay.
- c. One Book, One School (Rebecca Bathurst-Hunt) – New school-wide program focusing on the book "Be Kind" by Pat Zietlow Miller (also available in French). Each classroom/teacher has this book and will make it a focus of learning. End of book has ideas for acts of kindness and their impact. Students will explore what kindness looks like, sounds like, feels like. Bulletin boards will have messages about kindness.

7. Vice President's Report (Kim)

- a. Entertainment Book fundraising – Decided this was not a good fit for our school.
- b. Lego Night on October 2 – A teacher has signed up to help with this event.

- c. Partnership with Save-On-Foods – PAC has negotiated a new partnership with Save-On-Foods. They will supply us with fruit and veg for HWAC program at 10% off, plus offer other small donations.
 - d. Bread program – George Jay used to receive bread donated from Cobbs every other week that was distributed to families. Program eliminated due to loss of Parent Room. Plan was to supply donated bread at Fernwood NRG every week instead. Suggestion for bread to be bagged and distributed in the gym during breakfast club. Committed parent volunteers would be needed to pick up bread and bag. Action item: Angela, Kim, and Lilly to spearhead volunteer recruitment and organization of bread program
8. Treasurer's Report (Andrea) – Andrea had prepared a written report. Not read out due to time constraints but included in these minutes as an Appendix. PAC has two accounts: 1) a gaming account including BC Gaming grant and new Raffle fundraising funds and 2) a general account that includes the rest of our fundraising. General format for expenditures is that people spend their own money, then the PAC reimburses them with a cheque. PAC cheques are signed by people who are not on the executive. Signers from last year will continue this year. Andrea will be available at school on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am for treasurer duties.
- a. BC Gaming Grant application – PAC applies for and receives \$20 per student for extracurricular activities. Gaming money must be spent on extracurricular activities. Anticipating over \$10,000 this year. Much of this will be available as a \$250 allocation to each teacher, likely available within about a month.
 - b. Presentation of proposed annual budget – Similar to last year but increased some items due to higher enrolment and cut items for programs not done anymore. HAWC line items have been specifically added, such as parent workshops. New item is a grant program for teachers, aligned with 6 bold steps vision. Fresh fruit and veg through HAWC continues this year at \$75 / week. Based on this budget, anticipating at least \$6000 to carry forward to next year (needed for Welcome Back BBQ and other early year events). Discussion that Halloween Grab Bag fundraiser comes at a time when kids are already inundated with stuff. *Motion passed for this fundraiser to happen at a different time of year with another theme.* Action item for PAC Executive: form a subcommittee to work on this fundraiser, especially finding a different theme. *Motion to accept proposed annual budget for PAC in 2019-2020 passed with amendment that Halloween Grab Bag occur at another time of year.* General plan to form subcommittees for various events to spread work load with call to parents to participate.
 - c. Update on Raffle fundraising – PAC will have a raffle fundraiser. West Jet donated 2 round trip tickets anywhere they fly. Tickets will be \$10 each. PAC members can sign out a book of tickets to sell (see Andrea on Tuesday mornings).
9. Secretary's Report (Roberta)
- a. Membership renewal in BC Confederation of PACs – Our PAC has been a member for years. *Motion passed to renew membership in BCCPAC with payment of \$75 fee.* Action item for Roberta: renew BCCPAC membership.

- b. Registration as a non-profit society in BC – Our PAC was formerly a registered non-profit society (this is different from being a registered charity). BCCPAC and VCPAC websites state that PACs need not be registered non-profits, and they suggest contacting a lawyer for further advice. Have been unable so far to identify a circumstance in which we would need to be a non-profit. Roberta suggests we do not re-register unless we find a reason it will help us. Will some grants require this status? Action item for Andrea: reach out to Victoria Foundation to see if they require non-profit status.
 - c. Renewal of constitution and bylaws: PAC constitution and bylaws date from 1993 and require updating. Will be a long process. Suggest forming a subcommittee to work on this. Volunteers for the subcommittee include: Angela, Kim, Andrea, Roberta, Alicia, Rozee Hyder, and Zeta Lay
 - d. Proposal to create a form for new staff granting program – Roberta is working on developing this form with suggestions from rest of PAC exec. Plan to share with administration and staff for comments and suggestions on it. Action item for Roberta: finish draft form and send around for suggestions
10. Health and Wellness subcommittee Report (Maritia) – HAWC meetings will happen 6-6:30pm before every PAC meeting. Two HAWC bulletin boards will be up in school. HAWC will form a subcommittee to work on materials for the boards. Most communication will happen by Facebook. Planning a HAWC fair in Spring.
11. Welcome back BBQ Planning (Angela) – Happening 18 Sept. This is the PAC’s first and biggest event. Volunteers needed. \$2000 budget. Plan for 2 lines with multiple stations this year, with hot dogs last (so they are still hot). Plan to make Google doc volunteer sign-up spreadsheet with half-hour segments to man tables, help with line-ups, clean up. Sonja Childs volunteers to deal with recycling of juice boxes and water bottles.
- a. Donations – Lots of donations have been secured. Save-On-Foods: 1000 dogs + 1000 buns. Cobbs: 100 buns. Fairways: juice boxes + condiments. Wellburns: water + juice boxes. Thrifty’s: napkins and cookies. We will order hallal and veg dogs.
 - b. PAC information table – Will have information on fundraisers, sign-up sheet to volunteer. Someone needed at the table at all times. Raffle tickets to be sold there.
 - c. Signage at BBQ – posters to show which line to be in. Andrea will make signs. Monks Office (Sarah Sweeney) will help with supplies.
12. Proposed purchase of set of books on the Language of Consent (Zeta) – Zeta spoke about the Empowerment Bundle of books on body safety, consent, respect, empathy and more by author Jayneen Sanders. Books contain questions for discussion at end and great affiliated resources. Suggest buying a full bundle (\$200) as a parent resource available through Leila. If made available to kids directly through library or to teachers as a teaching resource, would need to take care re: parental consent as several books present challenging themes. Cannot sell through book fair as that is only Scholastic books. *Motion passed (none opposed) to ask staff for their opinion on appropriateness of the books and then purchase a set from HAWC parent education fund if staff approves.*

13. Orange Shirt Day (Kim) – School assembly will happen on 26 Sept, though Orange Shirt Day actually on 30 Sept. Moved due to picture day on 30 Sept. Website asks people to recognize this day on whatever day works best. Teachers have extensive plan for acknowledging Orange Shirt day. Aldeen Mason has agreed to come to the school for 3rd year to talk about her own experience in residential schools. PAC would like to give her an honourarium. *Motion passed (none opposed) to give Aldeen Mason \$400 as an appreciation for her time and energy.*

14. Discussion of changing the name of the school (Angela) – School was originally named North Park but changed to George Jay while he was head of school board. George Jay developed policies to segregate non-white students in the schools. Angela has been spearheading initiative to change name. Asking SD61 to form a committee to consider name change. Grants will be needed to pay for change (~\$20,000). Angela has been meeting with First Nations groups and Chinese Benevolent Society about name suggestions. Haven't yet reached out to staff, but staff and students should be involved in choosing the name. Regulations and a process exist on changing a school name. SD61 will need to form a committee with trustee, administration, teacher, and parent involvement. A similar name change initiative failed several years ago, perception that this failure was due to weak community involvement and lack of information. Strong suggestion from many members that this present name change effort focus on the opportunity to choose a name that better represents our community with a focus on our positive future rather than on a bad past. Teachers have worked hard to give "George Jay" a positive connotation. We want to address the name change without casting shame on our school. *Motion passed to form a subcommittee with staff and parents to address name change and to suggest wording for a motion of support that the PAC could vote on.* Until a support motion is passed, PAC members should act as individual parents in voicing their support.

15. Adjourn meeting

Next meeting scheduled for 9 October 2019 at 6:30pm

GEORGE JAY PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL | TREASURER'S REPORT

September 11th, 2019 PAC Meeting

GENERAL ACCOUNT

\$5,289.04 - 2018/2019 Balance Forward

\$14,294.36 - Total Spending in 2018/2019

\$19,616.74 - Total Income in 2018/2019

\$10,611.42 - Current Balance Forward

GAMING ACCOUNT

\$823.85 - 2018/2019 Balance Forward

\$7,476.76 - Total Spending in 2018/2019

\$9,577.65 - Total Income in 2018/2019

\$ 2,924.74 - Current Balance Forward

Notes:

1. Our 2019/2020 Cheque Signers will continue to be Eileen, Bonnie and Gillian.
2. Our 2019/2020 Gaming Grant application is active. We should receive a response from BC Gaming by the end of September.
3. September through December 17th, I will be in the foyer of the school office from 8:30 - 9am to deliver cheques for signing and collect raffle revenue and ticket stubs and distribute tickets.