

Gordon Elementary PAC meeting and AGM

May 25th. 6:45pm-8:45pm

Attendees: Ingrid Sulston, Elke Porter (secretary), Deborah Muggli, Margaret Davidson, Charlotte French, Zol Fox, Rosita Di Fruscia, Martin Howard, Lisa Chambers, Carla Shirley, Jennifer Sears, Cynthia Harper, Emily Pickett, Gail Johnson, Diana Schmidt, David Ascher, Craig Lang, Linda Shaw, Bill Uhrich

Approve April PAC meeting minutes: Charlotte French moved; Jennifer Sears seconded

Vote in new Exec:

Chair: Ingrid Sulston – website, communication, no more social events (need a social coordinator)

Treasurer: Anna Johnson

Jennifer Sears/Tricia Wallace: Member at Large

Elect the nominees as presented: Charlotte French moved; Gail Johnson seconded – unanimous voted by all

Rosita Di Fruscia: Nominated CPF Contact, which is a new position at General Gordon

Acclimation - Rep

Secretary position is missing

French Immersion Rep – communicates with PAC

French Immersion Treasurer: within the school

Big slide news: slide is unsafe due to holes in it, and if we reface the rivets underneath are already wearing again from repairs last time and there would be more to do (school board guy)

Would not be CFA approved and the slide was going to be taken down 2 years ago

Minor repair, done onsite could be grandfathered in; major repairs mean it will have to be taken down – we are not sure yet, if it is major or minor-the slide has to seal/adhere to something

Slide will not be replaced if taken down, and they might put money towards new playground equipment; wood stuff is slated due to be taken down

Why are the holes a problem when they have been there until now? Answer: some holes were there and patched and some just showed up lately; hoodie can get caught on the holes; The school board regularly inspects the slide

The orange netting is dangerous, since the children slide on top of it;

The sides are too short, it is at a steep incline, it is not safe according to the current safety standards

The slide is 35 years old

Comment: Our play-spaces are too safe at this school and at schools in general

Suggestion: make a petition

Question: how many lawsuits are flying around the school board: most do not go further, because teachers followed protocol

Question: Do we want to save the slide? Should we save the slide?

Margaret said: If there was an accident in the last 2 years, they could sue the school, since it was deemed unsafe 2 years ago

Margaret said: If we can save the slide, and it will cost money to replace the slide, is this something that PAC would approve of

Remember: seismic might cause the slide to be taken down

1. Major vs minor
2. Money is no object
3. Grandfather it for another 2 years

Add a sign.

Gail volunteered to be on “Sign Duty” and replace the sign as needed

PAC support of school teams

Review policy on how PAC can support our school teams, financially and otherwise.

How does PAC support school teams?

Gaming Fund is specifically for this type of thing – grant is for non-curricular activities, such as newsletters, yearbooks, uniforms, awards, trophies etc.

1. PAC could set aside an agreed upon amount of their gaming funds each year for extracurricular clubs that need financial assistance
2. Each club or team can apply to PAC for funds

Comment: Money has always gone for the greater good of the school and there is a great disparity in groups and what people need: the money should go to events and activities that benefit all students, not just a small group

Suggestion: There should be an official process in how to divide up the money

Badminton Tournament, for example, cost \$100. Not all activities and groups need money

Compromise available?

Comment: Not all classes get to participate in all events, so you have to be careful, it is just not always fair or evenly split

Comment: Concept of everything being equal, is a struggle, but if you support the 5 great runners, the other students get benefits by school spirit, and being part of knowing

Comment: We all benefit by supporting children in their activities

Comment: Promotion of doing something different and special

Comment: Very elitist society – things can benefit, as long as things are fair (equity)

Question: What is the official application basis?

Suggestion: Suggestion and comparison, is there a schedule per term?

Comment: Every student should have a chance to be supported (excellent); Imagination Destination was an opportunity not every student received

Comment: Do we want to put money aside every year to support clubs/teams? Do we want to leave some aside to have a pool of money available for the unexpected? At some point we will have to choose the criteria how teams and people are selected?

Question: How much money are we talking about? Thousands

Margaret explained how the students with gifted designations were chosen.

Question: If PAC says no, can we do fundraising towards a certain thing ourselves through the school

Noreen: Says staff makes a wishlist and prioritizes what they their needs are

Charlotte French makes a motion to set aside 25% of the Gaming Grant to be distributed to extracurricular clubs by an annual deadline and the criteria for selection to be approved by PAC in October 2009 while the other money will be spent on things they have always been spent on; Gail seconded this motion. Dave moves to table the motion, while Emily seconds it; 10; 7 to vote on the motion today

Question: Do we want to support student groups?

Margaret says: Prioritize a wishlist

Question: What has been decided in terms of application

Motion made last month: give up to \$1400 of gaming funds to the **DI group**.

Discussion and decision.

Should we support Destination Imagination Group: Motion was to give them up to \$1400 to travel to Tennessee to participate in the world finals; Do we have the money? Staff wish list is still not fulfilled; All in favour: 7; All those against: 4 against, 5 abstaining; it passed

Neighbourhoods of Learning consultants

Discussion with the consultants on the Neighbourhoods of Learning project.

Bring your ideas for the learning and community spaces you would like to see in our renewed school, and your ideas for an upcoming public visioning session.

Vancouver School Board: Three pilot schools were chosen: Queen Mary, General Gordon, Strathcona
Blair Chisholm/Laurie Schmidt, (Brook & Associates) Robert Moore/Craig Sidjack (VSB), Allan Hepburn
(Collborne Architects)

Question: Agency groups will be meeting in May/June – which ones exactly – Answer is the same ones for defining, and visioning; Certain roles that will get supported, regardless of financial equipment; Extra agencies (such as a full public library) would not get supported, while a provincial agency, such as health, would try to find the capitol funding to enable that to happen, while the Ministry of Children & Families would still try to find funding, while other civic groups could perhaps share in providing things like a full-scale gym etc.

Question: If the parks board wants to put some money in, how would they find out what is planned here? Answer: They were part of the planning sessions

Question: Huge concern from parents is the daycare: How are they going to stay? Answer: They have the message loud and clear.

Other agencies are: Ministry of Children & Family Development, Ministry of Health, Sport & Healthy Living, (programming development), two childcare providers onsite, also Literacy Now and mosaic. City of Vancouver and Parks Board.

Question: What about the Montessori School? Answer: Will have to get a hold of them.

Make sure that the needs of the community is met.

Common theme across the board that the ministry has been asked for more flex space, not just Gordon.

Are the designers thinking about having unprogrammed space, or just the space specified by the agencies.

Areas needed before school, flexible unprogrammed.

Will go back and review ministry area standards, as a result of these pilot projects.

Full day kindergarten – is this going to be factored in with the new schools. Project budget designed with full day K, and a space for early learning. Wanted to build flexibility of space in for that. Strong start programs etc. Expect that these will be approved too.

Flex space – the basement is a space used in many ways, teaching and social. It has no walls. Flexible but without a label – we mean extra hallways, basement etc.

Covered outdoor play areas. These are the areas that are important.

Alan from Colburn architects. We have done a lot of projects, upgrades. Byng. Captain Cook. Moberly. Each facility is different. Basement is typical space in older buildings.

What is the preliminary conceptual space diagram? It is a recipe of the components you need. What spaces we need, which might have longer hours and need to be closed off. Activities important to community.

Programming is being developed.

Comment: Drawings, vision, working with models, - stimulus for us – bubble diagrammed to death, and not seeing results

User groups were changing all the time; general mandate, but they didn't know how the physical facility should define who they were (University in Surrey), they were going to use an old Zellers Store in the mall they were going to use on a temp basis; they had to outfit 70,000 feet – open plan, loose and flexible, departments changing, 4 years, then disbanded; SFU Surrey Campus

Margaret likes the idea of people being able to give their feedback in the process

Comment: Discussion architecturally what the building should look like; 5 table cloth and come up with some precedent studies, incredible ideas out there; create something really special; design process and tap into that

June 9th Meeting; organize something perhaps monthly to give people an opportunity to chat with the committee on seismic upgrades to open up the channel for communication; whoever is interested,

Comment form: You can fill this out and use this to communicate

Timeline Question: Summer conceptual space program will be better defined by October 9th; 2009-05-25
Be careful what you show the public; the representative team will get additional commentary/feedback, don't show them everything

We like the idea of connecting through the summer – make it a big success
Teaching staff have a vested interest; they are not available over the summer

Charlotte – fill in the form and encourage the agencies/organizations that might be interested; Agencies have been contacted top down, but other agencies may not know about the availability of renting or using vsb space.

Ingrid can e-mail this the form to the list; to get more people involved

Suggestion: make a manager liaison position to help work with coordination of groups and agencies (consultant) – Is it the Vice Principal?

Timeline – when will a safe school be constructed? Ideally this will lead to a project agreement; That is when we can enter design/development – it may take years

Benefits – Ministry has been part of the project along the way

Political process: Project agreement needs to be signed off

Thank You

9:05 pm Meeting Adjourned