



Gordon Elementary PAC meeting

September 26th 2011 7:30pm-9:00pm

Gordon Elementary Library

TEACHERS JOB ACTION

Insights from VESTA Union rep Romy Cooper and Teacher-librarian Mary Locke.

Phase 1 of Job Action – contract expired and bargaining table not going very well. Employer wants to remove many things, such as job security. Staff want gains agreed in 2002 to be adhered to, smaller class sizes and more support in class with no raise in salary. Employer removed these items from the contract, and didn't raise salaries. Staff took employer to court and court found them at wrong. Lowest paid teachers of all provinces and not had a raise in 18 years? Asking for local bargaining rather than provincial bargaining, so issues raised are pertinent to the area rather than general populous. Ontario took similar action which went on for 2 years. They did get what they were requesting.

Impact of Action

Teachers will teach 9-3pm only – as a result of all other actions being stopped, teachers will only be focused on teaching.

Margaret reminds PAC that the teachers' focus is on the kids and teaching in the classroom. General Gordon staff understand it's a process and everyone will be present post the action, so their position is to work respectfully through this issue. Margaret & Natalie decided to collect funds for field trips – could be cancelled as part of the action.

Teachers are not **meeting with admin or signing report cards** – but continuing to assess children's progress.

Some extra curricula activity will continue as viewed as voluntary so can go ahead.

Teachers won't be collecting funds apart from funds for community e.g. Terry Fox, but not funds for schools such as Scholastic.

Calgary teachers get \$2k per year for classroom funding. Vancouver does not receive anything. (Mary can't charge for lost books during job action!).

If a child is failing to a larger degree, parents would be made aware via verbal communication with parents.

Teachers ask PAC to put pressure on govt to discuss issues and come to table to discuss 3 points:

1. School class sizes to be limited to appropriately support ESL students and students requiring assistance in class. Prior to item being stripped from the contract the limit was 3 students requiring special assistance per class. Vancouver has lost the cap therefore students are not getting the support they require, which impacts all students in the class as a result. Bargain for more prep time for Students.
2. Salary increase – long overdue.
3. Locals to deal with issues pertinent to that community, e.g. Vancouver not concerned about transport issues or funds for heating of teachers accommodation attached to schools.

Teachers ask parents to respect job action and not fill gaps not being undertaken by teachers, to be very vocal in asking for bargaining to occur with something valuable on table for discussion.

BCTF planning to communicate with a brochure – on radio, BCTF website www.bctf.ca

BCTF have taken employers to court.

To write to Government:

Premier C. Clarke
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC, V8V 1X4
+1 877 771 7557

Minst Ed. George Abbott
West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC
V8V 1X4
604 775 1003

WHAT DOES PAC DO?

Key PAC inputs to PAC budget come from:

- Gaming money from Govt Grant
- Grocery cards
- Direct drive
- Spring Fling

PAC roles

Volunteer sheet sign up gone out to parents to identify who would like to volunteer for various PAC roles/ activities.

New PAC document will be put on website to describe each role and activity in more detail.

DIRECT DRIVE PLANS

Given the job action, vote on whether to have the direct drive now/later/at all:

21 voted for Direct Drive to be postponed for 2 months.

0 voted for Direct Drive to be cancelled.

1 abstained

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Christie volunteers to produce the newsletter, and shows a poster initiating a name and first meetings.

MOTIONS AND VOTES ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

Request \$3k for author visits from gaming funds

Diana first - Elka seconds it.

Request \$3k for performances (school pays for 2, PAC pays for 2).

Ingrid first – Roberta seconds it.

Vote on previous motion for \$10k loan to purchase Safeway cards in bulk (make 8% rather than 3% purchasing in bits). We have \$17k available in our current account.

Unanimous vote to invest the \$10k