

# PAC General Meeting - Minutes

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**September 11, 2019**

## ATTENDEES

Azita Nikbakhtan, Saiko Tachibana, Michelle Ross, Raquel Love, Steph Le Comte, Dina Daraee, Melaine Miao, Arzoo Babul, Samira Enayati, Monique Schelle, Sarah Yassami, Maggie Tahmasbi, Rowena Veylan, Julia Kutlubay, Emily Na, Ada Lin, Syndey Smith, Carlos Rockhill, Linda Gour, Chelsea Duhs, Lisa Black, Jessica Gibbons, Saghar Tofigh, Gloria Lin, Sogol Sheikhabari, Renyon Zhung, Tara Zielinski

## 1. CALL TO ORDER (Lisa B.)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Lisa Black. ( She acknowledged that our meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish People.)

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Lisa B.)

1st Steph L., 2nd Monique S.. Approved.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF June 12, 2019 (Lisa B.)

1st by Chelsea D., 2nd Monique S. Approved.

## 4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Tara Z)

### Welcome Back Info

Tara Z. welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the AGM PAC Meeting. She expressed excitement for the upcoming year ahead. Her and staff have been busy preparing and planning. She reminded the group and ran through the itinerary of the upcoming Curriculum Night that takes place on September 18th. 5-6:30. The evening will start off with a message from the principal at 5pm in the gym. Following the presentation from Tara Z. teachers will host two sessions starting at 5:30 and a second at 6 pm.

Tara Z. has been in conversations with district leaders regarding the shift in the importance of self regulation, lack of sleep and executive function. New information on the amount of sleep students are currently getting can affect their mental health. Tara Z. mentioned the data collected by the McCreary Report. The report showed the importance of enough sleep, being offline and physical activity make a more well balanced student. West Vancouver Schools will

focus on educating parents around the importance of sleep. A note was made that more info can be found in the e-bulletin. More to come on this throughout the year.

### **School Enrollment**

Chris K. and Tara Z. have been working together to increase PJ enrollment. The school is now at full capacity with a large waiting list. With 421 students including 40 new Kindies and 51 LFI students the school is utilizing all the available space. The New Parent Orientation will cover the role of the principal, role of the parents and students and any additional PJ information to assist families acclimate. Tara Z. explained that there was disappointment for those unable to get in due to the increase in popularity of PJ. 6 new classrooms were opened up in West Vancouver and the number of enrollment increases throughout the district. New parents/ families orientation is September 27th 9:00am

Tara Z. reminded the group that a lot of information can be found in the e-bulletin. She also runs a Twitter account with many updates, photos and current events that can keep parents more informed. The group was happy to hear that her Blog post was recognized provincially. The Blog touches on 'What a Principal does.' the many facets of the job and the intricacies of handling her staff, students and parents on a daily basis all well running the best school possible. The group acknowledged that staying more informed makes for a more positive and involved school experience.

### **Staffing**

Tara Z. has been working hard recruiting the best teachers to fill the necessary positions and to get the very best fit for the school, staff and students. She explained the lengths to attain top candidates for the job. Teachers interviewed were not restricted to Canada, she continued to explain that international teachers were also tapped for the interview process. There are two new outdoor teachers Julia and Sophie, as well as Mme Lang who will be filling the grade 6/7 teacher position. Tara Z. mentioned all have a great background and are making a wonderful addition to the current staff.

### **Enrollment in BC**

Tara Z. turned the topic to the stats that have been released from the Ministry of Education. The 2019/20 numbers show an increase of over 3000 students from the previous 2018/19 year. She explained the following stats based on student headcount.

- 73,107 with special needs in the province; 3,422 more from the year before
- 71,983 Indigenous students; 1,230 fewer than this year
- 68,982 ELL students; 1,587 more
- 6,087 Francophone students; 147 up than the year before
- 54,568 French Immersion students; 505 more than last year

She explained that school class sizes have become smaller while the number of enrollment increases. So the need for more space is important and necessary. Tara Z. recognized some achievement in school completion numbers.

- 85% of all students in BC are completing high school
- 96% of all French Immersion students are completing high school. (The group agreed the numbers were promising)

Tara Z. continued to inform the group on the investments the province is making in education. \$6.6 billion in K-12 education. An additional 1000 Education Assistants have been hired in the past two years. The number of these support staff have increased by 37%. More are needed in all schools. The numbers of new educators enrolled in the EA program need to increase as demand is increasing. Tara Z. mentioned there are only 3 EA teachers in PJ. She touched on the \$88 million funded to Indigenous students increased by 27% since 2016/17. The meeting attendees were listening with interest and acknowledged the numbers were quite informative.

### **Kindie Area**

Over the summer and early september the Kindie Area was refreshed with a new play structure and tree plot. The Community Garden group continued the planned project as well as cleaned up some garden areas. Tara Z. described the work still in progress, including the new plants and trees that will be planted in the fall so they will have an optimal chance of taking root.

### **FSA'S (Foundation Skills Assessment)**

The FSAs will be taking place from September 30-November 8. Tara Z. assured the attendees that she was going to be hands on to facilitate the best possible experience and results for the students. Numeracy and literacy will be the focus for Grades 4 and 7.

### **FESL (Framework for Enhancing Student Learning)**

The previous goal of literacy ended in a fantastic student showcase. Tara Z. explained how proud she was of all the students. The New Goal is set to focus on student emotional literacy including empathy. Tara Z. described the process will be learned in sprints. She has been working with her staff to develop the best way to educate the message. Tara Z. added that students appear to have a loss of motivation and are increasing dis-regulated. More to come on this topic as the year progresses.

### **Updates**

Tara Z. extended thanks to Julia K. for her service as Class Parent Rep. and passing on the torch so thoughtfully and with such detail to new volunteer Yalda A. Parents should be receiving messages from their child's teacher about the position of class parent. More details to come as those positions are filled.

Reminder about the Terry Fox run and the collection of Toonie donation. Students are encouraged to wear their spirit wear. Parents are welcome to run or cheer on the runners.

Thanks to the PAC for providing the snack after the run.

Tara Z. expressed thanks to the PAC for approving the budget. Class funds and Bus funds make field trips and special projects possible. Tara Z. thanked everyone for attending.

## 5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Saiko T.)

### BUDGET REVIEW

2018/19 Report

1. **Gaming Grant**- At the end of the fiscal year the Government funded Gaming Grant was \$560. We currently have \$230 leftover because we issued a few cheques for the Grade 7 graduation party in July.
2. **Operation Account**- We had \$ 80,700 on June 30th, several cheques were written so we begin this year at \$79,600. Profit ended negative on June 30th 2019 because some of the expense for Capital Expenditure (mainly iPad and Chromebook) was used from the previous year's gaming grant as planned.
3. **GIC**- we have \$60,400 invested in the GIC that is rolled over until needed.

### PROPOSED BUDGET 2019/20

2019/20 Proposed budget was projected overhead for the attendees to view.

1. **Fun lunch**- Number of orders decreased so we lowered the budget to 14,000 this year. Fun lunch is still a main source of income at 45%
2. **Large Fundraiser**- \$950 is a target for this year. This number is the difference between expense and revenue. New fundraising event "Pizza Friday" is currently needing volunteers and the "Gala" might be back to earn a large amount of money for this year.
3. **Movie Night**- Did not have enough volunteers so it was cancelled in June. We lowered the budget for this year and will continue it in the new format.
4. **Gaming Grant**- Gaming Grant is funded by BC Government based on the number of students registered (415)x20 so we will receive \$8,300 this year. It will mainly be used for the 'Dance in Residence', Grade 7 graduation party. 'Athletic Equipment' is also under the Gaming Grant category. \$940 was raised last year at the BBQ from the Bike Raffle and will be budgeted accordingly.
5. **Scholarship for a Sentinel Student**- \$1000 has been set aside to award an outstanding PJ alumni who continues Frech Immersion at Sentinel Secondary school. This allocation of money was voted in by the majority of PAC meeting attendees in February. Lisa B. continued the conversation by explaining the criteria for the Scholarship is to be determined. The student chosen will be selected by staff.

Lisa B. continued the budget conversation and added the overhead projection will have some items added. Dina D. noted the Lunar New Year as well as Nooruz celebration. The attendees agreed that these celebrations were well received and important to continue as PJ tradition. Lisa B. explained the donation made by PJ for the 'Place for Sport' will remain the same as the organization reworks their overall plan. A larger amount of money is needed to achieve the goal required to properly upgrade the West Vancouver Secondary Track. 'Place for Sport' hope to have a multi-use track for walking and running as well as having soccer fields attached to the same area. More to come as updates happen.

Lisa B. expressed excitement about the generous donation to the Computer/tech budget was covered by one family at PJ. The donation will span 3 years at \$10,000 per year. All agreed that

was fantastic. The budgeted \$500 per year for the Community Garden / playground will continue the legacy to maintain and preserve the large project. Mention of the Seussical performance although a huge success was not a big money maker.

Lisa B. described other budget items such as the Teacher Fund. The \$200 given to each Division Teacher will be used with strict guidelines. Information of the budget conversation touched on the money spent on Educational Speakers, Emergency Bin and the Gaming Grant.

Santa's Workshop is a fundraiser for charity and is a loved activity for the children. The Dunderave Festival of Lights also falls into Community building and Charity. The money for the Festival of Lights Tree will be purchased from the Santa's workshop fundraiser. The Tradition will hopefully continue as the PJ Kindie Tree has been a long standing tradition.

The Arts in Education budget was touched on and the attendees acknowledged the lovely Murals that are currently hanging the Learning Commons. This year's budget will cover a Dance Group performance that was well liked in previous years. If the large fundraiser goes ahead and earns money PAC will also contribute to a Sports in Residence program, that will cover Tennis and Ultimate. Lisa B. explained money for the school's traditional Fête d'hiver includes items like the \$1,500 for Bonhommes Skate. The Quebec trip will receive \$12,000 as in previous years and traditionally is the big Grade 7 trip to celebrate the achievement of completion from elementary school.

## **6. Volunteer Call (Lisa R.)**

Lisa R. has been working hard on compiling a list of volunteers for the necessary positions at PJ's traditional activities. As each event gets closer to the date a call for volunteers will be posted in the e-bulletin as well as our social media pages with links to the Volunteer Sign-up Sheet.

Lisa R. explains the process for sign up is quite easy and tasks, times and donations are clear to see. Lisa R. expresses the need for two more volunteer leads for Santa's workshop as the beginning process requires a lot of collection, sorting and set up.

The Traffic Safety needs volunteers for morning traffic for the safe arrival of students. Lisa R. requires a volunteer for the Babysitter Course/Stay Home Alone Course. Chelsea D. will be the lead to organize but a volunteer needs to be there for admission and dismissal. New programs like Lunar New Year And Nooruz also needs a Lead,

Lisa R. would be staying for a bit after the meeting to chat with anyone interested. Lisa B. asked Lisa R if the PAC Website has the link to volunteer , Lisa R will check that feature. Steph L. mentioned that the Social Media sites are updated often and to add PJ to your contacts. Also noted was the School Year Calendar is on the Website and full of the dates that require volunteers so you can plan your volunteer time in advance.

## **7. PAC UPDATES AND EVENTS (Lisa B.)**

Lisa B. extended thanks to Chelsea D. for her service as PAC Co-Chair and wished her 'Bonne-chance'. The table of attendees expressed thanks to her as well. Lisa B. projects overhead

the list of PAC positions filled and positions still needing volunteers. Lisa B goes through the list and explains a bit about each position and their function. The overhead projection looked as follows.

### PAC EXECUTIVE ROLES 2019/2020

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominees</u>
Chair	Fill
Vice Chair	Fill
Secretary	Michelle Ross
Treasurers (2)	Saiko Tachibana and Dina Daraee
Asst Treasurers	Kenji Tachibana and Melanie Miao
Communications (3)	Steph LeComte, Tania Pan and Kate Pratt
Volunteer Coordinator	Lisa Romero
Class Parent Liaison	Yalda Ahmadvand
DPAC Representative	Cindy Nairne
Fundraising Coordinator	Rowena Veylan
Member at Large	Linda Gour, Melanie Miao, Samira Enayati

### Fundraising Leaders

Fun Lunch	Raquel Love
Pizza Fridays	Raquel Love (with helpers)
Movie Night	Azita N and Jenny C
Dance	Jenny C and Azita N
Gelato	Linda Gour
Spirit Wear	Paola Rockhill
School Supplies	Steph Lecomte
Card Project	Jessica Gibbons
Santa's Workshop (4-5)	Betty Sajjadi
Crepe Luncheon	Sydney P and Catherine L
Teacher Appreciation Lunch	Melanie Miao
Family BBQ (3)	Fill
Large Fundraiser (2)	Raquel Love, Rowena Veylan

Lisa B. explained the roles of each position and named the people in those roles. Noted positions of Secretary traditionally has two volunteers. Melaine M. new to the treasurer team. Kate P. back from a year away from PJ will be joining the Communications team. Steph L. has been working quite hard communicating PJ events through the Social Media as well as her volunteer service on School Supplies. Lisa R. is doing great as Volunteer coordinator and noted master of Google Docs. Yalda A. will be taking over for Julia K. as Class Parent Liaison and thanks to Julia K. for the organized format she has left to Yalda A.. Cindy N. will be coming in as DPAC Representative and we are interested in her reporting back all she has learned. Rowena V. has taken on the large

task of Fundraising and we are excited about her experience in that field. Her idea of getting the most funds for the least amount of manpower will be a great help and is highly anticipated. Linda G. and Samira E. will be great at Parent at large. Linda G. will also continue Gelato Fridays.

Lisa continues and explains the Fundraising Leaders. Paola R. will be taking over Spirit Wear from Julia K. who has been great so thank you to her. Jessica G. will be running the Card Project a well liked fundraising project. Lisa B. describes the excitement around Santa's Workshop more volunteer leads are needed. She continues to explain that students bring a Toonie and shop for immediate family wrap and decorate with bows and ribbons. Sydney S. and Catherine L will continue on as Crepe Luncheon Leads, more to follow with needs of volunteer positions. Melaine M. stepped up as lead on Teacher Appreciation Lunch at the meeting as that position was unfilled. Thank you to her. She was excited to serve the teachers a well earned special lunch, she joked that she hopes they enjoy a traditional asian cuisine, all agreed it sounded delicious. Lisa B. made a point to show the Family BBQ positions are unfilled and needs to be filled as the planning is involved. Racquel L. and Rowena V. have bravely volunteer to host a large fundraiser. They are currently in the brainstorming stages. The upcoming PJ centennial is hoped to be the main focus for this fundraiser. The event will host PJ Alumni and the hopes of having a large legacy build paid for.

## **EVENTS**

- Terry Fox run- Parents needed to help with the PAC provided snack. (oranges)
- New Parent Welcome- This event takes place on the Curriculum Night and needs PAC Volunteers. ( no children at this event please)
- Gelato Fridays- Will run as usual.
- Pizza Fridays-This new event run by Raquel L. more info to follow.
- Fun Lunch- New updated system and with the additional LFI will increase numbers.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS (Lisa B.)**

None at this time.

## **10. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (Lisa B.)**

No questions were raised. Lisa B. shared an insightful post she found on CNBC about parenting. The piece titled 'I raised two successful CEO's and a Doctor- Here's the biggest mistakes I see parents making'. Lisa B. briefly touches on the 4 key points.

1. Teach your kids to care. (To contribute and make their community better)
2. The importance of community. (Studies show if preteens and teenagers help with younger children not only does it help their health physically but also mentally.)
3. The 'American Idea' is all wrong. (The idea of getting rich and doing nothing is a trend with today's youth. Without contributing to others and focusing on getting rich is

possibly creating more of a feeling of unfulfillment. Many end up directionless, unfocused)

4. Prioritize Service and Purpose. (Many are chasing money and possessions and unable to fill themselves emotionally. Service and purpose create a sense of self worth and happiness.)

The group agreed that many of these ideas would benefit their life as well as their children. Lisa B acknowledged that attending the meeting and volunteering shows our children some of the topics touched on in the piece such as the ' The Importance of Community' and "Prioritizing Service."

## **12. ADJOURNMENT (Lisa B.)**

Meeting Closed at 8:35pm 1st. Monique S. 2nd. Linda G.