

Minutes

George Jay PAC General Meeting

12 January 2022 - 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Zoom

Attendees

Executive: Matthew Payne, Sam Albers, Leslie Rewega, Steve Palmer (Absent: Andrea Walker Collins)

Caregivers: Sandra Hough (also a staff member), Emma Gillespie, Michelle Riley, Michelle Riley, Rebecca Freedman, Colleen Danks, Alison Melville, Angela Carmichael, Karla Gallagher, Karla Marshall, Kathryn and Scott, parents

Staff: Sarah Winkler, Sanjiv Galhon,

New Action Items:

- **Action (Leslie):** Promote teacher donation requests in the PAC newsletter, on the Facebook page, through the listserve.

Elections unanimous support for both candidates (11 votes)

- Vice President (Emma Gillespie)
- Member-at-Large (Erin Macklem)

1. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories
 - a. *The George Jay Parent Advisory Council wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*
2. Acceptance of Agenda
3. Acceptance of Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Reports on previous action items
 - a. Nothing to report
5. Principal's Report (Sarah)
 - a. This week is French Immersion Kindergarten and Grade 1 registration. January 24 - 28th is English Kindergarten Registration

- b. There was a \$50,000 donation to the school. Staff met to decide how best to spend the money. Funds have been allocated to complete an overhaul of the gym. This includes a new tech package and a climbing wall.
- c. The school also received a toolkit (i.e. workbench) from our district for our Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies programming
- d. Staff are excited for their classrooms to participate in the PAC guess the number of kernels game.
- e. COVID Update
 - i. It's wonderful to have the kids back in the building. Everyone has adjusted well to the masks and shifted drop-off/pick up locations.
 - ii. The extra week of prep time prep was critical for the school to develop plans should the school require a health or functional closure. This includes the creation of a website to support virtual learning and TOC bins for unplanned absences.
 - iii. New COVID terms
 - A health closure is when the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) has determined that there is a critical level of illness in the building and closes the school. The length is to be determined by VIHA. All staff would go home and support home learning virtually.
 - A functional closure is when there is not enough staff in the building to safely operate. There is no magic number but decided through a combination of factors. The school will aim to notify parents the day before the closure. Kids would stay home for 7 calendar days with the theory that most staff and students would be back the following week. EAs, admin, school-based teams will continue to be onsite throughout the closure to support vulnerable learners. Sarah will be sending caregivers a survey soon to identify essential/critical needs.
 - iv. A reminder that a revised daily health check form was distributed yesterday. Since none of our students are currently double vaxxed, if they are sick/contract COVID, they must remain home for 10 calendar days.
 - v. Holding off on sports teams because of staggered lunches and increased health concerns. The school will reassess in a month.
 - vi. Question re: contract tracing? VIHA has changed their exposure notifications. They no longer complete contact tracing and do not send notifications. If school hits an attendance low, it would trigger a health closure.
 - vii. Question: If kids are required to stay home for 10 days, will there be an option for online learning? There will be no hybrid learning led by teaching staff. The school will be distributing resources to support home learning, but teachers are not able to provide individualized learning for students who are absent.
 - viii. Additional questions can be sent directly to Sarah.

6. President's Report (Matthew)
 - a. Acknowledge staff dealing with Omicron, planning for home learning.
 - b. The pop-up coffee tent went well: a few more gift cards were distributed.
 - c. Facebook moderation. Looking for volunteers to moderate. Reach out to Matthew if you are interested.

7. Treasurer's Report (Sam)
 - a. Submitted 3 years of gaming grant reports
 - b. Disbursements
 - i. More disbursement disperse to HAWC (~\$665)
 - ii. Beginning to disperse to teachers
 - c. On budget at this point
 - i. Account balances:
 - General: \$22,805
 - Gaming: \$9,553

8. Secretary's Report (Leslie)
 - a. Lead Bylaw Review
 - i. Every two years, it's the secretary's role to lead a review of the bylaws. A review was completed last year, so it's not necessary to do it again this year. Executive, however, will be rereading the bylaws to flag potential updates. Members can also review the bylaws and write me their suggestions. Suggested changes will be presented at the February general meeting and we will vote in March.
 - b. Popcorn "Count the Kernels" Contest
 - i. Week of January 17-21. One guess per classroom with the closest guess winning a classroom popcorn party.
 - ii. Thank you to Steve (Member at Large) for the super poster.
 - c. Emergency Supplies
 - i. Sam and I are meeting with the admin this month to plan next steps for the replenishing of emergency supplies.
 - d. Spring Grab Bag
 - i. Takes about 10 weeks from start to finish. Steve and beginning to work on this. With all the delays in shipping, we will plan for a march break distribution (week of March 14-18). Caregiver has also volunteered to help with the initiative.

9. Report on PAC Special Funding Program (Myra James)
 - a. Subcommittee members: Myra James, Sekwan Wabasca, Clayton James
 - b. Committee was able to fully or partially fund all proposed projects.
 - c. Call for donations for the outstanding items. Full list of required items are tracked here:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18IXhSgCQIH4LNx3uECdZ4xWgvS6s1>

[KpNlsFrNG2g89s/edit?fbclid=IwAR1WsG0P_rRwiv2nkby9KOCqhnD-216y0xFpy_UksJph8UGYdSsmUIQE2RE#gid=1129904490](https://www.facebook.com/KpNlsFrNG2g89s/edit?fbclid=IwAR1WsG0P_rRwiv2nkby9KOCqhnD-216y0xFpy_UksJph8UGYdSsmUIQE2RE#gid=1129904490)

- d. For more information, contact Myra at myrajames@outlook.com.
 - e. **Action (Leslie):** Promote donation requests in the PAC newsletter, on the Facebook page, through the listserve.
10. Equity and Diversity Committee Update (Naomi/ Zeta, Co-chairs)
- a. Speaker on Neurodiversity secured (Date TBA)
 - b. Survey almost ready for distribution
11. VCPAC Report (Angela Carmichael)
- a. VCPAC met with the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA) who expressed concern about the lack of N95 masks. As the district does not supply these to staff, the VCPAC has requested that individual PAC purchase them.
 - i. Discussion re: supply issues, equity of PACs paying for masks and value of buying N95 masks when they are one-time use.
 - ii. Note that masks for students no longer come out of the school budget.
 - b. The next VCPAC meeting will include leadership students.
 - c. Ongoing conversation with The Friends of Bowker Creek regarding the District Land Sale.
 - d. The next Talking Table is in February.
12. Naming Committee (Angela Carmichael)
- a. Background information on committee history.
 - b. The next step is to collect name suggestions from staff and students and inform caregivers. A school survey will be distributed shortly after. Target is to have a new name in place by the fall.
 - c. Questions can be directed to angelacarmichael24@gmail.com
13. PAC Elections (Nomination Officer: Kim Persley)
- a. Vice President (Emma Gillespie) unanimous support (11 votes)
 - b. Member-at-Large (Erin Macklem) unanimous support (11 votes)
14. Adjourn meeting

The next general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2022, @ 6:30 pm.
(Note that the meeting date has changed so to not conflict with Valentine's Day)