

George Jay PAC Meeting
14 October 2020
6:32-8:00 pm
Virtual Meeting over Zoom

In attendance

Executive: Andrea Walker Collins (President), Sam Albers (Vice President), Zeta Lay (Treasurer),
Roberta Hamme (Secretary), Leslie Rewega (Member-at-Large)

Staff: Melanie Postle (Principal), Sarah Winkler (Vice Principal), Leila Durzi (Family Liason), Ai
Linh Trinh, Rebecca Bathurst-Hunt

Parents: Jo Addison, Brooke Albers, Angela Carmichael, Colleen Danks, Cara Gibson, Rozee
Hyder, Myra James, Kim Persley Kozlowski, Lara, Danielle MacKenzie, Karla Marshall, Naomi
McCormick, Matthew Payne, Michael Stewart, Sarah Sweeney, Laila

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Andrea)
2. Agenda accepted as displayed.
3. Minutes of 16 September 2020 meeting accepted.
4. Reports on previous action items
 - a. PAC safe (Zeta and Sam) – Safe has been installed. Sam will install Velcro to prevent any injuries via the dropbox. Zeta to set combo. New cash box with cash float to be stored in safe.
 - b. Active transportation routes letter (Roberta) - Exec wrote a letter to council/mayor in consultation with Ryan Mijker. Letter prepared on letterhead and signed by Exec. Will go to mayor/council tonight.
5. Principal's Report (Melanie)
 - Federal COVID funding has arrived. It was a fairly large allocation. Will support 1.5 FT staff. 1.0 FT of this will support teaching staff, so that school does not have to reduce number of divisions and can keep class sizes small. 0.5 FT of this go to learning support (some French language learning support, remainder to be posted for expertise in phonological (letter/sound knowledge) awareness).
 - Remainder of federal funds going towards technology investments. Mainly used to purchase more Chromebooks and iPads, allowing less sharing and will also allow school to make more devices available if forced to close partially / fully.
 - Miss Henrich (Grade 2/3) has moved to South Park – position is currently posted <addendum after meeting - Mrs. Harcos will fill this vacancy>. Mrs. Clifford will be returning in January from maternity leave to finish the year with the class.
 - New crossing guard has begun. Her name is Gail and she has experience in doing this. Sincere thank you to Rick for helping out in the interim.

- Parent-teacher conferences next week. Dismissal at noon on Wednesday and Thursday. One day interviews will be available until 7pm, on the other until 5pm. Letter coming home soon from teachers. There will be the option for Zoom or coming in-person (following COVID protocols which will be detailed in letter, hand sanitizing, social distancing, mask if you like). No kids can accompany you. Especially want to provide this opportunity because some parents have never been in building.
- Classes have been working on the school code of conduct. If you have questions about this, please contact teacher. This has been effective in classes.
- Thank you to Sam Albers for making a new beautiful Joyful Jays box.
- If you have any concerns, please contact Mrs. Postle or Mrs. Winkler to work them out.

6. President's Report (Andrea)

a. Sheltering / Discarded Needles on School Grounds

Andrea contacted the following about the situation - City of Victoria Parks Department, Public Works Department, Bylaw Office and Neighbourhood Liaison, Victoria Police Department Neighbourhood Liaison. All responded. Police liaison met with staff at school. Parks Dept will be posting signage in Queens Park that this area is not allowed for overnight sheltering. Sharps containers will be installed around school. Activity has reduced in last week. Victoria PD asks that anyone observing sheltering on school grounds or in Queens Park, please call non-emergency line to report. 250-995-7654

b. VCPAC requests parent input on two (2) positive aspects of your child's school, and two (2) negative aspects that the District needs to be aware of. Andrea suggests that we prepare a simply survey monkey to send out to caregivers. No objections raised. Action item: PAC Exec to prepare survey and send out.

c. PAC hosting candidates meeting with parents – Provincial candidates have expressed interest in a candidates meeting with the school. Would anyone like the PAC to pursue this? No interest expressed from attendees.

d. Update: Holiday Emporium

Andrea reached out to UVic co-op program to see if a student could set up a digital Emporium, but the project is the wrong scope for their work, and not enough time remains to set this up. Also, looked into grant programs, but again no time to set up a digital option. Reached out to community spaces to see if we could physically host in another place. No spaces were able to do this, due to their own COVID restrictions. Other PACs in community are cancelling their Emporiums. Is there some way to help kids who aren't able to get presents? A possibility would be for PAC to get craft supplies to teachers for making gifts and to expand hamper program that Leila runs this already. Action item: PAC Exec to interface with teaching staff and Leila to see if PAC support is needed for holiday crafts or hampers.

e. Discussion of fundraising goals for this year – Several suggestions have been put forward for PAC larger fundraising activities.

1. To cover shortfall from fundraising events (Halloween bake sale, Emporium, etc) that cannot happen this year
2. Risers for Music Room that would also be used for performances in gym (when again possible) ~\$5000

3. Art Supplies available to all staff
4. Emergency Supplies – Leslie has already volunteered to help inventory what is currently at school and put together a list of what more is needed. This could be quite expensive, depending on what is needed.
5. Other Suggestions? – Pizza Week at School or other support for Fun Events. What kinds of sporting equipment may be needed? Gaming money can be used for sporting equipment but not for storage. Suggestion for a second gaga ball court <some concerns around monitoring safety with an additional court>. Suggestion for large outdoor games. Suggestion to add to the sensory wall. Suggestions for batons for track <not this year, due to COVID>. Suggestion for Theatre SKAM performances.
Action item: PAC Exec to request feedback from staff on their highest priorities and then create Survey Monkey survey for what is preferred by caregivers.

7. Motion to Use District/PAC funds (Finn and Izzy) to purchase document cameras to support distancing in classrooms – Zeta seconded

District holds a separate fund for George Jay that PAC is meant to advise on how to spend. Currently, just over \$5000 is available, mostly from Finn and Izzy donations. The school district is a charitable organization, so often a business will donate to the school through the district for tax purposes. Staff are requesting 9 document cameras for classes that currently have none. This will help with socially distanced teaching. Approx \$650 each. Likely will not be able to get them until Jan - back ordered. Motion passes unanimously.

8. Treasurer's Report (Zeta)

Please see attached Appendix for full Treasurer's Report.

PAC can now receive funds via e-transfers to gipactreasurer@gmail.com Need to separately communicate with Zeta to let her know what the amount is for.

\$55 in T-shirt sales so far this fall. <contact georgejaypacsec@gmail.com if interested in buying a George Jay T-shirt>

Plan to try out Wave Accounting software. Free and Canadian.

Safe purchased from General Account.

\$500 received from Lions for Fruit and Veg program.

\$10,120 received for Gaming Grant.

Zeta is putting together the Gaming Grant summary report from last year.

9. Secretary's Report (Roberta)

- a. Volunteers for are needed for the Special Funding Program and Bylaws subcommittees Naomi McCormick and Myra James volunteer for Special Funding Program subcommittee. Matthew Payne volunteers for either as needed.

10. Equity and Diversity subcommittee report (Angela)

This subcommittee was formed just before lock-down. Had been hoping to bring in Dr. Lisa Gunderson to talk to staff / parents. Unfortunately, Angela no longer has time to chair, so is stepping down as chair. The PAC could devote funds to this subcommittees by bringing a motion forward. Action item: Zeta to announce need for chair/members to broader PAC

community. Naomi McCormick interested in participating. Anti-racism group at South Park has told us they are willing to share resources.

11. PAC Elections for Member-at-Large, representative to the Renaming Committee, and representative to the Strategic Planning Committee

Nominations received for Member at Large from Nathaniel Simpson and from Hailly Wagner, for Renaming Committee from Angela Cooper Carmichael, and for Strategic Planning Committee from Jo Addison. Angela and Jo made short statements. Nathaniel and Hailly not present. Voting occurred via a google ballot with link distributed at Zoom meeting. 20 responses received.

Results of the vote: Member-at-Large – no option acceptable; Renaming Committee - Angela Cooper Carmichael; Strategic Planning Committee – Jo Addison

12. Facebook PAC group (Sam)

Motion to Remove formal PAC involvement with and moderation of Facebook page. PAC events and info to be posted on Ecole George Jay Elementary Facebook group - moderated by staff. Andrea seconds.

PAC Exec devote significant time and emotional resources to moderate the Facebook group. Challenging to strike the balance between creating a respectful environment and promoting free speech. Parents and staff associate the group with the PAC itself.

Proposal is to dissociate Facebook group from the PAC and allow it to continue without PAC affiliation. PAC should represent all parents, but not all parents are on Facebook.

Discussion ensued. The following statements were made by different people and provide a flavour of the discussion. Important to get through messy discussion – work toward best grace. Facebook page has always been a community place to talk about the school. Splitting off into a different Facebook group would splinter the community. It can be confusing whether positions posted come from people as parents or from PAC. The Facebook group represents a critical part of our community at this time when we can't physically meet. There could be other ways of structuring such a community. Content and tone of posts has frequently caused staff distress and to leave group. Conversations are sometimes not positive or inclusive, and at times have been targeted to specific staff/students. Contentious posts create uncomfortable / negative feelings and has caused group members to leave group.

Motion passed by only one vote. Group was collectively uncomfortable with such a split result and proceeded to the following alternative motion.

Alternative motion to Approve the following Facebook posting criteria (see below) and reconsider removing PAC involvement in a month - Roberta seconds.

Suggest making a pinned post of where to go / who to talk to / what procedure to follow for various school related problems that a parent may encounter. This should include difficult things like what to do if you aren't feeling heard by someone at school or similar issues. If we ignore such problems, then it forces them to bubble up in a less productive/respectful way.

Vote is 18 for and 1 against.

We want to honour that this is a forum that will include differing viewpoints. We know that to be a truly kind, respectful, and inclusive community, we must be able to have difficult conversations. Here are some ground rules for our community to operate as respectfully as possible.

We aim to be solution-oriented and focused on providing information to one another. Information-sharing and questions are always welcome, but please direct specific concerns/complaints to the source first, rather than posting here.

Official PAC posts will be identified as such.

*The PAC group *supports* posts of the following nature:*

- Announcements and other communication from the staff / school / district*
- Announcements and discussion of PAC events*
- Discussion directly involving the PAC, happenings at the school, or the school location (including questions/discussion about events, school procedures etc...)*
- Requests by school staff for donations / loans of items for the school*
- Offers of community assistance or free items to parents / families*
- Resources and support programs for families*
- Free programs for kids / families*
- Local childcare camps (posts should include any information on subsidized access)*
- Relevant positive media articles of interest to parents*
- Humorous and positive items of interest to parents/families*
- Local community issues of interest to specifically the North Park / Fernwood / Hillside / Quadra / Harris Green regions*

The PAC group will not accept posts of the following nature:

- Posts that relate to specific incidents between individuals, whether named or implied*
- Advertisements for one's services*

Facebook Group moderators will be approved at a PAC general meeting

13. Vice President's Report (Sam)

- a. Not-for-profit society status – moved to next month.

14. Adjourn meeting

Next general meeting is scheduled for 18 November 2020 at 6:30pm

Treasurer report
 October 2020

- PAC safe has been installed and a new cash box with code lock is in the office
- Please be aware of depository slot hazard
- Reminder about donating through SD61, you receive a tax receipt. These funds are distributed by the school and in collaboration with PAC
- Parents can now e-transfer funds to the General Account through gjpactreasurer@gmail.com please be aware a note needs to be sent regarding what the transfer is for as in the email it does not give any information other than the amount and who sent it
- We are going to try out a free accounting software called Wave
- We received \$500 from Vic Imperial Lions Club for HAWC
- We received \$55 in T-shirt sales
- We received our Grant of \$10,120 today!
- The Grant Summary report will be completed next week

General Account	
September 1 Balance Forward	\$20,192.64
Total new spending	\$1,127.15
Total new income	\$0.00
Balance Forward	\$19,065.49
Gaming Account	
September 1 Balance Forward	\$7,386.87
Total new spending	\$141.10
Total new income	\$0.00
Balance Forward	\$7,245.77
Total New Spending	\$1,268.25
Total New Income	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$26,311.26

Our Current Balances as of today are

- General 19,080.49
- Gaming 17,365.77
- Total assets \$36,446.26