

George Jay PAC Meeting
13 January 2021
6:30-8:02pm
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), Melanie Cullins (Member-at-Large)

Parents: Jo Addison, Kate Berniaz, Pader Brach, Angela Carmichael, Colleen Danks, Kristy Domineck, Catherine Fowlie, Shannon Hagedorn, Naomi McCormick, Hannah Rellve

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

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:30pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Andrea)
2. **Agenda accepted** as displayed.
3. **Minutes of 9 December 2020 meeting accepted**
4. Reports on previous action items
 - a. **Advocacy plan for enhancing EA support** (Andrea) – In our PAC survey at the start of the year, parents indicated concerns over having enough EA support as the number one challenge at the school. PAC Exec is in the beginning, fact finding stage of making a plan to advocate for greater EA support. Good conversation with admin at PAC Exec meeting previous week. Andrea has a meeting with Deb Whitten (Deputy Superintendent) next to see what role parents could play in such an advocacy. Considering letter writing campaign or other efforts.
 - b. Send VCPAC survey results to Jo and update PAC website with Jo's info (Roberta) – Completed.
 - c. PAC survey on fundraising priorities (Roberta) – At last meeting, could not report on full survey results, because free account limited how many responses could be counted. Since then, Roberta was able to switch to a paid account through her employer and obtain the full responses. The resulting order of fundraising priorities were the same as the limited results presented at the last meeting.
5. **Renaming Committee update** (Angela Carmichael) – Committee had first meeting very recently. Strong focus on consultation over the next year of meetings. Other members of the committee include Melanie Postle (Principal), Deb Whitten (Deputy Superintendent), Ai Linh Trinh (current George Jay teacher), and Bob Warren (past George Jay teacher for 32 years). Purpose of committee is to make a recommendation to the board. If process continues after that point, a different committee would then consider what the new name should be. Plan to involve ~25 community partners and interview stakeholders. The Ministry-funded Equity Scan data will be important to this process too. Previous survey

results (last year) were mixed between those who definitely wanted the name to change, those who were against a name change, and those who wanted more information (i.e., what name would be). Committee is planning a new survey with refined questions compared to last time. More informally, please send any opinions / viewpoints about renaming to Angela at angelacarmichael24@gmail.com, so she can represent parents at these meetings. Next meeting 24 Feb. To find out more about George Jay, the person, Angela suggests reading book "Contesting White Supremacy: School Segregation, Anti-Racism, and the Making of Chinese Canadians" by Timothy Stanley, which includes info on George Jay. School was previously called Spring Ridge Elementary.

6. Active Transportation Improvements and School Street program (Kate / Roberta)

Motion for PAC to request that the City temporarily expand sidewalk on Cook St between Princess and Queens – Roberta moves, Kate seconds. City would remove 2-3 parking spots along Cook and extend the sidewalk area into the street to allow more social distancing when walking past school. Would not affect bus stop. Hannah – this would also help those crossing Cook at Princess and then going north along Cook by bike or walking. Keeping this short block more multi-use after COVID would be a benefit. Motion carries 12 yes, 2 no.

Motion for PAC to support and plan a one-week School Street program pilot on Queens Street – Kate moves, Andrea seconds. Kate presented information on the issue and the School Street program as a potential solution. Slides from the presentation are attached as an Appendix to these minutes. Survey shows that many students travel by walking and biking. School Street would create a car-free block for 30 min at pick-up and drop-off times to enhance safety. Sir James Douglas Elementary has done 2 pilots so far, including an active travel celebration. Benefits: 1) provide more physical distance, 2) encourage active school travel, 3) provide safety. PAC proposes a 1-week pilot right after Spring Break, closing off the half-block of Queens Ave next to school where most congestion and safety problems are occurring. PAC to identify alternative parking, communicate with parents, plan, and implement with parent volunteers (particularly moving / tending the cones). City to provide cones, and outreach to neighbours on Queens. Apartment residents will still be able to enter and exit. Neighbours around Sir James Douglas have been supportive, because of the reduction in chaos. Downsides include possible accessibility concerns, but parents can still park on Princess and the school offers 2 parking spots to families with accessibility challenges. Initial trial would be for 1 week, but move to longer periods if successful. Suggestion: request for support from Vic PD for first days especially. Kate has talked to officers, and they seemed very supportive. Motion carries 16 yes, 0 no. Kate to lead – please e-mail her to get involved at kberniaz@gmail.com.

Suggestion near the end of the meeting to consider a Walking School Bus. Rogers Elementary (upper Quadra) has used this to avoid parents driving up steep driveway and having to turn around, creating chaos and congestion. In a walking bus, children are dropped off at a more remote location, an adult there to walk the crowd of students all the way to school.

Oaklands has a similar program. Could this fit in our context?

7. Principal's Report (Melanie)

- Winter Crafting Activity – extremely successful and well received by staff and students. Teachers enjoyed this time, making meaningful projects together to be shared with family. Thank you to PAC for funding for this.
- Kaitlyn Clifford (Grade 2/3 FRIM) has returned from maternity leave.
- January assembly coming up. Kindness assembly will happen in Feb. Planning for Pink Shirt day.
- Presentation to school district staff coming up on George Jay's needs / wants before budgetary decisions are made. Conversations have been very positive so far. Focusing on adding stories that support the data for these asks, to make message more effective.
- Kindergarten registration week. Calmest registration so far.
- Valentine's Day – recent consultation with staff. For COVID safety reasons, no food or treats of any kind this year. Handmade cards and anything paper will be fine.
- Equity Scan group will be conducting a survey to parents / staff / support staff / admin etc. in mid-late Feb. They will make a presentation to the school board with suggested actions in Nov 2021.
- Netflix will be in building and around community filming. They are removing sand pit for filming but will put back and fill with new sand.
- Field has become a mud pit and is now closed for the rainy season. School has opened up the Queens Street walkway area and the area in front of the music studio as new play spaces.

8. President's Report (Andrea)

- a. **Silent Auction** was very successful. Everything sold. Working on a couple of stragglers to collect funds. If auction winners decide not to purchase, will move on to next bidder.
- b. **50/50 Raffle** has been launched. Selling tickets now. Raffle Nexus has been great to work with. Jackpot at \$700 after a half week. Will do 7 draws over the next 14 weeks. Please help promote. Post should be reshareable to your community and friends on Facebook. Andrea can help you figure out how to share. Spread the word. First pull will be Jan 22 and every two weeks after that. Buy tickets at:
<http://georgejaypac.rafflenexus.com>

9. Vice President's Report (Sam)

- a. **Non-profit society status** – Application completed. We are now a not-for-profit society. This will help the PAC secure more grants. Sam will help any grant writers with information on our society status.

10. **Treasurer's Report** (Zeta) - \$1595 received so far from silent auction. A bit still to collect. Have issued some reimbursements from the Gaming Grants and Winter Crafting Activity for staff. For staff last year, many have leftover Gaming Grant funds that weren't used due to COVID restrictions. Reimbursing them from those leftover funds from last year before moving on to this year's allocation. Bank statements displayed.

11. Secretary's Report (Roberta)

- a. **Bylaws amendments**

Motion to adopt new/revised bylaws as listed at the end of this agenda – Roberta motions and Sam seconds. New/revised bylaws shown in minutes just below. More extensive discussion took place at Dec PAC meeting. Question about place to keep records. PAC closet and cabinet near Strong Start exists for this. Motion carries, 14 yes, 0 no.

Suggested replacement bylaw 9.5. Up to three times per year, the Executive, by majority vote of the Executive, shall have the authority to spend up to \$200.00 not explicitly included in the current budget between regular meetings without a resolution of the general membership. Such an expenditure may not create a deficit in the bank account. The Secretary will make a written record of the motion and vote.

Suggested replacement bylaw 4.3 All matters requiring a vote will be decided by two thirds majority of the votes cast (67% plus 1), including a change to the constitution or bylaws or to force a member of the Executive to resign.

Suggested replacement bylaw 6.3 When addressing outside organizations or social media on behalf of the PAC, Executive members must ensure that the position or opinion expressed has been ratified by the membership at a previous general or extraordinary special meeting. Exact wording need not be approved.

Suggested replacement bylaw 10.1 Conflicts arising between members of the PAC involving matters concerning the PAC will first be addressed at a meeting of the Executive and the parties involved. The PAC will only engage in this process if the parties experiencing conflict choose to participate in the conflict resolution process.

Suggested new bylaw 11.3 The PAC will keep the following records (physical or electronic) accessible to the Executive of:

- a) Statement of directors and registered office of the PAC as provided for under Section 12 of the BC Societies Act,
- b) Records as required under Section 20 of the BC Societies Act.

Outgoing PAC Executive members will provide password information on role-based e-mail accounts and the PAC website to the incoming PAC Executive members.

12. Equity and Diversity subcommittee report (Zeta / Naomi)

Subcommittee has now met once for a productive and candid conversation. Unsafe areas for some kids include shared spaces like bathrooms and recess. This has been less of an issue this year with cohorts and gender-neutral bathrooms. Planning a brief survey (suggested by Lisa Gunderson) to query school community about how spaces can be safer and how PAC can be more welcoming and diverse. Discussion of process for reconciliation when problems occur. Subcommittee would like to learn more about the process through Jo, our PAC representative on the Strategic Planning Committee. Subcommittee is looking into what languages are spoken at school through Leila in order to translate PAC communications into other languages. Subcommittee suggests a PAC newsletter that

would help connect the school community. Exec has discussed format for a newsletter. An old-school paper newsletter might be fun and would catch everyone. Newsletter could showcase class activities or classroom art. The school has changed a lot over the years as has who dominates discussions. Any concerns / suggestions / requests to volunteer can be sent to georgejaypacsec@gmail.com to be passed on to the subcommittee.

13. Discussion on forming a PAC communications subcommittee (Andrea)

Some members expressed interest in the Fall in being more involved with communications and the Facebook page. Concern has been expressed that the Facebook page isn't what it has been in the past. PAC wants to be careful not to overlook voices that we may not be reaching through other means. Such a subcommittee could focus on our Facebook group in particular. Question about whether it is important to maintain the member list and Facebook group as only active George Jay PAC members? Various community members are on the Facebook group, including city councilors and community members of various types. Privacy concerns seem less relevant now that people do not share pictures of kids. Maintaining those with previous association with George Jay / alumni could be good for the PAC; for example, they participated in our silent auction. No mechanism exists to know whether past members still have children at the school, especially on Facebook where alternative names are often used. Suggestion to post a pinned announcement to the PAC page at the start of each year asking people who are no longer member to remove themselves from the group. Posts are moderated, so this stops potential issues that could arise from non-members posting.

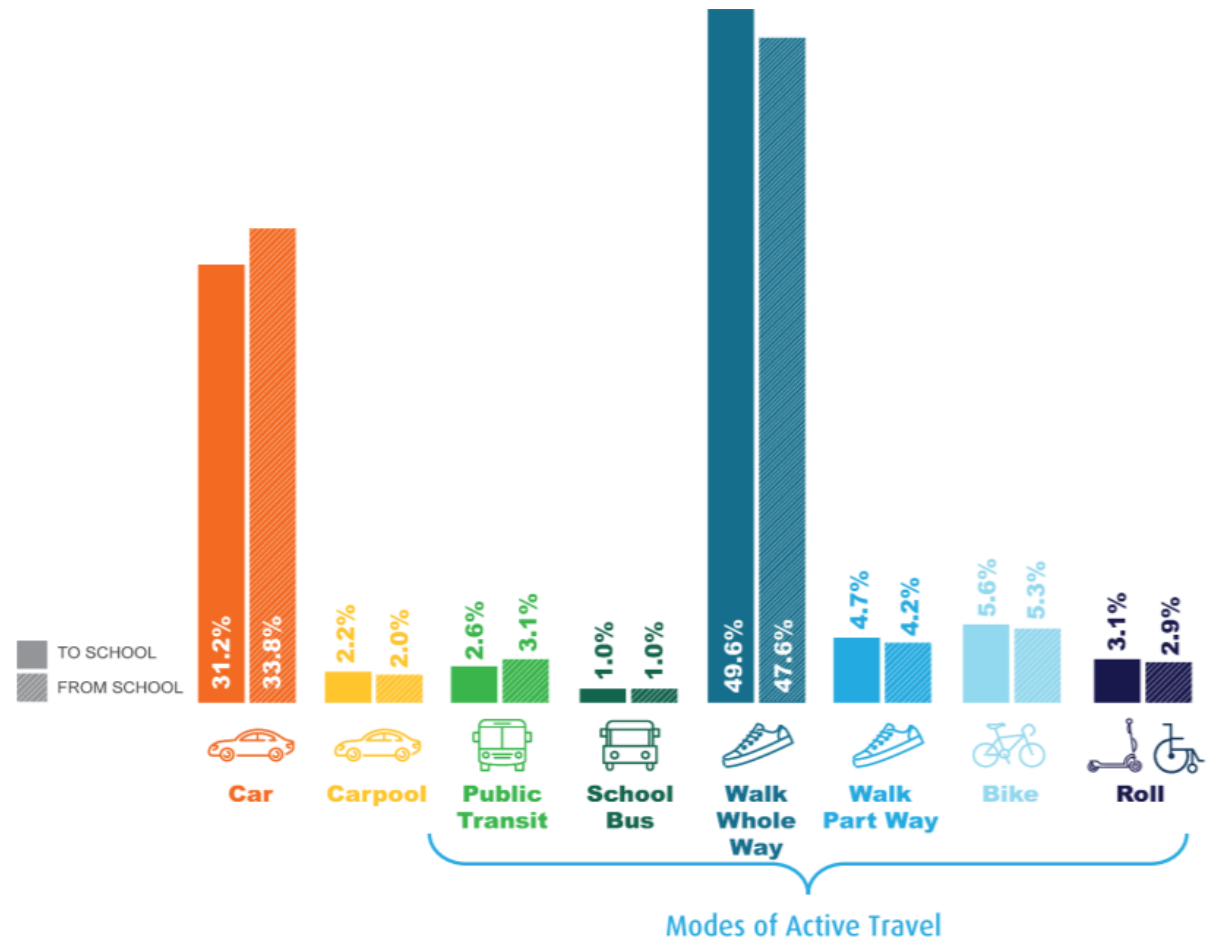
14. Adjourn meeting – 8:02pm

Next general meeting is scheduled for 10 February 2021 at 6:30pm

Proposal: School Street Pilot

George Jay PAC
January 2021

How do students and families to travel to/from George Jay?



→ Typically, about **70%** of students use some form of **active travel** to and from George Jay. Driving (alone or carpool) accounts for about **30%** of the travel to and from school.

What is a School Street?

Car-free block beside an elementary school open to walking, biking and rolling.

Volunteers close the block to outside vehicles for 30 minutes during pick-up and drop-off times using barriers.



Closing Celebration of Sir James Douglas School Street

2019

Benefits of School Streets

Provide Space	Physically distant access to the school by students and families reduces the risk of viral transmission.
Encourage Active Travel	Provides a comfortable space to start or end an active travel trip, encouraging families to walk, bike or roll to school.
Improve Safety and Air Quality	Limiting traffic and encouraging active travel reduces vehicles and vehicle emissions around the school.

School Street Pilot at George Jay

- Proposed one-week pilot
- Early April
- Queens Ave
 - School families and neighbours have raised traffic congestion and safety concerns have been raised by school families and neighbours

Planning for a pilot



Identify alternative parking options



Coordinate with the City of Victoria



Communication plan



Implementation plan



Request for volunteers

Motion

To support a one-week School
Street pilot on Queens Ave in April
2021