

George Jay PAC Meeting
10 March 2021
6:32-8:04pm
Virtual Meeting over Zoom

In attendance

Executive: Andrea Walker Collins (President), Sam Albers (Vice President), Zeta Lay (Treasurer), Roberta Hamme (Secretary), Leslie Rewega, Melanie Cullins

Parents: Kate Berniaz, Angela Carmichael, Colleen Danks, Myra James, Karla Marshall, Sarah Mutesi, Hannah Relleve

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

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:32pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Andrea)
2. **Agenda amended to add discussion of Cook and Princess intersection.**
3. **Minutes of 10 February 2021 meeting accepted.**
4. Reports on previous action items
 - a. **Advocacy plan for enhancing EA support** (Andrea) – Feedback from fall survey is that parents perceive that more EA support is needed at the school. Issues involve funding, access to designation, and availability of trained EAs. If goal is more support in classroom, that can be done differently by providing non-EA educational support. School goal is to maximize different kinds of supports in the classroom. Suggestion to communicate currently available supports to parent community. *Andrea motions for the PAC to pursue advocacy for enhancing educational support at the school. Sam seconds. Motion carries 11 yes, 1 no.*
5. **Renaming committee update** (Angela) – Angela has provided information on two books relevant to the renaming issue to renaming committee members and to PAC members mailing list. Terms of Reference still being approved. No meeting in March due to Spring Break. Committee is reaching out to community members to ask stakeholders to address the committee. Goal for everyone's voice to be heard. Please send your concerns and thoughts by e-mail to angelacarmichael24@gmail.com Triggering topic for many. And communications would be totally confidential. Action item for Roberta: add Angela's contact info to PAC website. Question about who would pay for new signs, logos, etc.. Deb Whitten has stated that district would pay, not PAC or school. Could go for a reconciliation grant. Concern raised about uniforms, club T-shirts, library bar codes, etc... Not clear that full magnitude of the expense has been considered yet. Long process. Committee is gathering info and forming opinions to make recommendation to the board. Members can present separately to the board if committee is not unanimous. Plan to have a motion on the April

agenda about PAC position on renaming. Terms of reference need to be public before this. Once consultation is complete, Angela needs to be able to represent PAC position.

6. **School Streets program planning** (Kate) – Event planned for April 6-9. Will close Queens Ave to vehicles. 8:15-9:10, 2:15-2:45. Will give kids/families more space. Connected with staff contact and more info going out week after Spring Break. Residents can enter/exit, but traffic much reduced. We are asking them to avoid travel at that time. Hannah organizing cone duty and looking for volunteers. After spring break, will send info to parents by e-mail. Promoting alternative parking with a parking area map. Data collection for how many blocks walked, biked, etc... *Kate motions for the PAC to spend up to \$250 on supplies for School Streets program event. Andrea seconds.* Plan to purchase a banner, balloons for cones, etc... *Motion carries 11 yes, 0 no.*

7. **Principal's Report** (Melanie)
 - Vic PD to provide support to School Street pilot. Sent info on pilot to district PR person. May promote from district perspective.
 - Lots of report card reading. Approval in process. Portfolios available now.
 - Wonderful Pink Shirt assembly. Great skit about kindness involving Mr. F. Students giving Mr. F lots of suggestions for ways to handle the situation portrayed.
 - Changed COVID protocols in the school. Kids are handling it well but creates a new layer of stress. Staff now in masks at all times except behind desks. Staff excited about upcoming vaccination. Planning for a regular start up in Sept.
 - Planning adaptations to the welcome to Kindergarten event. Question about how the PAC can communicate with incoming kindergarten parents. In the past, someone from the PAC came to Welcome event. We could make a catchy video that the school can send out (mid-May at latest). PAC could join event for Q&A.
 - K, Grade 1, Grade 2 are working with story studio, involving building stories with objects. Develop oral and written communication skills. Grade 2/3 and Grade 4/5 doing Story Studio writing project.
 - FSA testing for Grade 4 this month. Surveys have been filled out. Results late April.
 - Problems with congregation on sidewalks around the school and with kids playing before and after school on playground. This defeats the hard work school is doing to separate cohorts. **Please do not congregate and please practice social distancing.** Please don't arrive before school starts. Don't have playdates on school property.

8. **President's Report** (Andrea)
 - On-going 50-50 draw. Three more jackpots coming up. Please encourage anyone in BC to buy tickets. Each ticket purchased brings more money to the PAC.
 - Exec is working on budget planning to identify a clear carryover amount to next school year and then look at spending the significant difference on identified fundraising priorities: emergency supplies, music risers, art supplies, and sports equipment.
 - Spring Grab Bags – never too late to send your form back with a donation. Grab bags going out to most classes on 1 April.

- Annual General meeting is coming up in May. Please consider running for PAC Exec (will add to PAC community newsletter). Nominations will start in April.

9. Treasurer's Report (Zeta) – Zeta showed bank statements for the month. Gaming account has been busy as raffle funds go straight to this account. Quite a few reimbursements have been made for winter craft event. Everyone requesting reimbursement requests to use the new PAC reimbursement form, available at <http://www.georgejapac.com/documents.html>, electronic submissions gjpactreasurer@gmail.com or paper submissions into the wooden mail box marked treasurer in the office. Lots of funds remaining to spend. PAC needs to plan and pass major purchases. \$4482.94 received so far for raffle (just above \$2000 after expenses). Sobey's (Thrifty's cards) close to \$500 received. Fruit and veg program still going well. All expenses within budget.

10. **Equity and Diversity subcommittee report** (Zeta)

- Naomi will not be able to continue co-chairing.
- First priority for subcommittee is to gain greater insight into ED pain points and positives at school. Considering a survey or having Lisa Gunderson back again. Would like to pair parent learning opportunities with school events like Pink Shirt Day. Also, considering how best to support conflict resolution related to ED.
- Newsletter initiative considering translating into top 3 languages. Flyer for Dr. G went out in only one language, but would like to do multiple languages in the future. City engagement spends \$150 per page for translation services. Subcommittee could look at grant for this. Google translate could be used as an initial step, but need a way to proof it with folks who speak the language. Question: could we create an opportunity for a UVic language student or someone in our own school community? English, French, and Arabic are the top three languages, while there are many others approximately evenly divided. Significant effort for newsletter layout when text in other languages are different lengths.
- Goal to bring more people into engaging with the PAC. Ask parents for their ideas. PAC engagement hinges on issues. Personal relationship brings people into the PAC. Leila to connect Mel to people who might be interested in helping with this.
- Suggestion of alternative PAC meeting times to accommodate a larger variety of schedules. Different days of week? Sat or Sun morning? Alternating days on different months. We need to be respectful of admin / staff time too as they attend. Approach timing with a survey ranking best times/days for meetings. After COVID is over, PAC could introduce morning coffee at school once a month.
- We could consider recording virtual meetings and making those available. Concern raised about privacy. This may reduce participation as people don't want to be recorded. Would anyone watch an hour and a half long PAC meeting?
- The mechanics of introducing and passing motions can seem alien and unwelcoming. Roberta would like to make a short how-to flyer to help people know how to get their issues heard at a PAC meeting.

11. Discussion of intersection at Cook and Princess – Concern that new intersection light creates a dangerous interaction between cars turning right off Princess and bike riders going

straight across Cook. Exec has sent a letter asking City for further information on their plans to improve safety at the intersection. However, if answer is not satisfactory, would like the support of the PAC to advocate to the City on this issue.

Roberta motions to send a letter to the City advocating for pavement paint to increase safety for bike riders at new intersection at Cook and Princess. Kate seconds. Motion passes 11 yes, 0 no.

12. Adjourn meeting – 8:04pm

Next general meeting is scheduled for 14 April 2021 at 6:30pm