

George Jay PAC Annual General Meeting
12 May 2021
6:32-7:57pm
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/Guardians: Brooke Albers, Kate Berniaz, Angela Carmicheal, Alana Clement, Colleen Danks, Kristy Domineck, Catherine Fowlie, Rebecca Freedman, Cara Gibson, Maritia Gully, Valerie Houle, Rozee Hyder, Myra James, Barbara Leij, Danielle MacKenzie, Erin Macklem, Karla Marshall, Naomi McCormick, Steve Palmer, Matthew Payne, Hannah Relleve

Staff: Melanie Postle (Principal), Sarah Winkler (Vice Principal), Sanjiv Galhon (Vice Principal next year), Rebecca Bathurst-Hunt, Leila Durzi (Family Liaison), Annie Shum

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:32pm. Welcome and recognition of traditional territories (Andrea)
2. **Agenda accepted.** Andrea moves. Roberta seconds.
3. **Minutes of 14 April 2021 meeting accepted.** Andrea moves. Matthew seconds.
4. Reports on previous action items
 - a. **Next School Streets May 25 - June 4** (Kate) – Last month's School Street closure of Queens Ave was very successful. Plan to hold a 2-week closure on May 25 through June 4. This aligns with Go-By-Bike week. School Street team will be working to get info out to parents soon. Staff interested in doing activities surrounding this again as part of Go-By-Bike week.
 - b. **Advocacy on district budget cuts** (Andrea) – A volunteer group convened after last meeting to plan advocacy strategy. Exec sent letter to trustees and district about CommunityLINK funding and another about the inappropriate survey questions pitting different groups against each other. Secured one spot on the May 10th board meeting – Leila Durzi spoke about the Family Liaison position at George Jay. We have another spot on the 17 May board meeting. Matthew Payne volunteers to speak. Cara Gibson has prepared some talking points. Cara has put together a petition supporting Leila's position, posted on Facebook and sent out to the PAC membership list. Please add your name.
 - c. VCPAC (Angela) – So many wonderful nominations to the VCPAC awards this year. Two George Jay staff have won awards. **Annie Shum won Fine Arts Champion Award and Leila Durzi won John Young Advocacy Award.** Also, VCPAC is putting out a new survey on inclusive learning to help advocacy. Open for 10 days, please participate. VCPAC to compile a list of motions at the district level and which trustees voted for what – important information prior to next election.

5. Renaming committee update (Angela)

A written report has gone out to PAC membership lists on each of the last two meetings. Presenters at most recent meeting were a group of George Jay Staff and Kristine DosSantos (parent in the district). Next meeting to involve former principal. After this, committee will sit circle with elders. **Planning a special PAC meeting on the evening of Wednesday 9 June to consider a motion whether PAC will support renaming.** Will invite Dr. Stanley, DosSantos, and George Jay staff to present.

6. Principal's Report (Melanie)

- Welcome to Sanjiv Galhon, our new vice principal for next year. Mel moving to Marigold Elementary and Sarah becoming Principal. Have secured an additional 0.2 more funding for a Vice Principal position, bring total to 0.323 FTE.
- First round of staffing opened and closed last week. Still not sure who is staying and going yet.
- **Free veggie seedling distribution happening on Monday – 17 May after school.** Parents and staff have priority for these. 120 plantings reserved for George Jay garden.
- Time table for next year will be 8:53 – 2:35 with 15 min recess and 35 min lunchtime/play. All elementary schools will be on same schedule. Teachers will continue to be with students during lunch and use this as learning time. Kids responding to this very well. No lunch monitors.
- Staff continuing Professional Development. Equity and Diversity group is doing a book study of *This book is anti-racist*. Working on how to have meaningful race conversations in the school. Also doing a Ross Greene book club with focus on social and emotional development for students who struggle with emotional regulation. Restorative practices and circles. Planning to communicate what staff is learning to parents. May be able to create an opportunity for parent education around this. Classrooms are using circles – very valuable.
- Battle of the Books. Allyship is topic this month. Part of anti-racist conversation. Books are *What Riley Wore* and *A Family is a Family is a Family*.
- Literacy week a big hit and well organized by Rebecca Bathurst-Hunt and Cathy Carter.
- Next year, planning on gender specific bathrooms in the basement corridor but rest will be everyone welcome – same as this year.
- Grade 5 graduation plans – Making 6” drums this year in the last week of classes, unique celebration for this unique year. Tues afternoon of last week: will host a Zoom celebration for grade 5s. Hoping to open to parents but need to go through permission forms on this. Thank you to Mel Cullins for getting cupcakes donated from Cakes etc... Planning to create a certificate with individual photos of all the grade 5s.

7. President's Annual Report (Andrea)

Thank you to everyone, especially to those who consistently attend meetings, to those who have volunteered their time, and to the Exec who have been great to work with. We accomplished so much this year: support for Welcome Back Parade, Halloween Grab Bags, on-line Silent Auction, funded winter crafting in the classrooms, 50-50 Raffle, Spring Grab

Bags, School Streets program, continuing Fruit and Veg program, parent education programs through the EDI subcommittee. Thank you to Mel Postle – we wish you all the best. We look forward to getting to know Sanjiv. Thank you to Steve Palmer for his graphic design this year.

8. Treasurer's Annual Report (Zeta)

- Brief summary of all the items the PAC spent money on this year, including funding through our Gaming Grant directly to the staff for items from gardening to comic books to the winter crafting event, yoga mats for outdoor learning, gifts to our crossing guard and to the Lore family, teacher appreciation event in Dec, and a contribution to the Grade 5 gift (drum making).
- Brief summary of fundraising. Monks Office supply – very successful, raised more money than expected. Halloween Grab Bags brought in more funds than the Spring Grab Bags. Silent auction brought in significant funds. Online 50-50 raffle did not bring in as much as hoped. High cost of the 50% of funds given to winners, service fees were also high but raffle company reduced amount of work for Exec. Naomi got a grant from SD61 for drag queen event. We should apply for this grant every year.
- Zeta to work on Gaming Grant application with new treasurer.
- Showed statements. Total cash on hand \$35,054. Gaming has just under \$12,000. Some cheques still outstanding. Gained about \$8500 over the year since October.
- Staff please spend your gaming grant funds. Zeta will write to each staff member about their remaining funds.
- From Andrea: Thank you to Zeta for modernizing our treasurer accounting process. PAC has a responsibility to carry forward funds to the next fiscal year. Heaviest expenses typically in the Fall (Welcome Back BBQ, Halloween Dance, Emporium). Roughly \$11,000 needs to be carried over, but we have much more than that.

9. ***Motion to spend up to \$6600 to purchase risers for performances and music room.***

Roberta moves. Andrea seconds.

Annie Shum spoke. Risers will be wonderful. These were Mel's idea. Annie has talked to teachers in the district that have them – everyone really likes them. With so many kids – need these for performances. Previous risers borrowed from elsewhere are very heavy. Also, kids are sitting on floor or uncomfortable chairs in music studio. 4 risers would fit in the music studio with free movement in front. Can reconfigure in many ways. Roll out into gym easily – light weight. Mel got an updated quote this week \$6600 this week. Motion carries. 22 yes. 0 no.

10. Vice President's Annual Report (Sam)

- Grateful to be a part of PAC Exec this year – very satisfying to volunteer. Led registering PAC as non-profit society. Supported installation of safe at school, Grab Bag assembly and delivery, Online holiday auction and 50/50 raffle, School Streets program closing Queens Ave. Wrote advocacy letters to City for active transportation and to district about CommunityLINK funding. Built and donated Joyful Jays box. Helped

moderate PAC email list. Acted as a cheque signer. Acted as VCPAC rep to several meetings

- **Motion to spend \$350 to sponsor a parent education session on Internet Safety and Digital Literacy from the White Hatter company.** Sam moves. Andrea seconds. This presentation is highly sought after. Couldn't book before end of the school year. Plan for tentative date date in Nov. Won't conflict with parent education around Orange Shirt Day in Sept. Motion carries. 22 yes. 0 no.

11. Secretary's Annual Report (Roberta)

- Hosted Zoom meetings. Took and edited minutes of each general meeting and posted on PAC website (<http://www.georgejaypac.com/documents.html>) and to PAC Facebook page. Meeting agenda always accessible to anyone via a link posted on the PAC website and Facebook page.
- The PAC Special Funding Program subcommittee received 11 proposals from staff this year and funded 7 of them at a total cost of \$3000 with the school directly supporting the other 4. Grants ranged for small parts for story studio work to inclusive gym equipment to SOGI resources to ceramics materials. 5 of 7 grants have been fully spent already. Thank you to Myra James, Naomi McCormick, and Matthew Payne for serving on this subcommittee with me this year.
- The Constitution and Bylaws subcommittee met briefly this year and brought forward a few amended bylaws on raising the proportion of Yes votes to pass a motion to 67%, spending by the Exec, clarification on advocacy by the PAC, conflict resolution, and record keeping. Bylaws are posted at <http://www.georgejaypac.com/documents.html>.
- Posted items to PAC Facebook page to keep community informed. Issued correspondence to school board over budget advocacy and to city over active transportation around our school. Facilitated surveys to PAC membership on school positives and challenges, and on PAC fundraising priorities.
- Thank you to the fantastic School Streets team: Kate Berniaz, Sam Albers, Karla Marshall, and Hannah Relleve for their commitment to improving active transportation and pick-up/drop-off at the school. They were wonderful to work with.

12. Member-at-Large Annual Report (Leslie)

- Did a lot of housekeeping in the PAC this year. Developed a clear project planning, positional e-mails, calendar of events, etc... Kudos to Andrea on this.
- Monks School Supplies fundraiser – very convenient way to order supplies and deliver to schools, local company, donate some free kids for families.
- Staff Appreciation event – delivered coffee and snacks to staff in Dec.
- Donation of graphic novels to library – *New Kid* – with reading guide.
- Emergency Supplies – started working on this in the fall. Inventoried all supplies. Worked with another parent who has emergency management experience. Nearly finished purchasing plan. Emphasizing long shelf life items. Planning to devote significant PAC funds to this in the Fall. Will be meeting with Sarah Winkler on this project. Mel Postle: City just donated stretchers and blankets to us.

12. Member-at-Large Annual Report (Mel Cullins)

- Major work producing our new newsletter. Great contributions from so many. Newsletter has fast become part of George Jay culture.
- Close to 80 yoga mats purchased for outdoor learning sit-upons.
- Arranged donation of cupcakes for Grade 5s from Cakes etc...
- Plan to continue to work with EDI subcommittee and continue with newsletter and direct volunteering in school.

13. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion subcommittee report (Zeta)

- Coming up Drag Queen Storytime – Saturday 22 May 2:00-2:45pm. Fitting in with this month's Battle of the Books.
- EDI subcommittee plans to work with initiatives that the school is putting on. Example is Sept Orange Shirt Day.
- Planning to put out a very brief survey in June focusing on how caregivers feel about inclusivity at the school and what we could do to improve. Will aid planning for next year. Intending to invite back Lisa Gunderson.

14. Elections of 2021-22 Executive

Successful candidates: **Matthew Payne - President, Leslie Rewega – Treasurer, Sam Albers – Secretary, Steve Palmer – Member-at-Large, Naomi McCormick – Member-at-Large.** Andrea Walker Collins continues on the Exec in role of Past President.

15. If time: Discussion of Face-to-Face vs. virtual meetings next year. Discussed different options, including a blended face-to-face and virtual meeting. This would involve connecting Zoom meeting to the library. Will need some AV savvy people to mic room properly. Action item for Matthew: look into how to do this. Poll results: Blended face-to-face and virtual is most desirable (65%), alternating face-to-face and virtual (30%), virtual only (5%), face-to-face only (0%). We want to reach more people than just at this meeting to decide this. Consider including in survey.

16. Adjourn meeting – 7:58pm

We are planning a special PAC meeting for 9 June (tentatively) to address whether the PAC will support renaming of the school