

James Douglas Parent Advisory Meeting

June 21, 2004

Parents – Katherine Cook, Swee The, Lori Fontana, LaNein Harrison, Lyn Jones, Tracy Shudo, Ita Leiva, Joyce Spencer, Simon Szeto, Chris Plagnol, Alison Muth, Susan Dreger, Sam Louie, Siu Louie, Dal Sandhu, Vivian Haber, Sue Watkins, Emma Breurkens, Connie Mak, Susan Rome, Stephen Bagnell, Clara Hesson, Bruce Fleming, Geri Garcia, Surinder Dhadli, Catharine O'Brien-Bell, Darren Shong, Laura Eusanio, Astrid Visscher, Ruth Martens and several others who may not have signed in.

Staff – Barbara Claridge, Marie-Helene Humphries, Pam Biela, Isabel Somerville

Presentation by Doug Easton of Telus

- Telus has proposed to put a Walk-In Cabinet (WIC) on the school grounds to meet consumer demand for digital communication. The WIC is a concrete box 7.5x13x6ft high and 3 ft underground. It will hold electronics to take cable in and out, mini switches, fibre-optic cables and completely sealed batteries. There will be no cellular or wireless transmissions.
- Telecordia Technologies was hired by Telus to research safety. They found EMF emissions were <1% of the most stringent levels set by Health Canada, and if the door was shut, there were no detectable emissions at all. (<1% is about the same as fluorescent lighting.) The Centre for Disease Control believes that the Telecordia study was done well and is reliable. The VSB has a copy of the study.
- Telus has no plans to put wireless technology in the WIC's at this point. Regarding future uses and expansion, Doug recommended putting into the contract with VSB that no wireless technology be allowed, and any changes of use be approved by the VSB first.
- Issues about safety, supervision, liability, security and maintenance were raised.
- New Telus employees have to get a criminal record check, but current employees don't. Any employees using the WIC would sign in at the school office.
- The VSB will give Douglas School \$3000 if the school accepts the proposal, but Mr. Easton didn't say how much Telus was paying the VSB.
- The VSB Planning and Facilities meeting is June 22, and the VSB would like a recommendation from the Douglas PAC by then. If anyone wants to speak at a VSB Board meeting, you can send them a written submission by June 30.

PAC discussion re Telus proposal

- Since the last PAC meeting, the PAC hired a consultant to do some independent research about WICs. The report back stated that the EMF emissions from a WIC are very low, and there are generally no emissions of radiation of any kind from a WIC.
- Astrid reported that Telus is paying the VSB \$100,000 for 20 years to lease space on each site (which is \$5000/yr), for 7 sites plus a signing bonus.
- There was much discussion about the short time frame, and that we have to discuss this with our parent population further. This kind of public/private partnership could be advantageous for our school. As parents we can negotiate a deal for Douglas if we decide that it would alright to have the WIC on site. Some information will put out in translation in September, with a final decision being made in October.
Motion: To defer a decision regarding a WIC on Douglas property to October, MSC Susan Rome, Tracy Shudo, passed unanimously.
- Astrid will send a letter to the VSB meeting June 22 informing the VSB of Douglas' decision.
Motion: If the VSB does not accept the extended time frame, the decision from the Douglas PAC will be to recommend against having the WIC on the school site, MSC Katherine Cook, Ita Leiva, passed unanimously.

Review of Minutes from May 17

- Because the cut-off date for receiving nominations (June 17) was left out of the minutes, Tracy Shudo's name (June 18) was added to the slate of nominations.

Chairperson's Report

- The Ministry of Education has restored \$2.9 million of funding. Thanks to all the parents who signed petitions, attended budget meetings, sent letters and emails to the school board, Ministry and MLAs. Every small contribution can make a difference.
- Douglas has over 600 families with 26 languages from 32 countries. Fundraising and volunteering by parents takes many forms and is done in many big and small ways. Let us teach our children by example of doing what we can, where we can.
- Over \$40,000 was raised this year, including the gaming funds. Thank-you everyone who helped. The amount of funds raised has been rising gradually in general over the years, but expenses are rising as well.
- Douglas has received the Diamond level for Quality Daily P.E Activity for the 7th time. Only 1% of schools in Canada receive this prestigious award.
- The Carnival was a wonderful success and helped build community in many ways. Thank-you to all who helped.
- Thank-you, Jim Cumming, for your years of volunteering. You have touched the lives of many children.
- Thank-you to the Boys' and Girls' Club for the use of their gym. Douglas uses it 4 days a week.
- Thank-you, Barbara Claridge, Pam Biela and Marie-Helene Humphries for all your support.

Treasurer's Report

- PAC account - \$36,293.69, Gaming account - \$20,248.00 but these funds are allocated for items and will be paid out at the end of June, so we don't have a final figure of what will be left over after the bills are paid.
- Over \$40,000 was raised (including the gaming funds) plus sports equipment from Campbell's labels, and the equivalent of \$2340 in books and materials from the Scholastic Book Fair.
- The Carnival was extremely fun and well-attended. It did make a profit, but how much is not known yet.
- The budget for 04/05 is based on 85% of this year's fundraising: \$18,625 from fundraising and \$16,000 from Gaming
- How to encourage all grades to participate in fundraising was discussed. The 35%, 35%, 30% division of fundraising was discussed, and another formula was put forward that divided a small portion of the funds by grade for each grade to put towards the grade 7 trips. There was discussion, but the general concensus was to leave the division as it is for now.

Motion: To accept the 04/05 budget, MSC Emma Breurkens, Ita Leiva, passed unanimously.

Elections

- Ruth Martens stepped down from the Secretary position, and Ita Leiva offered to stand.
- Standing: Chair – Simon Szeto
Treasurer – Catharine O'Brien Bell
Secretary – Ita Leiva
Member at Large – Tracy Shudo
Member at Large – Sue Watkins
Member at Large – Dayle Geisbrecht
Member at Large – Darren Shong

Motion: To accept the nominations for the 04/05 PAC Executive, MSC Chris Plagnol, Susan Rome, passed unanimously.

**Next PAC Meeting Monday, September 20, 2004
7:00 at the Main School**

Please mark it on your calendars.