

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Sir James Douglas Elementary School
7550 Victoria Drive
Vancouver BC V5P 3Z7
Main School: 604-713-4817 Annex: 604-713-4885

September 20, 2004 Meeting – MINUTES

Parents & Staff in Attendance: Simon Szeto, Catherine O'Brien-Bell, Ita Leiva, Sue Watkins, Tracy Shudo, Dayle Giesbrecht, Darren Shong, Sherry Smith, Elsa Rice, Lynda Hydamaka, Chantell Varty, Joyce Spencer, Barbara Dominik, Paul Thom, Elaine Young, Dave Young, Linda Le, Victor Le, Edith Yang, Betty Lin, Benguo Liu, Julio Laynez, Sheila Reed, Mdme. Humphries, Pam Biela, Isabel Somerville, Barbara Claridge

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

- Simon Szeto welcomed everyone to the 1st PAC meeting of the new school year
- PAC and parent introductions were made

2. **Review of the Agenda**

- Meeting will end at 8:30pm
- Babysitting is only provided until 9:00pm

3. **Chairperson's Report**

- Thank you to the PAC Executive for all their support
- There will be 3 areas of focus this year for the members at large:
 - Safety Committee (Darren Shong)
 - Food & Nutrition Committee (Tracy Shudo)
 - Fundraising Committee (Dayle Giesbrecht)
- **Proposed Beer & Wine Store at the corner of 54th Avenue and Victoria**
 - In conjunction with David Thompson PAC, letters were written to the City of Vancouver opposing this proposal based on conversations with the PAC Executive.
 - This letter does not represent all parents so parents are encouraged to contact the PAC if they have an opinion they would like to share
 - Floor was opened to discussion – suggestion made to create a committee to investigate this proposal and go to City Hall to represent findings of the community; suggestion made to encourage parents to write to City Hall voicing their concerns or support
 - Ita Leiva updated the group on correspondence she received directly from the City, the Block Watch meeting that was held last month and comments

made by the potential proprietors of the store – petitions, letters, and emails have been sent or signed by hundreds of residents to the City opposing this proposal

- Vote taken of those present: majority opposed

- **WIC (Walk in Cabinet) Review**

- Telus proposal to the VSB to install a WIC on the property at Douglas Main School
- PAC report found no harmful effects
- Concern was that minimal time was given for discussion – the final date was extended to October 22nd for a decision
- Benefits would be better internet service to the community and a one-time payment of \$3,000 to Douglas; VSB has an agreement with Telus for \$100,000 over 20 years for 7 sites.
- October 18th PAC meeting – there will be a vote to decide if we want to accept this or not; information will be sent to parents (translated as well)
- Discussion opened to floor: suggestion made that previous minutes did not show what the majority opinion was in the vote to postpone the WIC issue until the new school year; suggestion made about a separate newsletter going out regarding this issue; suggestion made to create a committee to work with Telus for the best interests of Douglas (re: safety, service)

- **School Photos**

- Following last year's concerns regarding the photographer and the ensuing conversation with her, the PAC welcomes all comments regarding this year's photo session which took place last week
- Discussion opened to the floor: short notice was a concern raised by several parents - Pam Biela advised that the photographer had to change the dates to September 15/16 and that retakes will be available.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

- Goal for this year is to raise \$50,000
- 2003/04: \$26,900 was raised plus \$16,000 from gaming funds
- Breakdown of expenses were reviewed
- Fundraising allocation is: 35% to the Grade 7 French trip; 35% to the Grade 6 English trip, 30% Other
- Gaming funds are not part of the allocation for the grade 7 trips – they are used for other items
- Quebec trip worked out to be \$1,800.21 per child (\$844.46 paid by child, balance from fundraising)
- Application for gaming funds to come
- Fundraising ideas and volunteers are welcome and much needed for this year

5. **Members @ Large Report**

- **Clothing Drive –**
 - week of December 8/9 – any useable clothing collected Big Brother will give \$3.00 per bag – only clothes, linens, drapers, no toys. – drop off/bag information to come
- **Scholastic Book Fair –**
 - same week as the clothing drive; need parent volunteers to make this happen this year, specifically parents who speak a language other than English would be welcome to help and an asset to the fair
 - % of books sold comes back to the school but not in cash in books
 - Main school much more successful than the Annex due to it being a primary school and most of the French books last year were for a higher grade level
- **Food –**
 - presently only able to sell food on hot lunch days – hot dog, pizza etc
 - 1st Hot Dog Day is scheduled September 29th for the Main School – parents needed to help count the orders, cooking & distribution
 - Soup – presently unable to sell this; committee to meeting with Principal and Nutritionist to discuss what can and can't be sold
 - Snack Shack – everything is sold for \$1.00 – chips, chocolate bars, etc; challenge is to maintain a nutrition element while selling product; decision made to hold off on Snack Shack and revisit at a later time
- **Safety –**
 - speed bumps have been put on Brigadoon; ticket person from the City has now been put on rotation to come to our school once a month
 - Annex contacted Traffic Dept
 - No parking patrol yet at both schools
 - Community Policing Office has a speed watch program where they teach parent volunteers

6. **Principal's Report**

- Today's Parent September issue – Douglas is listed as one of the "All Around Cool Schools" in their Top 40 Schools article
- Construction on Victoria Drive – month of October there will be one day where no traffic will have access due to paving
- Lost one staff member due to the number of students

7. **Vice Principal's Report (Main School)**

- Safety Patrol – starting after Monday – over 70 students applied; training will be at 1pm next Monday; suggestion made that grade 6 students continue into grade 7 as they will already be trained

- Lunch times – staff voted that there would be no more going to the store for all students; results are that more students bring lunch; some letters received from parents
- 6 student teachers will be at the main school for their practicum in January – they will be here every Tuesday morning

8. **Vice Principal's Report (Annex)**

- Annex welcomed 52 students in Kindergarten and 54 students in grade 1 thereby regaining a division lost 4 years ago
- 2 staff members returned from 2 years ago
- Committed to the program “Learning through the Arts” where artists will be at the school 3 times throughout the year as well as the program “Stream of Dreams” which is a scientific study of the watershed at the Annex.
- New playground – ground will be broken September 21st with part of the playground being closed off
- Lunch times – children eat in 5 classrooms with supervisory aides for 15 minutes; at 12:30pm everyone is outside; rainy days options: noon hour games/stations in the corridors, library, movies in the art room, or the outside under the covered area
- Vandalism at night – drinking, bottles, equipment damaged – appeal to parents and neighbours to call police if they see anything

9. **Other Business**

- October 6th – International Walk to School Day – look for notices
- Band at the Main School – teacher is on maternity leave; 2 applicants are in the interview process stage managed by the District Learning Services Department
- \$150 received from Killarney Insurance to the school for reimbursement re: the volunteers at the carnival
- PAC Meetings Schedule:

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| Oct 18 (WIC vote) | Nov 15 |
| Jan 17 | Feb 28 |
| Apr 18 | May 16 |
| Jun 20 | |
- Agenda items can be emailed to Simon at: simon_szeto@hotmail.com
- Meeting adjourned