

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

November 15, 2004 Meeting – MINUTES

Parents & Staff in Attendance: Simon Szeto, Catherine O'Brien-Bell, Ita Leiva, Sue Watkins, Darren Shong, Astrid Visscher, Mdme. Humphries, Pam Biela, Barbara Claridge, Isabel Somerville, Susie Carr, Teri Corcoran, Damon Smith, Barb Venne, Yet Sum Cheung, Xing Yi Yang, Amy Lee, Amanda Ye, Clara Hesson, Shirley Chau, Connie Mak, Kathleen Larl, Jerry Moll, Sylvia Jackson, Carolyn Morgan-Chan, Trish Quon, Becky Winkelmann, Fiet Lam, Shun Hoi Tang, Rose Lu, Tony Meng Xiu, Danny Mak, Ron Epp, Judith Gocutruai, Louis Kwong, Guo Bin Zeng, Yee Ho Lee, Param Jawandha

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

- Simon Szeto welcomed everyone to the PAC meeting & introduced the PAC

2. **Agenda**

- Tonight's agenda was reviewed & accepted
- Parent wanted to address the WIC – decision made and accepted to add this topic to "Other Business"
- Parent asked if there was Chinese translation provided at the meeting – there was none so she offered the services of her son – offer accepted

3. **Review of October Minutes**

- Corrections: Principal's Report – report cards will be out December 3rd (not November 22nd); Web site name is douglas.aucontraire.net (not www.aucontraire.net)
- Accepted by Sue Watkins, seconded by Astrid Visscher

4. **David Thompson Family of Schools (presentation)**

- Teri Corcoran/Sue Carr/Sally Anne are part of a "Community School Team" that supports DT and it's feeder schools
- Focus on literacy, social responsibility and building relationships between high school, elementary and the community as well as support to ESL students
- Transition between elementary to high school; annex to main
- What are the needs of the schools
- Open to ideas and suggestions from parents, teachers & schools – go through the school administration to reach the team

* Chinese translation done *

5. **Chairperson's Report**

- Vote was taken at the last meeting re: WIC – 20 votes cast: 12 to 8 in favor
- Role of the PAC is to work with the school and parents with fairness in this process being most important - translations were sent out, issue brought up in every meeting since May; decision made in June meeting to postpone vote until the October meeting to give enough time for everyone to voice their opinion.
- A parent interrupted the Chairperson's Report with her concerns regarding the WIC and ignored the Chairperson's request to wait until "Other Business" until she was reassured that there would be time to hear her

* Chinese translation done *

6. **Treasurer's Report**

complete breakdown of Grade 7 trips and fundraising – proposed that a vote be taken to table this until next meeting; accepted by Becky, seconded by Darren
Vote taken – 12 votes in favor, none opposed, several abstained

7. **Members-at-Large Report**

• Fundraising (Dayle)

- \$615 raised at the family photo night – special thank you to Mrs. Dhadli for her help
- Dec 7/8 – Scholastic Book Fair, Big Brother Clothing Drive, and Multiplication Vacation CDs – notices to be sent out
- Purdy's Chocolate orders now in – no total yet

* Chinese translation done *

• Safety (Darren)

- Walkie-talkies for students in the portables – specifically for when they go to the washrooms – supported by budget
- Parent Parking Patrol – these volunteers are being verbally abused by some parents dropping off their children at school – what can we do?
 - Distribute “Walk Wise” pamphlets (done through ICBC) through social responsibility classes so children can relay the information to their parents
 - A list of fines that are applicable (example: \$167 for disobeying a school guard)
 - Additional signage – possibly in other languages
 - Discussion open to the floor: comments made that this is an ongoing problem and support is needed; traffic officer was at the Annex last week handing out notices; lots of repeat offenders; suggestion made for the Annex that the older children could help escort the younger ones to the school so parents do not have to park their cars and walk

* Chinese translation done *

8. **Principal's Report**

- Artists from Learning Through the Arts are here – drama and dance
- Grade 5 – no band teach yet – an interview is scheduled for tomorrow
- Articulation process between Douglas and high school
- Planetarium to the Boys & Girls Club next week – 4 classrooms invited
- Quebecor Trip – YMCA grant covers air and ground expenses – exchange of students to Vancouver
- French Immersion – 100 spaces not accommodated in the city this year
- MSN – challenges at the school – lots of not pleasing activities; parents to be aware of this problem; chat rooms
- Newsletters going home but not being read in a timely manner – suggestion made to have a tear-off section to be returned to the classroom, posted on the web site, or a notice log that parents check off (similar to a reading log)
- At the Annex they are very close to being able to email the newsletter to all parents – possibly next month
- Nancy Baz is new to the school (replacing Julia Lam on maternity leave)

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

- MSN problems
- Firecrackers on the playground – caught the children; firecrackers are not allowed on school grounds

- 4 students in Grade 7 will be going to the Leadership Conference being held at the Roundhouse on Tuesday, November 16th

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

- Learning Through the Arts – dance, mathematics and science
- Thank you to Carolyn and Trish for their work on Stream of Dreams
- 2 teachers proposed a grade 2 and 3 application – received an early literacy grant of \$1,000

* Chinese translation done *

9. **Other Business**

- Chairperson reminded everyone to raise hands when they want to speak, invited administration to participate, and introduced Astrid to do a review of the findings related to the WIC:
 - Telus approached the PAC last May and was first discussed at the PAC meeting that month
 - PAC was cautious regarding the proposal re: safety so hired a consultant to investigate and provide a report
 - Findings were presented at the June PAC meeting – found that there were none to low radio frequency emanations and that the WIC posed no safety risk.
 - WIC was again discussed and reviewed in the October PAC meeting prior to the vote taking place
 - WIC for internet connection (fiber-optic cabling) – not for anything wireless (cellular)
 - Concerns raised previously re: health, safety, vandalism, location

* Chinese translation done *

- Discussion open to the floor – concerns raised about lack of notice re: WIC vote, communication, and possibility of re-vote
- Chairperson concluded the discussion of the WIC with the following points:
 - Correct measures in a timely manner were followed in regards to notices and communication, and a re-vote would affect the integrity of the vote taken at the October meeting
 - 5 stipulations have been presented to Telus for the WIC to proceed:
 1. Telus must involve the school and the PAC regarding design
 2. Telus guarantees that it will remain a wired facility always
 3. Any Telus staff must check in at the office between 8:00am to 3:00pm weekdays
 4. Possibility of future partnerships with the school (i.e. phones, internet)
 5. Telus pays back the \$500 the PAC spent for the consultant's report

* Chinese translation done *

- PAC Meetings Schedule:

Jan 17	Feb 28	Apr 18
May 16	Jun 20	
- Agenda items can be emailed to Simon at: simon_szeto@hotmail.com
- Meeting adjourned