

**PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Sir James Douglas Elementary School**  
**7550 Victoria Drive, Vancouver BC V5P 3Z7**  
**Main School: 604713-4817    Annex: 604-713-4885**  
**douglas.aucontraire.net**

**January 17, 2005 Meeting – MINUTES**

**Parents & Staff in Attendance:** Simon Szeto, Catherine O'Brien-Bell, Ita Leiva, Dayle Giesbrecht, Tracy Shudo, Sue Watkins, Astrid Visscher, Mdme. Humphries, Pam Biela, Barbara Claridge, Carolyn Morgan-Chan, Jose Abundo, Susan Dreger, Dawn Preston Brown, Patricia Quon, Tracy Houser, Gerhard Maynard, Amy Lee, Amanda Ye, Xu Huynh, Danny Mak, Connie Mak, Marie Jackson, Kanwaljit Randhawa

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

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

2. **Other Business**

- 2 items to be added to Other Business: School Photographer and Vending Machines
- Accepted by Dayle G., Seconded by Tracy S.

3. **Review of November Minutes**

- Corrections: Principal's Report – Nancy Baz (spelling); Quebec trip (spelling)
- Accepted by Catherine O., Seconded by Dayle G.

4. **Learning Through The Arts (presentation)**

- Tracy Houser and Gerhard Maynard presented an overview of this program which is part of the Royal Conservatory of Music
- Mission is to develop human potential through the Arts
- Working with the Annex and the Main school; Artists partner with teachers to help deliver core subjects to students; Artists visit the class 3 times with follow up by the teacher after each visit
- Attendees participated in a group exercise illustrating the techniques used in the program
- Funding last year was: 1/3 VSB, 1/3 School budget, 1/3 PAC; this year the VSB is not supporting this program so monies will be most likely be requested from the PAC, School budget and parent support; the program includes all classes at the Annex and the Main school

5. **Chairperson's Report**

- **Traffic Safety Report** –
  - Meeting held to discuss goals – message to parents to what is the proper way to drop off kids
  - Part of social responsibility (with teachers' assistance)
  - Barbara to check with the VSB lawyers re: liability of the PAC and what they can & can't do
  - Darren and Dayle have done a wonderful job in getting all this information
  - Goal is the Spring to implement any changes
  - Discussion opened to the floor – parent received a ticket in the mail for stopping near the intersection when there was a traffic jam caused by other drivers; parent who works for the VPD further explained about by-laws; suggestion made to use alternative ways of getting to school; main problem is that on Brigadoon parents disregard the parking signs and drop off their kids in an unsafe manner

- WIC Report –
  - Meeting with Principal, VSB and 2 planners from Telus where our stipulations were discussed - # 1 included the location of the WIC to our original request, #2 – ok, #3 – OK, #4 – Telus will look into this through the VSB, and #5 – Telus will look into this through the VSB
  - One of the Telus planner’s was asked if he was fluent in Cantonese and if he would be willing to meet with some of the parents who had questions – he will – date to be confirmed (one in the daytime and one in the evening) but this will NOT change our decision – this is for information purposes only
  - Discussion opened to the floor – confirmed VSB negotiates with Telus not the individual schools; question raised about who will ultimately decide the location – answer is Telus, Administration, VSB, and the PAC.

6. **Treasurer’s Report**

- Nothing current to report
- Waiting for the gaming proceeds

7. **Members @ Large Report**

Snack Shack (Ruth)

- Thanks to all those who helped at Snack Shack: Shary Bartlett, Shelley Filmore, Susan Marquez, Elaine Young, Patti Chan, Jan Westheuser, Baljinder Dhillon, Dayle Giesbrecht, Judy Swayne, Louise and Julianna Lin’s aunt, Kevin Bird, Margaret Bird, Astrid Visscher, Katherine Chow, Alison Muth, Renee MacDonald, Lauren Carter, Josephine Pratt, Darlene Yeung, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Clowers, Miss Powell, Mr. Gill, and many Grade 7 students.
- Unfortunately, Ruth is unable to continue with Snack Shack so if anyone would like to volunteer and take her place in organizing it, please see Ruth or Dayle.

Fund Raising (Dayle)

- Raffle update at the next meeting

Hot Lunch Program (Tracy)

- Added new item to the program (Sushi)
- Hot Dog day coming up this week
- The program raised \$6,000 last year
- Main School – lack of parent volunteers will cause the hot lunch program to not happen – last time only 1 parent was there alone; suggestions made to have one parent from each class volunteer for each event or ask the grade 6 & 7 students to help
- **PLEASE VOLUNTEER** – see Tracy or Dayle

8. **Principal’s Report**

- Parent/teacher conferences done for Term 1
- Isabel Somerville on medical leave for the rest of the year
- Christine Green on extended mat. Leave – Bonnie Sehra continues to cover
- Susie Carr working with grade 7’s in a 10 week block talking about transition to high school
- Concert before Christmas break – Meredith Lee looking to accommodate more students in the challenged programs

- French Immersion – lots of parents interested; lots of support needed to get more spaces
- Learning Through The Arts – pleasing for the students; job embedded training for the teachers; activities at the Annex
- Articulation meetings with Grade 8 teachers at David Thompson and Van Tech as well as welcoming Kindergarten classes next year
- Band teacher – Sandra Fox – setting standards for the kids, high school band students assisted in demonstrating different instruments
- Tremendous response to the tsunami relief effort - \$2,000 raised; tax receipts to be issued; donations still needed for the raffle through the Student Council. Thanks to all the parents who have responded so generously.

9. **Vice Principal's Report (Main)**

- Snow / Sliding down the hills – Mrs. Claridge and Dr. Biela supervised
- Theatre Sports – creative ideas, student volunteers, really fun
- Social Responsibility – primary next week, intermediates week after

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

- Sliders – stressful week but children enjoyed the snow
- Finished week of rollerblading – material not in as good shape as previous, helmets too big, new instructor didn't have much skill teaching kids
- Registration – Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00am to March 1<sup>st</sup> 3:00pm; siblings have to register or priority is lost; 52-55 spaces for next year
- Fundraising – tsunami – staff optioned for UNICEF's "School in a Box" effort (cost is \$250/kit) – still in the planning stage; suggestions included chores at home to raise funds; UNICEF will distribute the kits but not necessarily to a specific cause unless directed

10. **Other Business**

- School Photos – discussion open to the floor:
  - Quality? Some negative comments about the individual photos but positive comments regarding the family portraits
  - Photographer? Negative comments about the way she treated the kids in the past but better this year because she had parent volunteers helping
  - Backgrounds? Decision made to have only one background next year – blue
  - Class Photos? Concerns raised about the names being listed on the bottom of the photo – decision made to have first name with an initial but Barbara to check with VSB lawyers re: privacy, etc.
  - Decision & vote take that this photographer would be used one more year with a review afterwards
- Vending Machine Prices – question raised as to why the prices have gone up from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for juice and water, and who is getting the increased funds – school? Vendor? Barbara will look into getting an answer for next meeting.
- PAC Meetings Schedule:
 

Feb 28	Apr 18
May 16	Jun 20
- Agenda items can be emailed to Simon at: [simon\\_szeto@hotmail.com](mailto:simon_szeto@hotmail.com)
- Meeting adjourned