

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

February 20, 2006 Meeting – MINUTES

Parents & Staff in Attendance: Astrid Visscher, Sue Watkins, Ita Leiva, Trish Quon, Carolyn Morgan-Chan, Ruth Martens, Becky Winkelmann, Joyce Spencer, Susan Rome, Damon Smith, Barbara Claridge, Pam Biela, Adrian Keough

1. **Welcome** – Astrid welcomed everyone to tonight’s meeting

2. **Review of Tonight’s Agenda**
 - Additions: Valentine’s Dance, expand on gift certificates (fundraiser), update on traffic signs
 - Motion to accept by Ruth; seconded by Carolyn

3. **Review of January Minutes**
 - Minutes accepted with no changes; motion by Astrid; seconded by Ita

4. **Chairperson’s Report**
 - Grade 7 parent information night at David Thompson Feb 21st at 7pm
 - Planning Council training at Tupper Feb 21 & 22nd
 - March 1st at David Thompson – helping teens make the right choices
 - Grade 5-9’s – Internet Safety “Get Connected” will be held on March 11th from 9:00am to 1:30pm at David Thompson in various languages
 - Government surveys sent to grade 4 & 7 parents; students doing their part now; grade 3’s at the Annex
 - Pam Biela: questions too difficult for grade 4’s; questions not worded well; too complex; would like to do a review of the entire survey
 - Suggestion: for parents and teachers to go over the survey; discuss the satisfaction rating of the school and it’s use as guidelines for the government
 - Letter from the DPAC to Shirley Bond was read re: issues with the one time grant received due to the strike; not enough time to properly choose and purchase items
 - Barbara Claridge: Purchases for Douglas include textbooks, dictionaries, and atlases as well as filled the balance of the orders not completed last year; all orders must arrive by March 31st or the money is lost back to the government
 - Traffic Signs – Damon brought new signs in for the Main school; all expense receipts to be given to the PAC for reimbursement; needs volunteers at the Annex for the afternoon parking patrol
 - Adrian: traffic grant of \$140 was received at the Annex; what about the Main school?
 - Police were posted at both the Main and Annex schools issuing tickets recently

5. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - Not much to report
 - No fundraising in January
 - Raffle at the Main school is going ahead; will take place after Spring Break sometime; great prizes but we need to find a printer for the tickets
 - Annex fundraising - \$800 YTD for hot lunch
 - Gift certificates – 5% goes to the school; forms sent out to parents once a month and then returned with money – Becky will coordinate at the Annex; Emma/Joyce/Ruth at the Main school

6. **Members @ Large**
 - Parent Education – a few responses only; speakers for Anti-Bullying and Self-Esteem will be invited to a PAC meeting to present; possibly March 27th (rescheduled from March 20th due to Spring Break)
 - Earthquake Preparedness – comfort kits no longer done as too many problems with kids moving away and the kits would be left here with personal items; port-a-potties bought and stored; Sue is waiting for confirmation of the earthquake presentation that will be held tentatively April 4th or 11th

7. **Principal's Report**

- Main school will be getting a seismic upgrade; \$1.1 million government grant to upgrade building including an elevator; tentative start date is January 2007 with a 12-18 month completion time-frame; some students will be in portables during part of this upgrade; all the renovations will be done in sections
- Order of Canada luncheon last week – Flag Day celebration
- Getting ready to welcome the new Kindergartens; these parents will receive kits to help them prepare the kids before they attend school
- March 29th parents of 3-5 year olds “Ready, Set, Learn”
- Grade 7 French students Quebec trip – good experience with the new school in Quebec; YMCA grant paid for all transportation costs; lots of compliments about our students; May 24-31 the Quebec students arrive
- YWCA pilot program, “Welcome to My Life”, for Grade 7 girls’ transition to high school; 6 modules covering a range of topics; start date is Feb 24th from 3:15pm to 5:00pm; parent information night will be Feb 28th at 7pm at the Main school; registration for the program quite low – suggestion made to mail out information to homes
- To even out the length of the terms (due to the job action) and allow enough time for evaluations, report cards will be sent home March 31st; parent-teacher conferences will be held March 7 and 8
- Feb 9th there was an incident at school where suspects from a B&E on Upland Street entered the school trying to evade Police; all suspects were apprehended; teachers were informed to keep everyone in class during this situation; re-clarification of procedures and ensuring that the paging system works properly were discussed; Concerns raised as to why are not all the doors locked during school hours with the exception of the main door and one door for the portables? What about kids who are not in the classroom at that moment? These issues will be discussed at the staff Health & Safety meeting
- French Directory – only a 1/3 of the parents responded; will not happen if there are no more responses

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

- Grade 7 applications for high school need to be in by March 1st; grade 7 cross-boundary applications need to be completed after applying to catchment area school first
- “Naomi’s Read” Opera performance for intermediate students on February 24th at 1:30pm; about a Japanese girl’s internment during WWII
- Coyote presentation – great information for the kids on what to do if they see a coyote
- Happy to report a lack of playground problems
- Thanks to Susan Rome who organized an interactive workshop for the teachers at the Vancouver Art Gallery during Pro-D Day

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

- Busy last 6 weeks
- Chantal Nixon is our new teacher (covering a maternity leave)
- Had our Winter Concert
- French Immersion Information Night – over 50 attendees
- 44 Kindergarten spaces – over 50 applicants; will have a draw
- Teachers from France were invited to the Annex; they were cycling around the world
- WISH list submitted and will be reviewed; letter of payment submitted at the end of the year

11. **Other Business**

- Hot Lunch at the Main school – some volunteers but no one organizer; will advertise in the school newsletter
- Valentine’s Day Dance – concerns raised about the pressure to attend with a “date” especially for the grade 5 students; out of the 6 songs at the dance, 3 were slow with the last one forcing all boys and girls who came together to dance together; too much focus on being a “couple” rather than having fun at the dance with everyone
- Student Council – why don’t we have it anymore? Grade 4-7’s? Classroom representatives?
- Leadership Conference Grade 6 and 7’s with Kim Watson
- Camp information night will be held in April – date to come
- Meeting adjourned

Agenda items can be emailed to Astrid Visscher at: avisscher@shaw.ca

Meeting Schedule	March 27	April 24
	May 15	June 19

** Some dates subject to change – please continue to check your monthly school calendar*