

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

Minutes from January 15, 2007 Meeting

Parents and Staff in Attendance: Kam Grewal, Ita Leiva, Ruth Martens, Carolyn Morgan-Chan, Joyce Spencer, Trish Quon, Becky Winkelmann, Dayle Giesbrecht, Maryann McCreight-Balshaw, Sue Watkins, Sylvia Jackson, Adrian Keough, Donna Emeno, Connie Carver.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of Agenda: Ita (accepted)/Becky (seconded)

3. Review of December Minutes: Dayle (accepted) /Ita (seconded)

4. Business Arising from December 18th minutes

- Booster Seat issue—Donna will cover in her report

5. Chairperson's Report

- CPFF (Canadian Parents for French)—offering courses, register by Jan. 18; information on PAC website.
- We need a CPFF representative for Douglas—Contact PAC if interested.
- The city is holding a review of Liquor Retailers Policy (where new beer and wine stores might be built)—Jan. 18 City Hall 2:00 p.m.
- Child/Teen with anxiety workshop—Jan. 23 at H.R. McMillan Center 7:00 p.m. www.anxietybc.com
- Jan. 10 DPAC meeting moved to Jan. 31 due to snow; look for update on PAC website. This meeting is in regards to the school fees issue.
- In February, DPAC will do a follow up to Alfie Kohn's discussion about standardized testing.
- Mon. March 5—Advocacy in Action—DPAC presentation on how parents can advocate within the school system.
- Seismic Safety—form letter will be posted on website to forward to government regarding continuation for funding with respect to making schools safe in the event of an earthquake.
- School Fees—survey for parents online—go to PAC website and follow the link.
- Parent Information Night - a request as been put into the BCTF to have a presentation on "Raising Confident Boys and Girls". We are hoping to have this presentation at the next PAC meeting, but are still waiting for confirmation.

6. Fundraising Report

- Movie Night—Jan. 31st 6:30 p.m.

- Hot Lunch—postponed at main school until more parent volunteers come forward.
- Shop Funds—will look into at future date.
- Hot lunches at Annex—will be in February and March.
- Bake Sale at Annex—Friday Jan. 19

7. Treasurer's Report

Amount raised to date by PAC:

Bake Sales	703.81
Hot lunch sales	1605.15
Poinsettias	196.05
Shop Funds	772.57
Family Photo Night	510.00
Total	3787.58

8. Principal's Report

- Vancouver Principals' and Vice Principals' Association is presenting Robert Heidbreder (author, puppeteer) Feb. 8. Location and time TBA.
- Henry Ahking from Planning & Facilities at VSB would like to come to a PAC meeting to discuss the development of schools at East Fraser Lands. VSB has land on West Fraser Lands, and want to move it to the East, as this is where the development is. Date of discussion TBA.
- Assembly re positive characteristics and virtues project: topic was respecting differences, name-calling, racism, sexism, homophobic remarks, etc. Donna is also in the process of visiting with each intermediate class to continue this discussion. Grade 2/3 students will talk about these issues in the library by listening to a story, and having a discussion. The purpose of these talks is to give the students "tools" to stop negative behaviors from happening or how to deal with issues where something inappropriate is said.
- School Fees: affects secondary more than elementary, and we will still go along with field trip fees as long as the trips are supplementary.
- Booster Seats: primary teachers are not comfortable with used booster seats, therefore, we will rent busses for field trips.
- St. Boniface College from Winnipeg is looking for two families to sponsor billets. The billets will be here for 2 weeks. Information is on the PAC website—contact Mr. Adrian Keough at the Annex if you're interested.

9. Vice-principles' Reports

Main School

- Thank you to PAC for buying musical instruments, many hand held percussion instruments were purchased (this is from last years budget \$500).

- Upcoming Satisfaction Survey for grades 4 & 7 at the main school, and grade 3 at the annex. "How happy are the kids at school? Students will do the survey online. Parents will get a paper copy sent home. Survey takes place from now until Feb. 16.
- Behavior Guidelines will be on the PAC website, as well as on posters around the school.

Annex

- Happy New Year to all.
- The winter celebration in December was lots of fun, and the kids really enjoyed the dancing.
- Jan. 23 7:00 p.m. is the French Immersion meeting at the Annex for those families who want their children to enter French immersion in kindergarten or grade 1 in the 2007/2008 school year.
- Roller Blading is scheduled for the last week of January..
- Feb. 23 is National Literacy Week events at the Vancouver Public Library Downtown, information will be posted on the PAC website.

10. Other Business

- How to recruit volunteers?
 - Committee is working on a letter to send home, we'll look into translating the document into common languages at the school.
 - Suggestion: that with each PAC event, we will rotate divisions so that parents from selected division will be the volunteers for that event.
- Soap Dispensers (needed in the basement bathrooms at the Main School)—there are other priorities in the school, however, Donna will continue to look into it. It is possible that the other priorities could be covered by the PAC, freeing up funds to install the dispensers.
- Boys bathroom—able to see urinals from the hallway, Donna will look into this as well.
- Movies being shown at school—what is the school policy with respect to showing certain movies? "Pirates of the Caribbean" was shown to a grade 4 class, and the movie is rated PG13. A reminder is going out to staff that only "G" movies can be shown.
- Parking Patrol—SSWs are putting out the cones in the a.m.; teachers are also out 1/2 hour before and after school, but they are only supervising children.
- Special Ed update: no cuts, the VSB has deferred this until the end of the school year.
- Status of Seismic Upgrading—everything on hold, although we do have a feasibility study. This probably means that any improvements to the facility will also be on hold. The cost to either tear the main school down, or rebuild is very close.
- March 12th PAC meeting: This date conflicts with parent-teacher interviews. The March meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 8th**.

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Next PAC meeting is February 19, 2007—Main School Staff Room.