

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



Parents and Staff in attendance: Kam Grewal, Catharine O'Brien-Bell, Carolyn Morgan-Chan, Mike Watkins, Sue Watkins, Donna Emeno, Connie Carver, Sylvia Jackson, Becky Winkelmann, Trish Quon, Susan Dreger.

1. **Welcome and Introductions** to all who attended.

2. **Review of Agenda:** Additions—Mike Watkins, Catharine O'Brien-Bell. Catharine (accepted)/Becky (seconded)

3. **Review of January Minutes:**

- Question re: Pirates of the Caribbean Movie shown—Has this been dealt with and what is the policy for showing movies during class time? —Donna reiterated the policy in a staff meeting. Only "G" movies are allowed to be shown. Trish (accepted)/Kam (seconded)

4. **Business Arising from January 15 minutes:**

- Alfie Kohn follow up is postponed by DPAC until next September.
- School Fee Survey will be posted shortly on the PAC website. Results: 85% of respondents believe the Provincial government should fully fund education.
- Parent Info. Night now on April 16th—"**Raising confident Boys and Girls.**"
- CPF Representative—thanks to Roya Ali-Mohammed for continuing on with this important role.
- Fraser Lands—Henry Ahking will be at March 8th PAC meeting to discuss the a new school being proposed on the East Fraser lands
- Soap Dispensers—are here and installed.

5. **Chairperson's Report:**

- Sue will meet with Donna regarding the staff Wish List.
- Fraserview Park—Victoria/Killarney/Fraserview City Planning Committee will be putting a proposal together to upgrade the park behind the Fraserview Boys & Girls Club. The group is looking for community input, please contact Sue Watkins through PAC email if you're interested in this extremely worthwhile cause of making the park more user friendly.

6. **Fundraising Report:**

- Made approximately \$600 the last pizza day at the Main School; thank-you so much to all the volunteer parents who came out to help, it was wonderful. PAC will recognize those involved with volunteering.
- Only 8 volunteer forms were returned, please still send the forms in if you are able to volunteer at either school.

7. **Principal's Report:**

- Thanks to PAC parents who attended Focus on Children evening, it was very successful.
- Soap Dispensers are now installed in the basement washrooms.
- Welcome to Kindergarten and Ready, Set, Learn is on Wednesday May 23rd at 9:00 a.m. for those children entering the main school. This program gives parents the chance to ask questions about kindergarten, and to see the school. Upcoming Kindergarten students will attend with their parents, as well, 3 and 4 year olds are invited on this day to participate in the various activities planned. The kindergarten teachers have noticed that many new students are coming better prepared for kindergarten. The kindergarten students will receive a bag full of learning items. The funding for the bags comes from Ready, Set, Learn and the Area office.
- School Satisfaction Survey—grades 4 and 6 completed online; parent survey can still be done online. Please contact Connie Carver for the password if you would like to complete it.
- Made You Look presentation (advertising geared towards children) will be presented to the intermediate students in the near future. PAC supports this presentation.

- Seismic Upgrade—Donna went to a meeting, and two things need to be completed before the Ministry will begin our upgrade—a) Feasibility Study and b) the Due diligence Report. These have just been restarted after they were put on hold last year. Many public meetings will occur over the different options Douglas school has with respect to upgrading—rebuild old school, new school, etc. Info. will be on the PAC website.
- School Planning Council Members meet and review data about our school, and will meet approximately 3 times until the end of the year. One PAC member, and 1 or 2 other parents need to be on the committee. Vancouver School Board employees cannot be part of the council. Please forward any names to Donna.
- Parking Issue -the school support staff is still putting out cones, however, people are still not abiding by the rules, and the support staff are asking for the Parent Parking Patrol to return. PAC will look into this, if you would like to help, please contact the PAC.
- Urinal—Donna will look into blocking off the affected urinals so that boys can have privacy.
- Jump rope for the heart went very well.
- Preliminary Budget for the VSB has an \$8 - 10 million deficit. We will know more by the end of March as to how this will affect schools.

8. Vice Principals' Report:

Annex (presented by Donna)

- Thanks to parents who attended successful Focus on Children event.
- Registration for K/1 is almost complete for next fall; there will probably be a draw for K.
- VSB dance program has started with the K's.
- Children really enjoyed Rollerblading, thank-you to PAC for funding.
- Gr. 5 French immersion students from main school presented very entertaining skits to the annex.
- March 8th will be a mini Maple Sugar Carnival.
- Welcome to K's and Ready, Set, Learn will be on March 27th.
- Mme. Diane will hopefully be back after Spring Break.

Main

- Purchased recorders for all Gr. 4 students.
- Also purchased 30 guitars, 15 ukuleles and strings for old ones—thank-you PAC.
- On Valentine's Day, one grade 7 student, who was selected for citizenship, went to the Order of Canada luncheon with Connie.

9. Other Business:

- Mike Watkins has found many inconsistencies with respect to the government's policy on Seismic upgrading. The process seems to be stalled by Ministry bureaucracy.
 - A new building will be safer, and less disruptive to the students during construction.
 - We need to look into Earthquake Buckets in each classroom, cost to be looked in to.
 - Keys for the outside emergency containers?—a set is with Donna, engineer, and in portable.

Point of Information—there is a meeting March 6th at the VSB regarding upgrading of facilities, the more parents who attend the better, as this will show our concern about the slow school upgrade process.

- Catharine O'Brien-Bell reported on the Grade 7 French Immersion trip to Quebec.
 - Teachers were very pleased with the students and the success of the trip.
 - 23 students and 3 teachers went.
 - Trip was a real confidence builder for the students, as they had to speak French.
 - A nice rapport is building with the exchange town as Douglas has been going to the same families for many years.
 - Quebec students will be coming to Vancouver May 10 - 17.
 - Look for upcoming raffle and bake sales to assist with costs of exchange students coming—**if you have any items to donate to the raffle, please contact the PAC.**

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Next meeting Monday March 8th, 2007 Douglas Main School Staffroom.