

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 of September 18th, 2007 PAC Meeting

Parents and Staff in attendance: Susan Dreger, Rehanna Badurdeen, Manjit Dhillon, Anne Trites, Milly Ko, Ita Leiva, Dawn Preston Brown, Daisy Yumei Lan, Cindy Sepp, Kam Grewal, Julia Verba, Lena Lai, Trish Quon, Rose Weber, Theresa Sturby, Ellen Webb O'Brian, MaryAnn McCreight-Balshaw, Caroly Morgan-Chan, Becky Winkelmann, Lisa Kimber, Joyce Spencer, Michele Jarrett, Jose Abundo, Connie Carver, Donna Emeno, Damon Smith, Sylvain LaRochell, Sue Watkins, Sylvia Jackson.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Fantastic turnout, and the hope is that parents will continue to be involved in their child's school.

2. **Review of Agenda:**

- Defer "Food Programs" until a later meeting.
- Additions: include "Executive Reports" at #6, and "Parent Handbook" question under Other Business.

Trish (accepted)/Dawn (seconded)

3. **Review of Minutes:**

Ita (accepted)/Kam (seconded)

4. **Business Arising from Minutes:**

- Budget and Wish list are now on the PAC website.
- Can No Loitering Signs be posted on the school ground?—Alan Wong at school board is looking into it, and Constable Jose Abundo will raise this issue with Anne Lee at City Engineering Meeting.

5. **Chairperson's Report:**

- Goals for the Year:
 - Seismic Upgrading
 - Self Rescue Buckets (equipment for every classroom in order to get safely out of school in case of an emergency—budgeted approximately \$4000.) Anyone who can help with kits—putting them together, donations, etc—please contact the PAC.
 - Community Building—talking to other parents, networking, hot lunches, etc.
 - Better Communication via website, email distribution list, newsletter, talk at meet the teacher night.
- Thanks were received from all the graduates who received bursaries from the PAC.
- Thank you from Ms. L. Jackson for PACs support of Sports Program.
- Fall Speakers series from South Vancouver Health Unit will be posted on PAC bulletin boards. PAC will also get speakers in.
- Question re: Recycling program for juice boxes—Sue will contact Champlain Heights and Collingwood to inquire about their program, and will look into getting more bins.

6. **Executive Report:**

- Fundraising—Carolyn:
 - Family Photo Night: photos of family, \$15 sitting fee which includes one 8 X 10, the \$15 is donated to PAC, and family has option of purchasing more photos. Photo dates **November 7 & 8th**. Please contact PAC if you can volunteer between 4:30 and 9:00 on these days.
 - Big Brothers Drive: we started in 2003, and we can now receive \$2.50/bag, but **a new co-coordinator is needed**—this duty will include contacting Big Brothers, and setting up pick-up

days (usually on Parent-Teacher Interview days). **Contact PAC if you can take on this very worthwhile PAC fundraiser.**

- Sue will look into having a family dance this fall.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- Gaming Funds has been deposited into PAC account, the annex was missed, but this has been rectified. This is money that we applied for from the government from casinos, lotteries, etc. We receive \$20/child. There are some limits as to how we can spend this money.
- We have approximately \$60,000 in our account, and we are holding on to it for legacy funds. The money is also being held until decisions are made on the upgrading of the two schools.

8. Seismic Upgrade—Dawn

- On the VSB website, there is a list of schools that need to be upgraded—Douglas Main & Annex are both on that list, with the Main school having priority.
- The cost of upgrading Main school is more than 70% than an upgrade, therefore, rebuilding becomes financially viable option. Everything is on hold, however, until the VSB has figured out what to do with its excess capacity.

Point of Information: Douglas Main School doesn't use comfort kits, but there is a container outside the school, which contains games, books, food, etc. In addition, each student at the main school will have a certain role during an emergency.

9. Principal's Report

- Smooth school opening—French Immersion students were in classes by Wednesday, English by Friday of the first week. There were few concerns about placements, as teachers work very hard on placing students. Split classes do not mean that some students are above or below average, rather it is felt that this is the best placement for students.
- One way class size is affected is by the number of ministry-designated students in the class. No classes are over the class size limit, and no class has more than 4 Ministry designated students.
- Meet the teacher night is September 27th at the Main school. Parents will meet in the gym, then go to visit individual teachers.
- There are 5 new teachers, 3 new student support workers, and 2 new office staff.
- Constable Abundo has partaken in a pilot project for back to school driver safety. This happened the first two weeks of school where traffic officers were policing traffic safety around our school. Constable Abundo is willing to train crossing guards, but needs a volunteer teacher to sponsor him.
- Trying to get a crosswalk at Brigadoon and Duff.

10. Vice Principals' Reports:

Main School—Connie

- Terry Fox fundraising will continue until the end of September.
- Ms. Lenore Jackson found some t-shirts, and PAC has given the ok to use them for raffles, etc.
- Templeton High School is collecting donations for Hurricane Relief in Mexico, items can be dropped off until Sept. 20 at Douglas, or contact Templeton (need clothing, tarps, tents, etc).
- PAC babysitting—more organized this year with various activities. Students need to apply to become a babysitter.
- Extra curricular right now include: cross-country running, chess club, grade 7 soccer, youth credit union, student council.
- Student achievements— we have had many achievements: Commonwealth Essay Contest, a student was highly recommended; a student and his Hip Hop dance troupe won a competition in Los Angeles. Finally, a student won a contest to be Steve Nash's assistant for a day.

Annex—Sylvain

- Smooth start—3 new teachers, Mme Cecilia Carbano has moved from being a supervision aide to a student support worker. We have a new supervision aide.
- Thanks to Mme. Nixon, Mr. Mo, and Douglas community for wonderful welcome and help.
- Meet the teacher on Wednesday September 26th.
- Terry Fox Run on Friday September 28th in the afternoon. The Annex students always run Friday afternoons.

- Review traffic safety with your children, as there have been “close calls” with children nearly being hit by cars.
- Sylvain will be teacher librarian as well as teach some P.E.

Question: Will Action Schools still be happening at the school? Starting in October again.

11. **Other Business:**

- Parent Parking—Damon is the representative and will give a talk at Meet the Teacher night at the Annex on September 26th. Children safety needs to be a priority, and many parents are disregarding traffic safety especially with respect to parking.

Point of Information: If you see unsafe traffic safety around either school, you can note the license plate, description of car (colour, make & model), description of driver, and offence committed. This can be submitted to the police, and it may be followed up, but it is imperative that as many details as possible be forwarded.

- Parent Handbook—on page 13 under School Closures #2 it says students in grade 4 and above can walk home without notifying parents if school is closed due to weather. Donna will make corrections, as no student will be sent home without first notifying parents.
- Donna will also look into student emergency nametags, as it was noticed that some students tags were missing, or information was incorrect on them.
- During an emergency, student medicine will be taken from the office. Parents can choose to also have an extra supply in the classroom.
- Donna will look into whether the emergency food rations are nut and egg free.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next PAC meeting will be Monday October 22nd.