

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



Let it snow!

Minutes from January 28, 2008

Parents and Staff in Attendance: Kam Grewal, Ruth Martens, Carolyn Morgan-Chan, Joyce Spencer, Trish Quon, Becky Winkelmann, Michele Jarrett, Margery Mah, Sheri Parke, Susan Dreger, Lena Lai, Steve Rogak, Vivian Haber, Dawn Preston Brown, Sue Watkins, Sylvia Jackson, , Donna Emeno, Connie Carver. Sylvain Larochelle, Anne Lee (Planning & Facilities VSB).

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Anne Lee from VSB regarding Seismic upgrade

- Feasibility study now being concluded by VSB to be ready to present to Ministry by mid February. If/when approved, then construction could start by Spring 2009. Construction takes about 18 months.
- New school may be located in back field, but details will be worked out when approval complete, then VSB will come back to school community as to design, placement, etc.
- With respect to older 1910/1956 part of school (considered a Heritage Building), this will be dealt with after the replacement building is complete. The VSB will deem that part of the land surplus as it will no longer be needed—this will be school community consultation as well. The building will be a non VSB building, however, whoever leases the building/site will have to make it compatible with the school.
- **New school details:**
 - It will be much smaller than the existing building—old school is 6480 square metres, the new school will be 3870 square metres based on enrollment capacity.
 - Will be wheelchair accessible.
 - No covered outside play area, as this is no longer in Ministry guidelines.
 - Playground will not be from Provincial funding, however the VSB is looking into it as old playground cannot be moved, therefore, it would be deemed obsolete.
 - Interested parents can look at newly built schools for ideas about current building practices—University Hill, Charles Dickens, Collingwood.
 - When planning begins, school community needs to decide what to prioritize.
 - Any questions regarding the new school can be forwarded to Donna Emeno, who will then forward to the VSB.

- PACs are not allowed to contribute funds towards a school's capital projects (eg: a covered play area). They are allowed to contribute funds towards equipment such as playgrounds.

3. Review of Agenda

Dawn (accepted)/Becky (seconded)

4. Review of Minutes

Ruth (accepted)/Becky (seconded)

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

6. Chairperson' Report

- Proposal for new school photographer as it was felt that a change was wanted.
 - Life Touch photography made a very informative and thorough presentation to the executive.

Motion: To change Douglas school photographer to Life Touch Photography.

Carried

- Seismic buckets—a bucket will be given to Donna to present to staff.
- Smart Boards—there are 2 trained teachers at the main school who would pilot the project, and teach others about the system. Other classes would be welcome to join in for a learning session. The boards will be portable. The plan is to start with 2 at the main school and get more over the years. The PAC executive will make a decision as whether to fund the boards. Sylvain is planning on getting a board at the annex and can demonstrate to the PAC at the next meeting.
- Fruit and Veggie Program—we were not selected, but hope to be in the future as it is the programs goal to have all schools participate by 2009. We need to apply again by April 1, 2008.
- David Thompson Secondary is having a speaker from Microsoft talking about Internet Safety on February 26, 2008 7 - 8 p.m. in the Auditorium.
- Van Tech is having a speaker on How to get better grades presented by Terry Small on February 27, 2008 7 - 8 p.m.
- There was a suggestion that an Alumni list be compiled so that past Douglas families can donate books to the school.

8. Members at Large Report—Carolyn

- Many children at school are having difficulty choosing books at their ability level, so there is a proposal that parents volunteer to help match kids to books. In addition, the librarian will submit a letter for funds to purchase high interest books at all levels.

9. Principal's Report

- FSA testing started on Jan. 28th for Grade 4 and 7.
 - Principals need to ensure that everyone writes unless excluded by the teacher. Donna spoke to all parents whose child was excluded.
 - Testing will be done over a 2 week period, with 4 hours in total, 2 online sessions.
 - Students who are excluded will be reading books.

10. Vice Principals Reports

Main School—Connie:

- 2 drives in December—the Food Bank and Hampers. The school collected over 2000 items, and \$1200. Also, five hampers were organized and given to Douglas families. All were appreciatively received. Donna will ask multi cultural worker to see if families still need assistance. Food donations are always accepted at the school. Thank you for generosity of Douglas community.
- Primary Musical on March 14th—contact Connie if you can help with costumes, etc.
- Working on a project with Steven Lewis foundation to raise pennies for children in Africa who have lost parents to the Aids crisis—starting after Spring Break.

Annex—Sylvain:

- Thanks to those who participated in the dance.
- Roller Blading is now complete, students enjoyed it.
- Lots of registrations for 2008/09 year.
- 2 new after school programs—Arts and Crafts for grades 2/3 and Basketball for Grade 3 (will start Feb. 12th).
- Music Night Feb. 13th.
- Laptop computer lab is now formatted, will apply to Computers for Schools for additional 4 computers needed.
- Peer Helpers are doing a great job.
- Next week the students will start eating in the gym due to cleanliness and supervision issues.

11. Other Business

- Hand held video games and other personal devices—they are not allowed at school, Donna will revisit this in the next newsletter, and will inform supervision aides of policy.

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Next meeting February 25th