

MINUTES

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday February 9th, 2021 @ 7pm

Attendees:

Administration: Ms. Norman, Ms. Wong

PAC Executive: Michael Lee, Winnie Loong, Wendy Ng, Anna Seto, Sonja Starke, Tony Wang, Lisa Wangh, Annie Yee

Parents: 6 parents in attendance

1. **Welcome and call to order.**
2. **Approval of January 19, 2021, Minutes.** Lisa & Anna approved.
3. **Chair Reports:**

RDPA Update (Michael): There was a meeting on February 1st. Attendance was low for the meeting because of Chinese New Year. There was a budget surplus of \$164,000. The money has already been spent on daytime custodians which are being shared between schools. There was some discussion about how long it takes to get a psychological assessment for students. This problem has existed for some time.

Mrs. Norman explained that assessments are done by school psychologists typically through the school-based team which could include learning resources, teachers and administrators. Together they identify students who might need assistance/support. One school psychologist is shared between many different schools. Each school might have 2 or 3 students a year who can get evaluated. Most schools have a wait list.

RAM Update (Sonja): There has not been a RAM meeting since our last PAC meeting. Next meeting is March 8th at 7pm via Zoom. We hope parents will attend, even if it's only for part of the meeting. RAM is looking for parent volunteers to help out on the Executive.

Hot Lunch Updated (Lisa): Pizza Days are still on hold. As soon as Ms. Wong and Mrs. Norman know more, they will update us. Anyone who ordered for the month of February should have a credit in your account. If you have any questions, please email PAC.

Fundraising (Anna): A parent suggested fundraising with Newfield Farm Market. However, there is a minimum of \$3,000 in orders and they are frozen items. This isn't feasible right now. Possibly doing Damien's Waffles as a fundraiser where you pick up your order at the store. Another fundraising suggestion is Mr. Coopers Pies which is also a Steveston company. Another option is Growing Smiles for Spring plants which may coincide well with Mother's Day.

4. **Treasurer's Report (Wendy):** There is not much change from the previous meeting. There was a \$20 refund which reversed. The current book balance is \$4,794.67 and the gaming account book balance is \$6736.33. We have put aside \$1000 for outdoor education.
5. **Administrator Update (Ms. Wong):** January 31st was a Pro-D Day and there were 2 topics looked at that day: Executive Functioning and Emergency Preparedness. Executive functioning covered how teachers and staff can help students who may need different strategies for being organized, using working memory, flexible thinking, self-control and getting work done. Emergency preparedness covered the district emergency management plan called SEMP.
Mrs. Norman: SEMP works in coordination with ambulance, fire and other groups in the case of a major emergency or significant event. The staff will be at the school taking care of the students. Emergency preparedness materials are in the large bin outside the school. The staff at the school will have specific roles. For parents, pick up of their children would be outside the basketball court. If that area isn't usable for that purpose, the pick-up location would be the field by Palmer High School. Parents would park off site and walk in to get their children. Ms. Wong, Mrs. Norman and Ms. Yip will be doing first aid training on the next Pro-D Day. By the spring we expect to have all roles established and there will be ongoing training.
Ms. Wong: Reminder that it is very important for parents to ensure the office has up to date email and contact information. That is where the information for student pick-up will be in the case of a major emergency. Parents can contact the office or their teacher to provide contact information and the names of those allowed to pick up their children.
There will be a student learning survey going out to the parents of Grade 4 and Grade 7 students. Garden City will also be doing a survey with the students themselves. This information is collected by the Ministry of Education.
Mrs. Norman: The Leadership Club meets on Wednesdays throughout the year. They have planned a Kindness Campaign in conjunction with Pink Shirt Day. It will start on Monday and go to February 23rd. There will be a scavenger hunt and kindness tickets for doing kind acts. The students are also working on a video with a message on kindness every day.
Ms. Wong: Basketball is going on for boys in Grades 6 and 7 with practices on Tuesday and Thursdays at lunch. There isn't a girls' team this year.
The school district is still deciding if there will be a Track Meet this year.
There is early dismissal next week on Thursday.
Mid-term reports are coming out but in different styles. Some will be having a parent-teacher conferences on the 15th, 16th or 17th. Some classes may have a student-led format. Some classes will have a post on the e-portfolio with their assessments while others may get a letter grade. Not all grades/classes get letter grades.
A person from the school district took a look at the parking lot and agreed that a walkway is required. The next step is to see when that walkway will be put in and request the extra signage. We are also asking for a concrete barricade to be placed at the other side of the entrance.
Outdoor Education is going ahead for Grade 6's and 7's, but it will only be a day trip. It will be at Camp Jubilee which requires a water taxi to get there. It is scheduled for June 24th with students leaving the school at about 7am via bus. They will return to the school around 5:30pm, depending on traffic. Anticipate the cost to be \$75 to \$85 per student. We are trying to keep it under \$10.

The Book Fair will be on from February 28th to March 4th. Students will come to the library and can also order online. Parent volunteers have signed up to assist at the times specified by Ms. Johnson. When the parent volunteer arrives, they will need to call the school to be let in, check in and sign in and out.

Spring Break Immunization Clinics will be offered by Richmond Health for those families who might have missed their regular immunizations. You can call 604-233-3176 to register.

The RCMP Social Media Presentation is still going ahead.

6. **Additional Business (Lisa):** Reached out to Garden City Plaza to see if it's ok for parents to park there temporarily to drop off their kids. The Plaza has not yet responded.

All PAC meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

If there are parents interested in assuming roles on PAC, please let us know. You don't have to wait until the end of this year. We are happy to also have parents shadow positions to learn more about what is involved.

7. **Next PAC Meeting:** March 9th, 2022 @ 7pm.

Adjourned 8pm