

MINUTES

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday January 19, 2021 @ 7pm

Attendees:

Administration: Ms. Norman, Ms. Wong

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

Parents: 7 parents in attendance

1. **Welcome and call to order.**
2. **Approval of November 24, 2021, Minutes** Anna and Wendy approved.
3. **Chair Reports:**

RDPA Update (Lisa): The meeting January 4th was cancelled. Unfortunately, Rana has moved away so we no longer have an RDPA representative. We are looking for a representative to attend RDPA meetings each month and then update Garden City parents at PAC meetings. The next meeting will be in February.

RAM Update (Sonja): The most recent meeting was less than an hour. The RAM Executive understands that parents may not be able to stay for the entire meeting, but we welcome parents to drop in to hear more about RAM. Mr. Fitt, Principal at Steves, is putting together a Montessori info session for everyone which will be hosted by the district. Recent fundraising was reviewed including masks and Beard Papa. There are about 15 boxes of kids masks still available for sale. RAM is in need of parent volunteers to help out on the Executive Board for the position of Co-Chair and Treasurer. We are open to sharing of positions and job shadowing for those who wish to learn more about what is involved.

Hot Lunch Updated (Lisa): Pizza Days are cancelled. We are hoping to have an update in February if we can restart them or not. For those who ordered already, your account has been credited. If you have any questions, please contact gardencitypac@gmail.com. We are still looking for 2 parents to learn Foodsafe. PAC will cover the cost of the 1-day course. The course is also held in Punjabi, Cantonese and Mandarin, as well as English. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for the hot lunch needs to be Foodsafe certified. At the October PAC meeting we had decided to raise the pizza prices by 25 cents. But after looking at our financials, we have decided to keep the price of pizzas at \$5.

Fundraising (Anna): The Growing Smiles fundraiser did well. Growing Smiles also have a program for fundraising in the Spring. Some teachers and parents asked about implementing another kind of lunch for students. Previously we had used Libby's Kitchen, but that stopped

because we couldn't take lunch deliveries due to COVID. Ms. Wong will double check if this can restart nor or not. Nova Foods was also brought up as a possible fundraiser.

4. **Treasurer's Report (Wendy):** The PAC Account: \$4,362.49 from the hot lunch program, but costs have not been accounted for in that number. Profits from Pizza Days from October to December was a net of \$2,868.54. There were 9 Pizza Days during that time. The Winter Plant Sale made a profit of \$223.89, which was \$13 more than what we had reported in the last meeting as an extra e-transfer came in later. Since the last PAC meeting, expenditures have been \$175.31 for Winter goodie bags, \$139.57 for a farewell gift to Ms. Schulz and a maternity leave gift for Ms. Sakai. The current book balance is \$4,774.67.
Gaming Account: Since the last PAC meeting, we have paid out of this account: \$464.21 for board games, \$353.83 for a button maker and supplies, \$258.16 for 3D printer filaments, \$96.25 for a fan and \$78.39 for a wagon. The current book balance is \$7,026.27.

5. **Administrator Update (Ms. Wong):** MS. Wong introduced herself. She has been a Vice-Principal for approximately 10 years. Thank you to PAC for providing funding for the Green Scree App. There is a Spirit Day on January 27th led by the Grade 7 Leadership Team. Students will be encouraged to wear the school colours of blue and yellow or Garden City wear. There are many opportunities for Grade 7 students to volunteer if they are interested. Basketball season is starting. The boys are playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Currently there's not a huge appetite from the girls so we're trying to recruit and hope to get a Grade 5/6/7 group going. Hope to be able to open the gym on Fridays or shooting practice.

This month is busy with many presentations to the students. Grade 5 Late French Immersion presentation will be taking place virtually. The program is at Whiteside and Diefenbaker. Grade 7's are preparing for the transition to high school. Today the Grade 7's were presented with information on Palmer including about course selection and the incentive program. This was all done virtually.

There is an Admin meeting tomorrow afternoon. After that meeting, we will reach out to PAC to advise if Pizza Days can start up in February or not.

Ms. Wong is out each day patrolling the parking lot. Since there is sidewalk on the north side of the parking lot, the students and families use the driveway to walk in. We have requested a school district assessment from the operations department to come and take a look. Until there is a sidewalk there, it is not safe to drop off in the loop before the start of school. Parents can drop off and pick up in the school parking loop after 9am and 3pm.

There will be a virtual RCMP social media presentation on February 28th at 7pm. This is coordinated by Dixon. Because it will be done virtually, they can accept up to 300 participants. More information is to come.

Question from a parent about keeping kids home right now to be safe from COVID.

(Ms. Wong): Every school is keeping track of absences and they are calling home to find out the reason for the absences. Across the district, absences are at approximately 20%. Out of that

20%, very few children actually have COVID. Most of those being kept home are for precautionary reasons. It's a parent's choice. The schools are doing what Vancouver Coastal Health is suggesting. Teachers are not obligated to provide work, but if they do it out of their own personal choice. The recommendation for those students being kept home is to read and do writing every day. In terms of online learning, the district offered it in September. Once you register for online learning, you lose your spot at Garden City. The district is collecting the data, but only to provide to Vancouver Coastal Health.

Next PAC Meeting: February 9, 2022 @ 7pm.

Adjourned 7:34pm