

MINUTES

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday March 9, 2022 @ 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

1. **Welcome and call to order.**
2. **Approval of February 9th, 2022, Minutes.** Wendy and Lisa approved.
3. **Chair Reports:**

RDPA Update (Michael): The last RDPA meeting covered 3 main topics. First was a presentation from online learning about the RAIL program is a project based. Other programs were discussed such as the SKY program, but that is for grades 10 and up. The RAIL program takes 25 students per year per class between Grades 8 to 10. The intake is open now until April 1st. Parents of those who applied will be notified by May 1st if their children have been accepted into the program.

The second topic was the school's district's budget. The district is running a deficit of \$4 million. Part of the reason for this is that there are fewer international students so the income from that is down. Cuts will be coming in the district, but they will try to keep those cuts from affecting the classroom as much as possible. If there is a particular program you want to save, then please provide input before the budget is finalized. There will be a meeting on April 27th where the public can speak about the cuts.

The last topic was about ventilation upgrades. The district will be spending \$12 million on 11 elementary schools that don't have mechanical ventilation systems. Mechanical ventilation with a false ceiling is better than using HEPA filters and open windows.

If anyone has any ideas, they can bring them to Michael and he will bring them to the next RDPA meeting.

RAM Update (Sonja): RAM is continuing with their ongoing fundraisers with Mabel's Labels, Tru Earth and Flipgive. RAM is still looking for volunteers for the executive as the Treasurer and Chair are retiring from their positions soon. They welcome parents who might want to shadow a position to see what's involved. RAM is doing another MASK fundraiser and more details can be found on RAM's website, Facebook or Twitter. Ms. Wong will look into having a RAM section added to the Garden City website.

Hot Lunch Updated (Lisa): Hot Lunch resumed last Friday. There will be another pizza lunch on Friday, March 11th. Munchalunch has opened up for after Spring Break as well. First pizza day

after Spring Break will be April 8th and will go through to July 8th. We encourage parents to order in advance.

Fundraising (Anna): Growing Smiles fundraising will be happening this Spring. Early registration starts March 15th. The customer deadline to order is April 17th. The plan is to have the fundraiser announced in this Friday's newsletter, but we encourage everyone to spread the word. This is the first time we've done the Spring fundraiser with Growing Smiles at Garden City. Looking at a delivery date of May 2nd, then parents could pick up their orders on the Wednesday and Thursday of that week.

4. **Treasurer's Report (Wendy):** The PAC account balance for hot lunch is \$5179.79. Since the last meeting we didn't pay any expenses, so the book balance is \$5591.97. The Gaming Account paid \$218.54 for basketballs. Including the amount we paid in October, the total paid for sports equipment for the school is \$1903.63. We paid \$1000 to the Grade 6 & 7 outdoor education trip. The book balance is \$5517.79.

5. **Administrator Update (Ms. Wong):** Will be sending out information about the student learning survey for parents of students in Grades 4 and 7. The students have filled out the surveys in the last few weeks. This survey is done by the BC Government to help figure out how children are learning and how it can be made better for the students. The link for the survey will be emailed to the parents. The survey will be available in English, French and 16 other languages.

Mrs. Norman: The Kindness Campaign went well and culminated in Pink Shirt Day. Staff, teachers and administrators would recognize kindness and put it on the board. Students enjoyed looking at the board and seeing their names. Next big event for the Leadership Club will be for Earth Day. They are planning about a week of activities with a possible walking scavenger hunt and litter-less lunch. Earth Day is April 22nd. There has been a shoe drive going on run by high school students. Within the first couple of days the box for shoes at Garden City was full so almost 2 full boxes will be picked up on Friday.

Ms. Wong: Basketball team had 2 games and did really well. Mr. Wu and Mr. Yesaki both volunteered their time to coach the basketball team. There is a plan to do a wrap up after Spring Break for both the basketball and volleyball teams. No spectators are allowed at the moment unless you're part of the operations of it. There is a possibility of doing Track Attack after Spring Break. Garden City usually does the training piece where once or twice a week students go through a rotation of different activities. Usually it's the intermediate grades which are involved. Trying to make sure that students in the upper intermediate grades get a taste of these activities during their elementary school years. The Chess Club has started during lunch breaks with Ms. Johnson and Ms. Ruskey supervising. The Grade 6's and 7's can participate in the club before Spring Break. After Spring Break the Grade 4's and 5's can participate in the club. Minecraft junior and senior groups were happening but will be drawing to a close with Spring Break. Mr. Field will be starting a woodworking/skateboarding group after Spring Break. It will be for the upper intermediate grades and will include learning how to skateboard (part 2) if they want. Students interested do not have to do both parts.

Tomorrow, March 10th, some classes will get report cards going home and these will be the traditional style for divisions 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 14. The other divisions have their reporting done on the students e-portfolio. If any parents have questions about reporting, core

competences, etc., Ms. Wong can always see if there is someone at the district level to come and speak and provide a learning opportunity for parents. Please let Ms. Wong know if this is something that you would like.

Camp Jubilee is going ahead on June 24th. This will be for the Grade 6's and 7's. Payments and deposits have gone in, and information will be sent out via email regarding what to expect, costs, etc. after Spring Break.

The Book Fair had record sales.

Immunization clinics offered by Richmond Public Health will be happening over Spring Break. This year the school will have the CARE program, "Safe Bodies and Strong Kids" taught at Garden City. Students learn about personal safety as well as being aware of how their bodies are changing and being advocates for themselves. Next year the school will have Saleema Noon presenting.

Grade 7 graduation plans will start after April. Ms. Won will send an email to parents of Grade 7 students if they'd like to be involved with the planning. Mr. Yesaki and Mr. Wu plan to do the yearbook this year.

A mural will be painted on the school around May and June. The mural will be on the outside wall of the gym and is a collaborative effort between the artist and Garden City.

Work orders are being put in to get things fixed up at Garden City to keep the campus looking good, safe and accessible for all.

6. **Additional Business (Lisa):** There is a Canadian School Libraries Article written by Garden City's Librarian, Ms. Johnson, about the renovations to our library. We will look to have Ms. Johnson attend a future PAC meeting to share her article.

Question about whether popcorn and popsicle sales can re-start. Ms. Wong advises that students are not allowed to bring food outside to eat during the school day. If these sales happened at the end of the school day as students were leaving to go home, that might be ok. We want to make sure that the garbage goes home. Ms. Wong advised to hold off on this for now and she will look into it.

7. **Next PAC Meeting:** April 13th, 2022 @ 7pm.

Adjourned 7:45pm