

# MINUTES

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## Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

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Wednesday April 13th 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 March 9th, 2022, Minutes.** Lisa and Sonja approved.

**3. Chair Reports:**

**RDPA Update (Lisa):** RDPA is accepting nominations for the Executive Team. More information will be put up in the PAC section of the Garden City website. Some of the current Executive Team are aging out so they are looking for a new set of people to train to come and act on the Executive. If anyone is interested in participating, nominations are due April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The next RDPA meeting will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

At the last meeting there was a guest presenter from the Family Smart BC program. This program provides peer support for parents who have kids struggling with mental health or substance use issues. This is a confidential program and when you call or email them then can provide you with information about the resources available and how to navigate the system. No diagnosis is required and there is no waitlist. The local parent in the program is Amy Tan who speaks Cantonese, English and Mandarin. Ms. Tan has dealt with these challenges without having this program in place.

**RAM Update (Sonja):** The RAM mask fundraiser is now sold out. There is a RAM meeting next week. We will have our regular ongoing fundraisers of Mabel's Labels, Flip Give and Tru Earth. There will be a Montessori information night for parents coming up in May.

**Hot Lunch Updated (Lisa):** Pizza day is ongoing, and the deadline is always the Thursday at midnight the week prior. Please order in advance. There have been a few incidents where the child has gone to school with no lunch thinking pizza was ordered for them, but there was no order. We want to avoid having any children go hungry. We're asking parents to double check the email address that they have given Garden City to ensure it's up to date. If a teacher notices a child without a lunch who thought they had pizza ordered by their parents, the student should go to the gym to ask about it.

Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education are proposing new BC school fundraising guidelines to limit access to unhealthy foods. These guidelines would affect what foods

can be offered at the school including what we can sell. Foods they'd like to avoid are cakes, brownies, donuts, chips, etc. The Ministry is accepting feedback on these proposed guidelines until the end of April via a survey. The link to the survey will be put up on the PAC page on the Garden City website. Ms. Wong will also add the link to the upcoming weekly newsletter.

**Fundraising (Anna):** The Spring Flower Fundraiser with Growing Smiles is currently underway. The deadline to order is Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Delivery will be on a Wednesday and Thursday in early May.

4. **Treasurer's Report (Wendy):** The current balance for hot lunch orders is \$9744.52 but this number does include advance payments for upcoming pizza days. There were no expenditures since the last PAC meeting, so the book balance is \$10156.70.

The gaming account has had no changes since the last meeting, so the current book balance is \$5517.79.

There was discussion about whether Ms. Johnson ordered new chess sets for the school Ms. Wong and Ms. Normal will look into it.

5. **Administrator Update (Ms. Wong):** This is a very busy time of year for the school. There are meetings taking place about the Grade 7s who will be going to high schools and how best to help them transition so that it's a positive experience. There are also IEP reviews happening right now and the resource team will be reaching out to the families involved and discussing how their goals are going. This is a process that all schools in Richmond goes through. There will be a district meeting in regard to staffing. Right now there is a lot of pressure in the City Centre with a high enrollment in that area.

**Ms. Norman:** Masks are now encouraged but are optional. Signage has been changed around the school to reflect this. Any visitors to the building should be making an appointment. Visitors will still need to sign in, but not for COVID tracking purposes. Parents can now come and speak with the teachers in person about their children but should make an appointment first. Students will continue to line up outside the school at the beginning and end of the day. Hand washing is still encouraged, and everybody should be doing a mandatory health check in the mornings. If students or teachers are sick, they need to stay home. If children become sick while at school, parents will be asked to come and pick them up. Up until February a Custodian was in the school for a large part of the day, but this will be changing. Funding has now shifted so that schools are sharing 1 Custodian a day between 3 different schools during the day. Evening Custodians will still come in as usual. The daytime Custodians are done at the end of June, so we will not have them in our school in July. There are no longer any guidelines for desks and spacing, but teachers are doing their best. We will be discussing with staff the possibility of starting assemblies.

**Ms. Wong:** Our Administrative Assistant is on leave for the remainder of the year. The school district has a 5-year plan that runs from 2020 to 2025. There are 5 pillars/priorities that the district wishes to focus on and one of them is working on equity and inclusion. The newsletters now show holidays and special days for a variety of faiths. We are encouraging teachers to share their knowledge of these other faiths and Ms. Johnson is pulling books to help kids be more accepting and inclusive of other cultures. The City of Richmond has connected with the Richmond school district and a quote has been provided for the parking lot and driveway upgrades. The work is slated to be done in May. Families will eventually be able to drop off their children in the mornings but there will be no parking. Parents are not to get out of the car, only

drop off the kids and keep moving. Ms. Wong will be monitoring. Please note that there are some vehicles which are allowed into the parking lot including daycare providers and a parent whose child has disabilities.

There will be a tree falling being done on the school property soon. All safety precautions will be in place.

Grade 7 parents should look for an email from the school asking them if they are interested in being involved with the farewell.

Kindergarteners are now allowed to go to the other playground areas but it's important for them to know to stay safe.

In September the time table will be revering to the one from 2 years ago. It will be standard across the district which means a 12pm – 12:52 lunch time.

**Ms. Norman:** The Leadership group are planning activities to celebrate earth week including a scavenger hunt. There will be theme for each school day next week.

The Chess club is open for Grades 4 and 5. Some students in Grades 6 and 7 are doing woodworking with Mr. Field afterschool. Basketball and volleyball will wrap up tomorrow with pizza.

Ms. Wong: Outdoor camp is still scheduled to proceed for Grades 6 and 7. The activities the students chose are kayaking, archery and low ropes. Students will need to do Watersafe in order to participate in kayaking. If a student has Level 5 Red Cross, they will need to bring that card in order to avoid doing the Watersafe certification.

Track attack will be starting for Grades 4 through to 7. The track meet for the Grade 6s and 7s is expected to be on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff will accompany students to the track meet.

There is an upcoming presentation on May 4<sup>th</sup> on mental health via Zoom. More details will be shared in the next newsletter.

Welcome to Kindergarten is on June 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be having some sort of PAC presence either a PAC table or a bulletin board that advertises for the new and incoming parents.

The mural project will start in May. The artist is Athena Pisha and she will be talking with the students at the school to share ideas and her art. The mural is expected to be completed by the end of the school year.

There will be a Montessori info night for parents on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The speaker is Kelsey Keller, and she will do an overview of the Montessori program.

Saleema Noon should be considered for the next school year.

Also wondering if PAC wants to continue to keep the meetings online.

6. **Additional Business (Lisa):** Ms. Johnson was scheduled to join us this evening to talk about the big library renovations she had done but was unable to make it. There was an article that was shared which gives details. The article is posted in the PAC section of the Garden City website. The AGM will be May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm via Zoom. We are accepting nominations for the PAC Executive Committee for the next school year. Positions can be shared, and the term is 1 year. If you'd like to stay in your current position on the Executive, please email [pac@gmail.com](mailto:pac@gmail.com) advising us of that.

7. **Next PAC Meeting:** May 11th, 2022 @ 7pm.

**Adjourned 7:45pm**