

MINUTES

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday May 11th, 2022 @ 7pm

Attendees:

Administration: Ms. Norman, Ms. Wong

PAC Executive: Dean Billings, 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 April 13th, 2022, Minutes.** Anna and Lisa approved.
3. **Nominations for 2022 – 2023 PAC Executive.**

Nominees are:

Chair Person: Dean Billings and Lisa Wangh

Vice Chair: Dean Billings and Anna Seto

Treasurer: Wendy Ng

Secretary: Sonja Starke

Hot Food: Faith Jay

Fundraising: No nominations

RDPA: Dean Billings

RAM: Sonja Starke

Communications: Winnie Loong

PAC Executive 2022 – 2023

Chair Person: Lisa Wangh

Vice Chair: Anna Seto

Treasurer: Wendy Ng

Secretary: Sonja Starke

Hot Food: Faith Jay

RDPA: Dean Billings

RAM: Sonja Starke

Communications: Winnie Loong

4. Chair Reports:

RAM (Sonja): The last RAM meeting was on April 19th. RAM was offering a scholarship this year for a Grade 12 student who went through the Montessori stream in the Richmond School District. There were 4 applicants. A winner was chosen for the \$500

scholarship. As this was the inaugural year for the scholarship, that we would also award \$100 to each of the 3 other applicants. RAM still has the ongoing fundraisers of Flipgive, Mabel's Labels and Tru Earth. RAM can provide funding for resources in the classrooms. Bursaries are also for Montessori teachers, but so far there haven't been any applications for that this school year. There was a Parent Information Night on May 10th by a Montessori educator from Coquitlam. The RAM AGM is on June 14th. There is a Pro-D option for Montessori teachers on May 20th.

Mrs. Norman: Books specific to a classroom could be ordered with some of the Montessori funding. Those books could either stay in the classroom or be put in the library. Mostly they stay in the classroom.

RDPA Update (Michael): The AGM was held May 3rd. The President remains in place. Vice President and Secretary are also still the same. There were not a lot of changes, but some Members at Large were added. They went over the budget shortfall of \$4 million. The district is still trying to keep cuts far from the students. There was a meeting on May 2nd with senior staff and trustees and they talked about the amount of communication with parents and the district on PLT time and collaboration days. A diversity and anti-racism group is being formed. Diversity and anti-racism is one of the pillars and the group will have the same representatives as for the SOGI group. RDPA are no longer doing group purchases for movie licenses so it's up to the individual schools to get them. There will be a June RDPA meeting. They are considering having an in-person appreciation get together but are still deciding on that.

Hot Lunch Updated (Lisa): Pizza Day is still on. The deadline for ordering is the Thursday at midnight for the next week's Friday lunch. Discussion on continuing using the Munchalunch program next year. The cost is \$336 a year. The program allows more to be added other than pizza. There is no guarantee that pizza by-the-slice would be able to resume in future. Will discuss Munchalunch further at the next PAC meeting. Wendy and Winnie are now Foodsafe certified and will be able to assist on Pizza Days.

Fundraising (Anna): The Growing Smiles fundraiser went smoothly. The plants were beautiful, and all were picked up at the school on May 4th and 5th. We can decide whether we would like to do this again next year. The Growing Smiles website is easy to use. We welcome any feedback. Suggested that in future it would be better to promote the fundraiser a week or 2 before Spring Break.

5. **Treasurer's Report (Wendy):** The PAC account has a hot lunch balance of \$10,038.12 but this also includes advance payments for upcoming Pizza Days. We paid \$192.45 for the Foodsafe course. The book balance is \$10,257.85.
The Gaming account has had no changes since he last meeting and the current book balance is \$5,517.79. We have a budget of \$100 for garden supplies in the PAC account. There is also \$150 for the chess sets from the Gaming Account. We have not received any receipts for the chess sets. We are skipping the babysitting course this year so the \$1500 for that will be moved to next year.
6. **Administrator Update (Ms. Wong):** The City Centre schools are bursting at the seams in terms of registration. Garden City is at 328 students and enrollment is tight at the school. Anticipating a full school in September

Grade 7 graduation assembly will have Grade 5, 6 and 7 students, siblings of the Grade 7s and Grade 7 parents only.

Mini assemblies are now happening. We run the assemblies 3 times and have groups of 4 classes in the gym at a time, replaying the content of the assembly.

All students have had a chance to meet the Artist doing the mural.

Grade 7 photo day was last Friday by Artona. If any students missed the session, retakes can be done by phoning the Artona studio in Vancouver.

Sports Day is being planned

To help plan for September, Ms. Wong will be sending out an email about parental input in classrooms. There are many parameters considered in placing students: learning styles and strengths, personal characteristics, if they have special needs, ELL levels, age, physical maturity, work habits, friendship groups and contractual obligations. Parents can send a letter with input on class placement but cannot request a specific teacher.

The school is still adhering to the BC Disease Centre parameters for health and safety. Masking remains a personal choice. If a child is sick at school, parents will be called to come and pick them up.

There is a new Custodian started working from 7 – 11pm. His name is Omar. The Administrative Assistant is on leave and will not be back until September.

Equity and inclusion are part of a 5-year plan. This month is Asian Heritage month and Jewish Heritage month.

The city has broken ground in the parking lot and are waiting for better weather to pave it. The date for opening for morning drop off is to be determined. The plan is to have 2 sandwich boards, 1 lane entry only. There will be 1 lane exit with a sandwich board to deter people coming in from that driveway.

Ms. Norman: Grade 6 and 7 students are heading to Camp Jubilee on June 24th. Consent forms and more information will come out next week. All Grade 6 and 7 students were given notices about needing Watersafe certification.

Track and Field Day is on May 25th. Forms will likely come out this week. The school plans to have something similar for Grade 4 and 5 students at the school. This will be some time later in June.

June 10th is Welcome to Kindergarten which will be held in the gym. There will be 2 groups: Neighbourhood children from 9 – 10am, then Montessori students 10:30 – 11:30 am. We hope to have someone from PAC there with a table set up for parents. Pizza can be moved to a different location to accommodate. We may use the gym doors for entrances and exits to not interfere with pizza tables in the hallway.

The Leadership Group is working hard and want to recognize Pride month in June.

Aboriginal Week is also in June with a big focus on equity and diversity.

7. Additional Business (Lisa): Thank you and good-bye to Tony and Annie. Thank you to Michael for his work on the RDPA this year. Welcome Dean to the PAC.

8. Next PAC Meeting: June 8th, 2022 @ 7pm.

Adjourned: 8pm