

# MINUTES

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## Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

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Wednesday September 21, 2022 @ 7pm

### 1. Welcome and call to order

Administration: Ms. Norman, Ms. Wong

PAC Executive: Winnie Loong, Wendy Ng, Anna Seto, Sonja Starke, Lisa Wangh

Parents: 17 parents

### 2. Approval of June 8, 2022 Minutes

### 3. Chair Report

**RAM (Sonja):** There were 31 attendees at the RAM meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> which included a few parents from Garden City, aside from myself. Membership & dues donations are at \$1055 since our drive started on September 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be an early bird draw for families who have paid memberships and donations by November 5<sup>th</sup> will be entered into the early bird draw to win a \$50 Gift Card. Call out for volunteers to help out on the Executive. We're open to shadowing, sharing positions and other options. Reminder of ongoing fundraisers for RAM: Mabel's Labels, Flipgive and Tru Earth. We will likely do Beard Papa fundraising in November and are looking at other fundraising options for this school year. The next meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7pm on Zoom.

**RDPA Update (Lisa):** Reminder that anyone is welcome to attend the RDPA meetings. There has not been a meeting yet this month, so we'll get an update at our next PAC meeting.

**Hot Lunch Updated (Lisa):** We've been approved to start hot lunch on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Munchalunch platform we use is not up yet and we're waiting for the support team to make it go live. Once it's up, information will be sent out by the school to parents. We'll also post the link to order on all of the chat groups. Pizza Hut provides the pizzas, and they are \$5/each. The deadline is typically 8 days before the pizza day. We are also trying to add in special Monday fundraisers like Boston Pizza, smoothies or poke bowls. If you have lunch fundraiser suggestions, please let us know. All volunteers for these fundraisers must be Foodsafe certified. There is also a plan to have popcorn for sale next week on Tuesday. The plan is to pop it at the school on Monday, then sell it on Tuesday. Payment will be \$2 in cash. The plan is to set up the tables outside of the gym and bring the primary classes first to purchase their popcorn. Then the intermediate students can go at recess.

**Fundraising (Anna):** We will have fundraising updates at our next PAC meeting.

## 1. Treasurer's Report

The PAC account balance is \$5,555.93. The Gaming account balance is \$4,787.79. We will likely be receiving our gaming grant in October. We will discuss our budget at the next PAC meeting. Request for Ms. Norman and Ms. Wong to send any purchase requests before the next meeting so that we can present it in the budget.

## 4. Administrator Report

**Ms. Wong:** We appreciate the PAC for being our voice to communicate with families. Library volunteers will be starting tomorrow. It has been a great start to the school year. There are 15 divisions in the school, 1 more than last year. We have 8 neighbourhood classes and 7 Montessori classes. There is now close to 350 students at Garden City Elementary, so the classes are fairly full. There are new staff members who have joined the school: Mr. Brown from Blair Elementary, Ms. Scharf from Manoah Steeves Elementary, Ms. Jang came from Anderson Elementary, Ms. Misado is job-sharing with Ms. Williams. We have increased our Learning Resource Team by 1. We now have 5 full-time and a 0.6-time staff of a Learning Resource English Language Learner Support Group. We welcome back from maternity leave Ms. Dinh and our Administrative Assistant Ms. Beeksma. Ms. Johnson is on temporary leave and is hoping to return in October. Ms. Pollock is in the Library while Ms. Johnson is on leave.

Hopefully you have all received a welcome letter from your teacher. The Kindergarteners are now full-time. When they're outside during recess and lunch they are all wearing golden pinnies so we can keep an eye on those little ones.

Foundation Skill Assessments, FSAs, are happening October 3<sup>rd</sup> to November 11<sup>th</sup> for Grades 4 and 7. These are to help us gauge the academic skills and helps teachers cater their programming to where the needs of the students are.

Outside of the gym there is a mural being painted. She will also be painting the 2 posts at the front of the school. This is a collaboration between Garden City Elementary and the City of Richmond.

Tomorrow is "Meet My School" and open house from 5:30 – 6:30. It's an informal opportunity for the parents to come in and check out the school. Staff will be introduced in the gym towards the end of the open house.

**Ms. Norman:** The Terry Fox Run is on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Toonies for Terry will be collected and there will be the ability to donate on School Cash Online as well. There will be an assembly and then students will run on the field. There is a Cross Country Meet on October 11<sup>th</sup> for Grades 3 to 7. Parents would need to take the students to Garry Point Park outside of school hours for the meet.

We are now looking beyond COVID and viewing it now as a communicable disease. Hand washing is still important as well as the Daily Health Check. If a student is not feeling well, they

are encouraged to stay home. We have had to send students home because they have come to school with runny noses and not feeling well.

Right now we have been receiving encouragement to have the doors unlocked. Our doors are locked and if people wish to come in, please call and you can then come in. We are looking at having a doorbell to help with situations such as if a student is locked outside.

Thank you for being so supportive of the parking lot and driveway. The City of Richmond has put a bollard in the walkway, so cars won't drive through. We are looking at possibly having the front section of the parking lot as a loading zone at the end of the day so that if someone wanted a quick pickup they could. This is because I expressed concerns about parents parking across the street and then crossing without the crosswalk.

The BC Ministry of Education has announced that there is a food security and affordability fund available for families. This is one-time funding and is available because they have recognized how COVID has hit a lot of families. We can access this fund from the school level, and we track students who might need these supports. Please email Ms. Wong if you would like to access this fund. The privacy of the family will be respected.

We can discuss a possible Babysitting course down the road. In person would be a minimum of 12 students and a maximum of 30. Saleema Noon is coming in May 2023 for workshops for the students on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There will not be an overnight camp this year, that will happen next year.

Ms. Yip would like to discuss with the PAC about managing the collection of funds when reimbursement needs to be done. She has reached out to Wendy (Treasurer) to discuss further.

At the start of the school year it's a good time to review digital citizenship for children. It's good to be proactive about this to set boundaries and an understanding. The school is thinking of having a digital citizenship oath about respecting consent for upper ages to start the year.

**5. Next PAC Meeting** October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 7pm

**6. Adjournment 7:55pm**