

MINUTES

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday November 9, 2022 @ 7pm

1. Welcome and call to order

Administration: Ms. Norman, Ms. Wong

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

Parents: 7 parents

2. Approval of October 12 2022 Minutes

Approved by Anna and Wendy

3. Chair Report

RAM (Sonja): We had our second meeting of the year yesterday, November 8th. The draw for a gift certificate was done and a Garden City family won. Call out for volunteers for the RAM executive for succession planning with some upcoming retirements. The Beard Papa fundraiser still has some boxes available to order. We have partnered with M&M Meat Shop on Francis Road. Our other ongoing fundraisers include Flipgive which is great for buying gift cards as gifts for Christmas, Tru Earth laundry strips, and Mabel's Labels. The planned popcorn fundraiser is being moved to the Spring due to the long wait time right now with the holidays coming up.

RDPA Update (Dean): Since the last PAC meeting, the RDPA held a PAC 101 session. I attended the fundraising session. We discussed a Readathon as a possible fundraiser that some schools do. There will be a consultant doing some presentations on sexual exploitation and she joined this RDPA meeting. There will be a parent information night on this topic on November 24th. There will be an information package for parents, but it appears to be only in English, so we may want to look at getting it translated for our school.

Hot Lunch Updated (Lisa): We have started Monday specials to bump up our fundraising numbers. We've had Booster Juice and Boston Pizza. The next one is on November 28th with Takeya Sushi. Our last Monday special for 2022 will be December 5th with Opa! We will continue in the New Year, but it has been requested that the Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes get their Monday specials before 12pm which is also done for Pizza Days. This way the teachers of those classes can ensure the students get what they ordered.

Pizza Days are still going strong. We recently had 250 pizzas ordered. Requested to have Pizza Day noon hour schedule be the same as Monday to Thursday. Will discuss with Pizza Hut about changing the time that we can get the pizzas to distribute at the school.

Fundraising (Anna): We are holding the Growing Smiles fundraiser again this year. Poinsettias will be available for \$13 and the deadline for ordering is November 17th. Pickup will be on December 2nd from around 2pm to 3:30pm. These are high quality products. We will be holding a movie night on November 25th. Doors will open at 5pm and the movie will start at 6pm. We'll be selling popcorn, pizza and possibly Boston Pizza. We are still deciding on the movie but are open to suggestions. Since the last meeting, PAC has paid \$3,500 for the field trip supplement.

4. Treasurer's Report

1. **Treasurer's Report (Wendy):** The PAC account balance for hot lunch is currently \$7,110.21 but please note that these numbers don't represent the profit yet as it includes advance payment which hasn't been accounted for yet. For expenditures, we have paid out \$3,500 for the field trip supplement, \$42.46 from the budgeting parent/teacher appreciation, and set aside \$425.25 for the movie. This gives us a total book balance of \$9,537.49 on the PAC account.

With the Gaming Funds received in October, our Gaming account has a book balance of \$11,087.79

Discussed PAC budget teacher requests/needs. Ms. Wong is in the process of creating a list of items the teachers are looking for based on priority. Some of the items that have been suggested/requested by teachers include marine cushions for outdoor learning, replenishing outdoor playground equipment, classroom money for board games and toys, 5 chess sets for the Chess Club, board games for a Games Club, raised garden bed for the back of the school, maker space, musical equipment like ukuleles and saxophones, novel sets, a larger screen for the gym. Ms. Wong has asked staff to prioritize from 1 to 10, she will collate the information and pass it along to PAC to look at for funding.

5. Administrator Report

Ms. Wong: FSAs have been completed and submitted to the Ministry of Education. We should get the results in December which will be sent home to families. There is a Remembrance Day ceremony tomorrow and we will be altering recess to ensure a minute of silence at 11am. Ms. Norman has worked hard with the group to prepare for this assembly.

Volleyball is in full swing, and our team won most of the games yesterday against Currie Elementary.

We are also offering a Knitting club so some students may be attending that. A retired teacher is teaching the students.

We are still waiting on the availability of the artist of our mural to wrap this up and explain to the students the choice of images and colours used. There will be a plaque placed on the wall of the mural and we are hoping to invite the City of Richmond and have an official ceremony depending on the artist's availability.

There are a group of teachers doing an innovation enquiry grant which is an opportunity for them to have an inquiry or question. Five areas our teachers are looking at for grants are: numeracy grant, social/emotional learning grant, outdoor learning and play space learning,

learning spaces and library learning commons. In all 5 grants, teachers are given the opportunity to have collaboration time as well as some money towards resources.

We have new curtains on our stage which are fire retardant and will close properly.

A reminder of snow protocols in our district: on a snowy day our district has 13 maintenance people, so they contract out to clean the parking lots. All the walking lanes and spaces outside of that are to be taken care of by the staff at the school.

Winter is here and a reminder for parents to have their children dressed appropriately.

Children should be staying home if they are sick. We had students coming in who were feverish, some fell asleep during the day, etc. If your child is under the weather, it's safer to keep them home. Even though we no longer have the health check, please keep your children home if they are not feeling well.

There is a band concert on December 1st at 11am.

If you know your child will be anxious about the hold and secure drill, please make us aware so that we can help alleviate a little of their anxiety.

A follow-up on the question about after school care at Garden City Elementary: We are on a list where we would get money from the Ministry to set up possibly a separate portable of sorts for a childcare facility. We'll see how it goes.

Ms. Norman: Family teams recently worked together to make poppies that were then made into wreaths by the teachers for Remembrance Day. Several of your children will be performing a song at the Remembrance Day assembly tomorrow. All of the Grade 7's will be doing the candle lighting. We plan to make a movie for the parents and will send it out at a later date.

There will be a hold and secure drill on November 18th. We'll be sending home information first. These drills are nothing to be afraid of, it's just practice.

The Babysitting Course is scheduled for January 30th from 8:30am to 3:30pm

6. New Business

Discussion around the lunch time schedule. Ms. Wong advised that at 12pm the bell goes off and the children go outside. At 12:25pm they can come back in, go straight to their classrooms and eat their lunch. There are only 3 supervising adults so upper intermediate students volunteer as lunch time monitors. If there is an issue the monitor can't resolve, they are to advise an adult who can go and help. From 12:25 to 12:50pm children should be at their desks eating lunch. At 12:50pm teachers come back to the classrooms. Most teachers will allow the students an opportunity to continue eating to finish their lunch. However, if there is a class right after lunch, such as Band or Gym, they may not be able to offer the students that extra time. If you have concerns about your child's lunch and if they are eating, please speak with their teacher. Some children are more talkative at lunch time. Ms. Wong and Ms. Norman do help out when they can in checking into the classrooms.

7. Next PAC Meeting December 7th, 2022 @ 7pm

8. Adjournment 8:12pm