

MINUTES

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Attendees:

Administration: Ms. Norman, Ms. Wong

PAC Executive: Wendy Ng, Anna Seto, Samantha Shi, Sherel Loo, Michelle Sue, Iris Lee, Lisa Wangh, Jaimee Aragonas, Joanne Chang

Parents: 15 parents

1. **Welcome and call to order**
2. **Approval of June 14, 2023 Minutes**
Lisa and Wendy approved
3. **Chair Reports**

RPDA Update: no updates

RAM Update: no updates

Hot Lunch Update (Joanne):

All PAC Lunches starting September 29 to December 8 on MunchaLunch. Thank you to Anna and Lisa with help. We have come down to Pizza Hut, Yummy Slice, Sushi Lovers, Taco Luis, Boston Pizza. We put everything to Friday now. There will be volunteer sign up shortly for hot lunch. Deadline to order is 8 days prior to lunch date at 11:59pm. New feature on MunchaLunch which allows one hour to pay for your order. It will autocancel if not paid. First Pizza Hut lunch lands when Grade 6/7 going to camp on September 29. Libby's is available for all the other days not PAC Fridays. Register and sign up. Update division numbers if you have an account. Movie night will need to figure out with Ms. Wong.

Fundraising Update (Anna):

Christmas Winter Plants: Growing Smile fundraiser with poinsettias and succulents at the end of November and early December. Movie night to be confirmed.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Current account balance PAC which includes hot lunch is \$8,179.73.

Gaming account coming from gaming community grant which we get annually. Budget for school year, we want to ask Ms. Wong if we can get final wish list by Oct 11 to present budget for next meeting. Ms. Wong said staff meeting on October 3 but can start with teachers putting wish list. Current account balance for gaming is \$2,465.50

5. Administrator Report

Ms Wong: Been a really good start at Garden City this year. We have additional classroom 16 divisions now. 9 are neighborhood and 7 are Montessori. Extra classroom is outside in portable. Band is in the gym. Music is held in either classrooms or steam hub. We have 377 students. It's very full. If you have friends who want to go to Garden City, should start registering in the fall. If you wait until spring, then on wait list.

Couple new staff members:

Mr. Rambaldini – Gr 6/7

Ms. Bohonos – Gr 5/6

Ms. Paton – Gr 4/5

Ms. Sakai - 4 days per week before Mat Leave

Ms. Buss – Learning Resource

Ms. Fong – Learning Resource

Ms Brushetta coming back supporting Ms. Siu and Ms. Titifanua for one day per week also here for prep relief.

All new Kindergartens started Sept 11 getting used to routine of full day playing in front playground. They will be there until March then go to other school grounds.

Check survey UBC learning partnership which is survey for parents to do pre entry Kindergarten. For community services to know what's best for kids.

What happens in Sept? Still an opportunity for teachers to get to know the kids. Establishing routines, find a structure that works well.

In the first week look at social emotional learning CARES. Emphasis what's important in the community. Behavior and lining up. Learning Resource team and ELL teachers caring for the new Grade 1s and 2 s so K teachers can be with younger ones. Team of 7 have created their portfolios and observing classrooms and learning with teachers. Still early for parents to ask about content. Give parents a sense of what's happening. Tomorrow when we have open house, meet faces and child can be your tour guide.

Email went home about default user names and passwords. All students have an email account, private account. Allows them to save their work, give parents access. When report cards come out you get a digital copy through their account. Older kids are encouraged to change their password for security. This year we won't be sending paper copies.

New Garden City timetable. Teachers have three 40 minute prep times. Go to the Garden City website for times.

Reminder about extended leaves of absences. We are very full. If you have extended trips, balanced calendar there to support those trips. If you have to take your child out for 20 continuous school days, if past that period, school has the ability to deregister child.

FSA for Grade 4 and 7. Date range is between Oct 2 and Nov 10. Pulling Grade 4 out of classes and they do literacy numeracy, written and multiple choice. Ms. Wong will be delivering the online portion. Parents will get results and will be mailed to them, booklets sent home.

Open House 8:10-8:40 am September 21 for an informal class visit. If you can stay around 9am Terry Fox Run in Palmer fields, Gr 1 and up. Kindergarten does tree lap.

Non instructional day September 22 Friday. Diversity Equity Inclusion, looking at Truth and Reconciliation and professional development. It will be across districts and listening to Speaker Dr. Luis delivering themes of Truth and Reconciliation and what the day means. Staff working together what it would look like at school level.

September 29 going to be wearing orange shirts

Ms. Norman: Our Grade 6s and 7s and nine teachers going to Camp Elphinstone. This is in part funded by PAC. That has been helpful and kids are really excited. Students either go in Grade 6 or 7. Went two years ago but haven't had overnight since pre-covid.

Ms Wong: October 17 cross country run at Garry Point Park at 3:30pm

Parents need to bring and supervise kids. Think Grade 1 and up. Will send more info with the kids. Had 14 kids last year.

October 18 presentation from Dream Riders Theatre Company. Supported by City of Richmond.

Oct 13 Kindness Campaign presentation for Grade 5/6/7 girls lifting girls and empowering.

Ms Norman: Health and safety. Please make sure you have filled in verification forms.

Already one fire drill second day of school was great. We have to have 3 evacuation drills, 3 earthquake drills. We have earthquake bins already. Also will have lockdown drills.

Make sure kids are dressed appropriately and staying home when they are sick. Dressing for weather is very important.

Ms Wong: When percentage of sickness becomes higher than normal reach out to district department and request for deeper cleanse.

For security and safety all doors locked during the day, you can ring doorbell at door 1. Looking at putting a giant mirror at main door of office

Volleyball starting – Grade 6s and 7s. We will send out email to let parents know either morning of afterschool likely Tuesday morning and Thursday after school. Games hoping on Tues/Thurs.

Parking Lot Driving Update – continue to encourage to walk or park further away. Drivers stay in car and drop off in loop. Concerns of idling in the parking lot. Bylaw is 3 minutes. Encourage parents to walk. Parking lot is closed after school.

Lisa: Crosswalk on Dixon and Garden City, if crossing be vigilant because cars are flying by.

Ms. Wong: School can request RCMP to hang there, can try that.

Leadership roles have started – 100 grade 5/6/7 who have signed up

Ms Wong: Province wide – parents will get lots of information about the assessments, looking at foundational skills. Will be a letter coming from the district to parents. Results help teachers inform their teaching. More about how school can support student learning.

6. Additional Business

Anna: Early warning if you have time from 8:45-9:00am greatly appreciated, need about 4 more volunteers to have 2 each day.

Parent Questions: When is the earliest day can order for Libby? Start ordering now

Parent Questions: Can parents run with kids during Terry Fox? Yes

Ms. Norman: Oct 2nd recognizing Truth and Reconciliation. First day for Libby is October 3.

Lisa: We have WeChat, WhatsApp and Facebook groups, TWA that is sent on weekends. If you go on Garden City Website, find PAC tab under Parent Advisory Council, here to keep up to date, please keep in touch. Can email at gardencitypac@gmail.com

7. Next PAC Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

8. Adjournment 7:52pm