

Dr. George M. Weir
2900 East 44th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5R 3A8

Minutes for Monday, November 25, 2019 PAC Meeting

Date and Time: Monday, November 25, 2019, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Dr. George M. Weir Staffroom

PAC Attendance (in order of sign-in sheet): Jimmy Leong, Ameenah Thobani, Jeraldine Domingo, Katie Siomacco, David Tai, Grace Sangha, Winnie Yeo, Ed Alvernez, Lia Pereira, Juan Carlos Castro Castro, Patricia Com, William Lee, Julie Guan, Gloria Yong, Fernanda Rodrigues, Marcia Ng, Jeremy Liao

PAC Executives:

Chair: Hailey Wong

Co-Chair: Maxine Wong

Treasurer: Marsella Lim

Secretary: JoAnn Ng

Administrators:

Principal: Heather Gascoigne

Vice-Principal: Cindy Neufeld

1. Call to Order: Hailey Wong, 7:35pm Welcome
2. Seismic Update with Christopher Wong, District Principal/Educational Planning, VSB
What has been happening since February 2019:
 - Design Process: the Weir Seismic Project is a 75% rebuild of the school on the original site. The seismic advisory group (consisting of administration, teachers, and PAC executives) has met with the architectural firm and project manager to provide feedback on the design process. The school design is to reflect “future learning”, with open, flexible work spaces, that allows increased collaboration between students and teachers.
 - Black Bins: available to February 2020 - Anthony Quan(from VSB material services team) and Chris Wong have been advising Weir staff to purge as much as possible. Items will be separated for recycling or disposal.

- Packing: boxes are supplied for items to be sent to the swing sites or to go into storage.
- Swing Sites: have been visited by Chris and Weir administration. Classrooms are being prepared for the arrival of Weir students and teachers.
 - Killarney Secondary: B Wing has been vacated and is ready for the Grade 6 and 7 students.
 - Champlain Heights Elementary: hosted Kingsford-Smith during their seismic upgrade and is prepared for Weir.
 - MacCorkindale Elementary: is also prepared to receive Weir.
- Construction: will begin over Spring Break. Students will start at their designated swing site on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Weir staff will have Monday, March 30, 2020 to prepare their classrooms for Tuesday.
- MacCorkindale elementary will host Kindergarten to Grade 2 (Div. 14-18) -5 classes- in one wing of the school. Busing will be provided for those who need it. The school schedule will remain the same (9:00am-3:00pm).
- Champlain Heights elementary will host Grades 2-5 (Div. 6-13) -8 classes- Busing will be provided. School schedule will remain the same (9:00am-3:00pm)
- Killarney secondary will host Grades 6-7 (Div. 1-5) -5 classes- in the B-Wing, which consists of 5 classrooms, a staffroom/office area, and boys/girls washrooms, that will be separate from the high school population. Busing is not necessary. The school schedule will change to: 8:50am-2:50pm. This earlier start/dismissal time is to limit the amount of overlap between the schedules of Weir students and the high school population.
- Busing: a notice will go home to students who will be attending MacCorkindale and Champlain Heights that will ask who would be interested in using the buses in order to get preliminary numbers. Later, a meeting and more detailed booklet will be sent home to parents explaining drop off/pick up times, locations, etc. and give parents guidelines to how the bus system will work. Parents will have 3-4 weeks to sign up. Bus assignments will be released before Spring Break. Parents are responsible for getting their child(ren) to the pick-up location. You must be on time! Buses will leave on schedule. Departure time will be dependent on how many students sign up for the service, but a proposed time might be 8:30am.

3. Questions from Parents:

- Question: Will Gr. 6-7's have access to Killarney's gym and library?
- Answer from Chris: Collaboration between Weir and Killarney staff will hopefully allow Weir to book time to use the library as well as other classes, for example,

access to the home economics classrooms. From April to June 2020, gym time will be limited - either outdoors, or by renting the gym at Killarney Community Centre. For the 2020/2021 school year, schedule planning for use of the Killarney secondary school gyms will be determined in the spring.

- Q: Will the Grade 6-7's need volunteer parent supervision at Killarney during recess and lunch?
- A: An additional Supervision Aide is being hired to work at Killarney during these times.
- Q: If I only need to use the bus one-way, is that an option?
- A: We will try to accommodate parental requests. More information will be available at the bus meeting in January or February.
- Q: Will older siblings (rather than parents) be allowed to do drop-offs?
- A: That would be a family decision. The FAMILY (parents, grandparents, older siblings) is responsible for child drop off. Attendance is taken at the school upon arrival.
- Q: How do we contact Weir office in the case of a Student Absence?
- A: There will be a single, central Weir phone number to call.
- Q: Where will the bus pick-up/drop-off zone be?
- A: There will be "School Bus Only at these times" signage on the South side of East 45th Ave across from Weir school.
- Q: Will there be adult supervision on the school bus?
- A: On the school bus, there is no adult other than the bus driver. Children will adapt to the routine of the bus. Teachers will meet the students at the school site. "Missing Parent Protocol" will be implemented - if parents are late at the end of day pick-up, the child will be taken back to their swing school site and parents will be called to pick up their child from there. NO child will be left at the drop-off site.
- Q: Is the project on schedule?
- A: So far, yes. The move to the swing sites will occur as scheduled, on March 31, 2020. Permits have been submitted to the City of Vancouver.
- Q: Vaping has been seen on Killarney school grounds. How do we protect Grade 6-7 students from being exposed to this behaviour while they are at school?
- A: Vaping/smoking shouldn't be happening on school grounds, but it is difficult to control outside of school hours. We are doing our best to keep the elementary students and high school students separated. B-Wing has 2 entrances and school administration will try to monitor them during school hours. If vaping/smoking does occur in these areas, notify Killarney administration.
- Q: Will there be a Sports Day this year?

- A: (Ms. Gascoigne) Killarney field space has been booked for Sports Day on Thursday, May 14th.
- Q: Will the Strings program continue?
- A: (Hailey Wong) Strings will continue until Spring Break. Unfortunately, it is impossible to continue with students separated at 3 different sites. Strings students will be reimbursed for the portion of fees that cover April to June.
- Q: Will Hot Lunch, Fruit and Vegetable, and Milk programs continue after the move?
- A: This will have to be planned with Weir PAC and the other schools. There may be some disruption of programs, but hopefully, the level of disruption will be minimal.

4. Old Business:

- Parent Education Night: *Keeping Your Kids Safe on Social Media* is being offered on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019 at MacCorkindale Elementary, 6:30pm-8:30pm. RSVP on Eventbrite.ca by searching "Social Media Safety"
- Spirit Wear Update: Thank you to everyone for their support. The order was placed last week, and we hope to have them before Christmas break.

5. New Business:

- Movie Afternoon: Our first afternoon movie will be on Friday, Dec. 13, 2019, from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Parental attendance for K-Gr. 4 students is not required, but it is most welcome! Movie notices for pre-ordering tickets and food will be going home this week. Gr. 7 volunteers will escort K students from their classrooms to the gym. At the movie's conclusion, parents must sign out their child.
- Time Capsule: The idea of a Weir Time Capsule came up at the September PAC meeting. The teachers were presented with the idea of assembling a Time Capsule to be placed in the new school, but they feel they are too busy getting ready for the upcoming move, in addition to teaching, to undertake such a project. If this is to proceed, 1) a parent-run sub-committee would have to be formed to organize this, and 2) Chris would have to find out if it is a feasible idea from the architects and planners.
- Automatic External Defibrillator(AED): An AED is a potentially life-saving piece of equipment to have if someone should suffer a cardiac arrest. Should Weir have an AED, as schools in other districts (eg, New Westminster, Coquitlam, Delta, and Surrey) do? Is this something we should look into? Ms. Gascoigne stated that the VSB has no current policy about AED in public schools, and suggested we contact DPAC to inquire about this.

6. Principal Update:

- Students will be enjoying curling instruction from Curl BC this week. This activity, like Gymnastics and Dance, was paid for using the Activity fee collected at the beginning of the school year.
- Winter Concert is on Dec. 11, 2019. There will be a limit of 2 tickets per family, as there are only 400 seats available.
- Spring Concert: date TBA.
- Report cards will be sent home on Jan. 31, 2020.
- With the upcoming move to 3 swing sites, and the seismic rebuild of Weir, how can we reflect and honour the original school? It would be nice to have 1-2 activities to celebrate our time as one school before the seismic move.
- There will be 2 offices for administration, one at Killarney, one at Champlain Heights. Ms. Gascoigne and Ms. Neufeld will be at the schools every second day.
- I am determined to maintain Weir's connection as a community. Weir school still exists, just at three sites. 30 new students have already enrolled for kindergarten next year.

7. Adjournment: 7:45pm

8. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 9:10am in the Staffroom.