

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

**Minutes for Monday, September 28, 2020 PAC Meeting**

**Date and Time:** Monday, September 28, 2020, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**Location:** Virtual PAC Meeting via Zoom conference call

**PAC Attendance:** Iris Rodrigues, Armeena Hamin Thobani, Sherly Heck, Yulanda Ng, Dan Li, Daniel Cho, Winnie Yeo, Samuel Young, Julie Guan, Cecillia Lok, Melissa Dang, Grace Lo, Aranildo Lima, Karina Linder, Mandy Zhang, Dave Tai, Patricia Com, William Lon, and 24 others

**PAC Executives:**

**Chair:** Hailey Wong

**Co-Chair:** Maxine Shui (absent)

**Treasurer:** Marsella Lim

**Secretary:** JoAnn Ng

**Administrators:**

**Principal:** Heather Gascoigne

**Vice-Principal:** Riley McMitchell

1. Call to Order: Hailey Wong, 7:03pm, Welcome new and returning families to the 2020-21 school year, and welcome to our Principal, Heather Gascoigne, and new Vice-Principal, Riley McMitchell.

2. 2020-2021 PAC Executives:

**2020/2021 PAC EXECUTIVES:**

Chair	Hailey Wong
Co-Chair	Maxine Shui
Treasurer	Marsella Lim & Isadora*/William Lin*
Secretary	JoAnn Ng

\*individuals who will job shadow during the school year to learn what the position entails.

2020/2021 COMMITTEE LEADERS/COORDINATORS:

Hot Lunch	Marsella Lim, Isadora Lin* & Karen Wong*
Book Fair	JoAnn Ng & Karen Wong*
Media and Communication	Hailey Wong
Fruit and Veggie program	Sherly Heck & Katie Siomacco
Dairy program	Katie Siomacco
Sports Day	Marsella Lim & Isadora Lin*
Webmaster	Brian Yip

\*individuals who will job shadow during the school year to learn what the job entails.

3. Update on PAC-run Programs:

- Fruit and Vegetable - open to K to Gr. 7 - a free program that offers healthy produce such as blueberries, apples, cucumbers and carrots to students approx. once a month.
- Dairy - open to K to Gr.5 - a free program that runs about once a month.
- Hot Lunch - was every Thursday last year and offered a wide variety of food choices. This is a fund-raising program and participation is voluntary.
- Scholastic Book Fair - this popular fund-raiser is held twice a year, in Fall and in Spring, and a special "Buy One Get One Free" 1 day sale is held at the end of the school year.
- Movie Night - open to families, this popular event has been held both in the evening and after school.
- Strings - after the cancellation of the VSB-run Strings program, PAC began their own, hiring a violin instructor and having lessons twice a week in the morning before classes began. The children who participated played at Weir's Winter and Spring Concerts, and were invited to perform at Killarney Secondary School's Winter Concert. Unfortunately, due to Weir's seismic upgrade, the Strings program has been suspended.
- Sports Day - parents volunteer to help with Hot Lunch, Concession, and serving watermelon to the students and staff at recess. There is always a large turnout of parents who help out and then watch their children participate in the races and games.
- Special Project:WEIR Handprints Mural - to commemorate the closing of the original Weir school, students created a handprint mural. At the end of the

school year, students received a postcard of the mural as a memento. Postcards are still available. Please contact PAC if you'd like any.

PAC fundraises for:

- Classroom Teacher Fund - PAC provides \$250.00 per class teacher, and \$125.00 to each resource teacher to help with in-class expenses.
- Technology - such as classroom screens and projectors, iPads for both students and teachers, and the accompanying charging carts. Weir now has 3 carts of iPads.
- Library Books - are not budgeted for by the VSB. By hosting Book Fairs, PAC is able to acquire many new books for the library as well as fundraise.
- Sports Equipment - not in VSB budget, so PAC provides funds to buy new equipment, and replace old or broken items.
- Music Equipment - not in VSB budget, so again, PAC provides funds for such things as the recent purchase of ukuleles.

4. Update from Administration:

i) School Operations at the 3 Swing Sites:

- Heather: MacCorkindale has 5 classes, K to Gr. 2, Champlain Heights has 7 classes, Gr. 2 to Gr. 5, and Killarney has 5 classes, Gr. 6 to Gr. 7. Weir students at MacCorkindale and Killarney are located in one wing of their respective schools, and classes at Champlain Heights are spread out. Currently, About 40% of Weir students have returned to school full-time. We are working on how to keep the Weir community connected, and to help the option 4 students transition back to in class learning.
- Riley: To help maintain social distancing, Recess and Lunch are staggered for students at MacCorkindale and Killarney. They do not do this at Champlain Heights, but the grounds are so large that it is much easier to maintain social distancing measures.
- Heather is present at the bus stop outside of Weir every day.
- Riley is at Killarney in the mornings to help direct Killarney high school students from using the Weir site entrance.
- **Q:** Can students return back to class on dates other than the ones scheduled when provided with enough notice?
- **A:** Riley: No. Managing school attendance is very complex. Transition students (option 4) will be sent an email one week before scheduled return dates, at which time they will indicate if they are returning to school. They will also have busing, if needed.

- **Q:** What kind of support is available to students who chose option 4 (transitional option) and are still at home?
- **A:** Riley: to try to keep a connection to their class, teachers can post a few work assignments online. Students will check in once a week with either their homeroom teacher or district assigned teacher for approx.90 minutes/week. This is not a learning situation that relies entirely on the teacher. Parents must still be involved with their child's work at home. Children *may* be invited to join their class if there is an outdoor class activity scheduled, but this is not guaranteed.
- **Q:** My children will return to in-class school in October and we have signed up for the busing service. It is very likely that we won't need the bus service until next year. Will my kids lose their spots on the bus if they don't use it?
- **A:** Riley: No, they will not lose their spots. The bus schedule will be updated each school year.

ii)COVID Safety Measures:

- **Q:** What are the current safety measures for both students and teachers?
- **A:** Riley/Heather: Public Health Officer (PHO) has separate guidelines that differ for schools and the general public. In school, students are placed in Learning Groups, and stay within their Learning Group. Masks are not mandatory in the class, although they may wear them if they wish. Masks are mandatory in the hallways, common areas and buses. Anyone who enters a Learning Group, who is not part of it, must wear a mask. Masks are not mandatory for K to Gr. 5, but each child will receive one. Ventilation will be increased in the schools, and will be turned on earlier than usual and remain on later in the day. Surfaces will be regularly cleaned, and physical distancing is encouraged. Masks are not mandatory outside, but Heather has noticed that many children are wearing them. Bathrooms have new limits on how many children may enter at a time, and they have been instructed on how to wait their turn and enter/exit the bathroom. Entrances have stand-alone hand sanitizers. The children line up outside and wait for their homeroom teacher to greet them and escort them inside. They sanitize their hands as they enter. Classrooms also have hand sanitizers. Kindergarten students have their own bag of supplies, so they are not sharing materials.
- **Q:** How many kids per classroom? Is it smaller now?
- **A:** Riley: Students are placed in Learning Groups of no more than 60 children. Class size has not changed.
- **Q:** Parents are concerned about transparency: what is the protocol if confirmed cases of COVID are found at the school?

- **A:** Riley: The School District is notified by Vancouver Coastal Health on a case-by-case basis. We must take direction from Vancouver Coastal Health on what to do

iii) Seismic Project:

- **Q:** Is the project on time? Has the start time been delayed?
- **A:** Riley: He and Heather have had regular communication with capital projects. They say the Weir project was taken to tender -ie, open to bids, and is now closed. The bids received are now being analyzed. They have told us that they are still within the “operation window”, and still on schedule.
- **Q:** Given the current situation with the pandemic and Dr. Bonnie Henry’s recommendation for social distancing, will there be an undercover area built at the new school for students to take cover on rainy days?
- **A:** Heather: The architects working on the project have always supported our desire to have undercover areas incorporated in the new school design, but School Board concerns about the budget cut the undercover areas out. Rules state that an undercover area must count as square footage for the building. In other words, to put in an undercover area, the square footage it would take up must be removed from the square footage of the actual building. You might lose a classroom or an activity room to make up for square footage of the undercover area. We are arguing that this rule must be changed. We need to speak out strongly that the District should go to the Ministry of Education and advocate that money should be allocated to build undercover areas - money separate from the school building budget. Riley: Parents and families must speak up and advocate for this. Hailey: Perhaps we should write a letter to the Ministry. The timeline for Weir is short. We’ll work on something this week.

iv) Other Questions:

- **Q:** Are there any scholarships available for Grade 7s to apply for?
- **A:** Heather: No, I am not aware of any.
- **Q:** What is happening with PE and library time? Do students get to use the library at each of the swing sites? Shared gym and sports equipment at each school?
- **A:** Riley: Children still receive gym time at MacCorkindale and Champlain Heights that is very similar to their regular school schedule. There is scheduled library time with Mr. Hornberg, the Teacher-Librarian, at both MacCorkindale and Champlain Heights

every week. It is a different situation at the Killarney site. Currently, the gym(s) are only available to Weir students during flex-time, which is unfortunately the same time as lunch. We may be able to rent the gym at Killarney Community Centre. Weir students do not share gym equipment with MacCorkindale or Champlain Heights. Weir equipment was divided between the 3 sites, and we may supplement with new equipment, if needed.

- **Q:** Do classroom teachers still receive funds from PAC this year?
- **A:** Hailey: Yes, the Classroom Teacher Fund is still available for Weir teachers this year.
- **Q:** How will fundraising, if any, happen this year?
- **A:** Hailey: Most of our programs, such as Fruit and Veggie, Dairy, Hot Lunch, Book Fair, Sports Day, etc. are on hold until. These programs need parent volunteers to run them, and they are not allowed to enter schools at this time. Riley: Teachers realize how important Sports Day is to the Weir community, and they are thinking of creative possibilities that could be used to keep the 3 school sites connected in new and different ways. Have “Weir Wednesdays” for example, where all 3 sites could share common activities or have Teams meetings that involve all 3 schools.
- **Q:** What kind of library time will the kids at the Killarney site receive?
- **A:** Riley: Prior to the seismic move, books for the Grade 6 & 7s from the Weir library were packed up and sent to the Killarney site. The Grade 6 & 7s will have their own mini-library. In addition, they may get access to the Killarney Secondary library.
- **Q:** Will you be announcing new staff members and if any have left?
- **A:** Heather: That information was in the Weir newsletter that was sent home earlier this week.
- **Q:** Are you hiring a new librarian?
- **A:** Riley: Mr. Hornberg is the new Teacher-Librarian.
- **Q:** Will there be a Halloween parade this year? Can the kids wear costumes?
- **A:** Riley: We have not been given any direction from the District about that yet.
- **Q:** Will PAC be fundraising this year?

- **A:** Hailey: We have enough funds to support Weir until the end of the seismic upgrade, but, that said, we would still welcome any safe, creative ideas parents may have to fundraise. We also want to keep up the spirit of community that Weir has, even at 3 sites.
- **Q:** Can we raise the amount of Classroom Funds given to Teachers?
- **A:** Hailey: We have asked Riley to ask teachers if there are any things they would like PAC to help out with. Riley: Teachers have a lot of ideas, and I will forward a list of what is allowable by the district.
- **Q:** Does the District supply money for online apps, and learning resources?
- **A:** Riley: Online apps such as Mathletics and Razz Kids have already been invested in. Heather: We have budgeted for some apps, however, with the purchase of additional online licenses, more money may be needed.
- **Q:** Will Grade 4 & 5 students be allowed to use the Champlain Heights playground, as they currently cannot?
- **A:** Riley: The Champlain Heights Principal has decided that only K-Grade 3s will be allowed on the playground for reasons of social distancing.

#### 5. Message from the Principal/Vice-Principal:

Riley: Before coming to Weir, I was told by colleagues how lucky I was to be able to work with Heather, and how wonderful the Weir kids and families are. I appreciate and am grateful to have come to such a great situation.

Heather: We are very lucky to have gotten Riley as our new Vice-Principal. His experience in Coquitlam and with the District make me confident he is able to handle this unique situation. I also wanted to share a conversation I had at the bus pick-up. A mom had transferred her kids to Weir and she told me her kids were so happy and having such a good experience at their new school. Finally, I want you to know that MacCorkindale, Champlain Heights, and Killarney have been wonderfully welcoming to us.

#### 6. Meeting Adjourned: 8:00pm.

