

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

Minutes for Monday, November 2, 2020 PAC Meeting

Date and Time: Monday, November 2, 2020, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Virtual PAC Meeting via ZOOM conference call

PAC Attendance: Ameenah Thobani, Sherly Heck, Juan Carlos Castro Castro, Nicole, Dan Li, Laila Ma, Perry Pang, Aranildo Lima, Stern Ko, Karina, Wilson, Ashuman Mehta, Kevin, Patty Com

PAC Executives:

Chair: Hailey Wong

Co-Chair: Maxine Wong

Treasurer: Marsella Lim

Secretary: JoAnn Ng

Administrators:

Principal: Heather Gascoigne

Vice-Principal: Riley McMitchell

1. Call to Order: Hailey Wong, 6:30pm, Welcome

2. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

3. Old Business:

- A letter was sent to Janson Ho (the head of the seismic project) with regards to no outdoor undercover areas in the design of the new Weir elementary school. With the COVID-19 pandemic, students are being encouraged to spend as much time outdoors as possible. In BC, it is rainy and cold for several months of the school year, and it would be beneficial to have shelter for students. The letter asked if it were possible to have covered play areas at the new school.

UPDATE: LETTER TO JANSON HO

- Janson Ho - Director, Vancouver Project Office
- Letter voicing the Weir community desire for an outdoor covered play

area

- *“We understand and support your rationale. However, as you have noted in your letter, there are design and budget constraints to this project. The budget provided for this project is sufficient only to meet the Ministry of Education Design Area Standards, which currently does not allow for an outdoor covered play area in our region”*
- VSB trustees have written to Minister Fleming in November 2018 asking for a review of the area standards and for the Ministry of Education to provide additional funds for the project.
- Their correspondence also includes reference to allocating area for covered play space. The letter can be found under **VSB Advocacy Correspondence** on the VSB website

- When asked if there was anything else we could do, Heather Gascoigne suggested that we inform our MLA, George Chow, of our hope that some of the money given by the federal government for COVID-19 response to the provincial government for school purposes could be used to pay for covered areas for schools, and that the rule preventing new school buildings from having covered areas should be changed. Perhaps we should lobby Mr. Chow to talk to the Ministers of Education and Finance to change the provincial guideline that doesn't allow for the building of covered areas, and provide some financing to have them built.
- No questions were asked about this topic.

4. New Business:

TEACHERS' FUND: COVID-19 SAFETY-RELATED PURCHASES FOR CLASSROOMS:

- to alleviate teachers' financial burden on purchasing items for **promoting social distancing or cleanliness in the classrooms**
- purchases made to keep the running of classrooms a safer and cleaner place for our children
- purchases that wouldn't have been made if it wasn't for the current pandemic
- examples of eligible purchases: extra plastic bins to separate out classroom materials for individual student use, plastic cones or tapes to mark boundaries in the classrooms to promote social distancing

proposes to subsidize at a rate of **\$10/student for each classroom teacher**

MOTION: *PAC to subsidize at a rate of \$10 per student for each classroom teacher on purchases of COVID-19 safety-related items used for promoting social distancing and/or cleanliness in the classrooms. Base on an enrollment of 407 students, this translate to \$4,070.00.*

Open for discussion:

Q: Are teachers on board with this? Have they been asked if they want this?

A: (Hailey) Teachers find they need to keep each student's supplies separated, so they have had to buy bins and other items they wouldn't otherwise need.

A: (Riley) In these new circumstances, we try to provide social distancing where possible. It is not always possible to maintain a 2 metre distance within a learning cohort, so other measures are taken to keep students safe. For example, to keep students from sharing supplies, teachers would like to have bins or containers for each student. They would also like to purchase floor markers so students, especially primary ones, will sit a safe distance apart. These items are not covered in the school supplies fees.

Q: Ventilation is very important to keep kids safe from COVID-19. Can this money be used to purchase air purifiers?

A: (Riley) Will look into this - unclear whether this could be done, and if funds would come from the school district or if PAC funds might be needed.

Q: Would the money proposed be prepaid to the teachers?

A: (Hailey) No, teachers would not be prepaid. They would fill out a reimbursement form from PAC for items purchased.

- No further questions, so the motion was put to a vote.
- Results: 85% in favour, 8% against, 7% indifferent
- Motion **PASSED**.

SUBSIDY OF "RAZ KIDS" (online reading app):

- is an online reading program
- currently being used by 12 classes (7 Primary classes + 5 Intermediate classes)
- Weir has dedicated a much larger than normal amount of funds to online memberships to students (both at home and at school)
- school is wondering if PAC could support them with some funds for this app
- PAC Executive proposes to subsidize **\$50 per class for a total of \$600** (\$50x12 classes)
- the funds used to subsidize this proposal would come from money set aside for the Performing Arts fund (\$1600) since, due to COVID-19, this fund cannot be used
- **MOTION: PAC to subsidize at a rate of \$50 per class for a total of \$600 (\$50x 12**

classes) to help with the cost of the online reading program, RAZ Kids.

Open for discussion:

Q: How much does RAZ Kids actually cost?

A: (Riley) Almost \$1800.

Q: Why does PAC have to subsidize this? Why can't the school pay for it?

A: (Riley) Weir has invested much more in online learning than expected and has exceeded the original budget. This is a proactive step. 35-40% of Weir students are currently at home learners, so having online apps can also support their learning.

- No further questions, so the motion was put to a vote.
- Results: 85% in favour, 8% against, 7% indifferent
- Motion **PASSED**.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF 2020/2021 BUDGET:

2020/2021 PAC Budget (set at the June 2020 AGM)	2020/2021	Proposed Amendment
Administrative Supplies	\$100.00	\$100.00
Art Fund	\$350.00	\$350.00
Gr. 12 Killarney Secondary Scholarship (for Weir Alumni)	\$700.00	\$700.00
Grade 7 Camp Buses	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
Movie Night License	-	-
PAC: Meeting Childminding	\$100.00	\$100.00
PAC: Welcome Back Coffee	-	-
Performing Arts	\$1600.00	\$800.00
Principal's Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00
Sports Day	\$500.00	\$500.00
Sports Equipment	-	-

Teacher Class Fund (based on 17 teachers @ \$250 each + 6 resource @ \$125 each)	\$5000.00	\$5000.00
Vice-Principal Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00
MunchaLunch Fees	\$340.00	\$340.00
Year End Awards	\$500.00	\$500.00
*Teachers' Fund: purchases of safety items for classrooms	-	\$4070.00
*RAZ Kids (online reading program)	-	\$600.00

TOTAL:	\$11,190.00	\$15,060.00
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Open for discussion:

Q: Why do we need money for MunchaLunch fees?

A: (Hailey) It costs \$340/year to use MunchaLunch. We have not signed up for this year yet, but even though we cannot currently run Hot Lunch, we may still use the program for any future fundraisers that can be paid online, such as sales of Weir Spirit Wear.

- No further questions, so the Proposed Amendment to the 2020/2021 Budget was put to a vote.
- Results: 92% in favour, 8% against
- Motion **PASSED**.

2020/2021 DIRECT DONATION CAMPAIGN:

- The VSB, funded by the Provincial Government, provides funds to cover the basic education at Weir, but as parents and guardians we directly fund additional education resources that enrich the education experience for our children. Most of our funds are received through fundraisers sponsored by the PAC. A direct donation is another option for Weir families to contribute toward their children's education and, additionally, receive a tax receipt.
- The following are examples of what PAC Fundraising has provided for Weir:
 - Primary and Intermediate Playgrounds
 - Technology: iPads, classroom projectors, smart boards

- New books for the library
- Musical instruments: ukuleles
- Gym equipment: basketballs, badminton rackets, team jerseys
- Teacher classroom funds (\$250 per classroom teacher)

-this is a voluntary and confidential contribution that allow us to reduce the number of fundraisers undertaken annually.

-this campaign is especially important this year as we cannot run our usual fundraising efforts through book fair, hot lunch, movie nights, etc. during the current pandemic, and we need to keep up our fund-raising efforts.

-a notice about the Direct Donation Campaign will be sent home later this month.

WEIR SPIRIT WEAR:

- the remaining stock of Weir Spirit Wear - Hoodies and T-shirts will be available for sale online.
- will update progress next meeting.

RECIPIENTS OF THE DR.GEORGE M. WEIR ELEMENTARY SCHOLARSHIP:

- PAC provides \$700 scholarship to two deserving Weir alumni who graduated from Killarney Secondary in June 2020.
- Criteria: students must have studied at Weir Elementary for a minimum of 4 years and with good academic standing at the high school level.
- This year's recipients were:
- **Kevin Lem:** was accepted into UBC, Faculty of Arts, where he intends to do a double major in both French and English Literature. He plans to pursue a secondary education degree and become a high school teacher in both the fields he will be majoring in.
- **Tiffany Zhou:** was accepted into UBC, Faculty of Commerce. One of her lifelong goals include creating changes in the world through entrepreneurship, something that she is very passionate about.

5. Updates from Principal/Vice-Principal:

Answering questions submitted in advance by parents:

Q: My child's class only gets 15 minutes (sometimes less) to eat their lunch. Is there any way to lengthen the time students get during lunch hours?

A: (Riley) Each school site has its own procedure for lunch. Teachers sometimes start lunch earlier than usual for lunch, or may let students finish eating after they return to class from their outside time. Health engineers need the time after lunch when the children are outside playing to clean and sanitize the classrooms.

Q: Please provide an update on all three Weir sites regarding children and staff health. What are the numbers of children returning to face-to-face instruction?

A: (Riley) As of Friday, Oct. 30th, the second survey was sent to Option 4 Transition students. The deadline to decide if they are returning to school is tomorrow. We have not yet received all responses. There are 120 Weir students at home. So far, 22 have indicated they will be returning to school next week, and 22 are remaining at home.

Q: Given the 2nd wave of the pandemic, is there an option to move to online learning?

A: (Heather) This option is not offered by the VSB at this point.

Q: Will there be further extension to Option 4 (Transitional Learning) past January 2021's return date?

A: (Riley) The final deadline to return is January 5, 2021. We have not been given any further information that this option will be extended beyond this deadline.

Q: Is there an option for families who want to take their child out of school now and join online learning (option 4)?

A: (Heather) The VSB has no option for students to do this.

Q: Is there any change with safety routines/guidelines during this pandemic?

A: (Riley) The only significant change to the Daily Health Check was to decrease the number of COVID-19 symptoms on the list. The protocol is: 1) if you have one of the minor symptoms, stay home and monitor. 2) if you develop additional symptoms, go for the COVID-19 test. 3) if you have a fever or any of the other listed symptoms, go get tested. All 3 swing sites have done a good job of following protocol.

Q: I'm sending my girls back to school next week. Do you have any words of assurance

that I'm doing the right thing?

A: (Heather) The children at school are enjoying themselves and having a positive experience. This situation is certainly tough on parents, but the children seem to be really happy to be with their peers.

SEISMIC UPDATE: (Heather) We have been told that the tender is now closed, and offers are being reviewed. Budget considerations need further clarification and negotiation. They still believe the project is on schedule, and construction could begin shortly after November.

OTHER UPDATES:

(Riley) Our first school sites "Recognition Assembly" was held via Microsoft TEAMS last Wed, Oct. 28th, on what we call "Weir Wednesdays". As a way to promote school community, photos of new staff and students were taken and shown during the powerpoint presentation. In addition, 45 students were recognized at this assembly for various achievements. This assembly was well received, with positive energy, and engaged students. We intend to have monthly assemblies which will include a "Read Aloud" portion where Riley will interview children, and students will read aloud. The next assembly will be on Tuesday, November 10th, for Remembrance Day.

(Heather) Kindergarten registration opened today, and will run to the end of January 2021. Parents register online, and then will be contacted by the school.

6. Adjournment: 7:27pm.

7. Next PAC meeting TBA.

