

**Minutes of PAC Meeting – Monday, September 27, 2021**

**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021  
**Time:** 6:30-7:30pm  
**Location:** Virtual PAC Meeting via ZOOM Conference Call

**Attendees:**

Hailey Wong	Norman Chang	Yulanda Ng
Marsella Leung	Kathy Shuan	Anshuman Mehta
Maxine Shiu	Laila Ma	Lisa Mah
Gloria Yong	Karen Wong	Fernanda Rodrigues
Ninh	Nicole Lee	Gloria Jang
Iris Rodrigues	Isadora Lin	Anil Baunthiyal
Sherly	Jeraldine Domingo	Wilson Leonardo
David Tai	Amy Freeston	

**PAC Executives:**

**Chair:** Hailey Wong  
**Vice-Chair:** Maxine Shiu  
**Treasurer:** Marsella Leung & Isadora Lin  
**Secretary:** Gloria Yong  
**DPAC Rep:** Anshuman Mehta

**Administrators:**

**Principal:** Heather Gascoigne  
**Vice-Principal:** Riley McMitchell

**1. Welcome & Opening Remarks: Hailey Wong**

What is PAC?

- Parent Advisory Council: We, as parents of a child at Weir are automatically a part of PAC
- Non-profit organization
- Objective: support the school and students through different programs
- Examples of PAC-run programs pre-Covid
  - Fruit & veggie program K-5
  - Hot Lunch
  - Movie Night
  - Scholastic Book Fair
  - Strings Program
  - Sports Day, concession stand & hot lunch

Why & what are we fundraising for?

- To support teachers, the school & students
- Provide classroom funds to teachers
- Purchase iPads, classroom screens, projectors
- New library books
- Sports equipment
- Music instruments
- 2 adventure playgrounds (Primary & Intermediate)
- Introduction of the PAC executive and committee members

## 2. Principal/Vice-Principal Remarks:

Heather (Principal):

- 5 divisions at each site, down 2 divisions from last year
- More students registering this September than usual, but also families leaving Weir because of seismic upgrade
- 360 kids (average used to be 430); hope is that numbers will go up by next year – affects learning resources ie. library time, resource, etc.
- Bus situation: quite a difference between this year and last – bus drivers a bit frustrated with students' behaviour lately
  - ie. MacCorkindale driver had to pull over 2x mid-route to correct student behaviour
- Parents will be sent a reminder of rules & behaviour expectations of students that ride the bus. If not adhered to, certain students will not be allowed to ride the bus anymore – safety concern first and foremost
- Crosswalk at 45<sup>th</sup> & Killarney Street: parents are not being safe after dropping off kids at the bus – darting across the street to wave at their child – a memo will be sent in an email to encourage safe behaviour

Riley McMitchell (VP):

- Online assemblies will continue – Wednesdays at 2pm
- Recognition awards, read-alouds
- Fosters connectedness between the 3 sites
- Focus this year “What does it mean to be kinder than necessary?”
- 5 Classes at Champlain – last week was individual photo day without much notice for families (day of the monsoon rainy weather) – there may be more retakes requested than usual 😊
- Covid Protocols: “Just because we can doesn't mean we should”
  - Going slow, gauging comfort level of our entire school community
  - Grade 6/7 soccer is currently happening
  - No fieldtrips yet
- Agreement with Killarney Community Centre
  - Mondays pm (1/3 of gym) & Friday gym (2/3 of gym)
- Mr. Nick Urquhart: Music Classes have started – students are loving it!

- Library: books for Weir students are separate from the highschool books; age & developmentally appropriate
- Thinking ahead to new Weir site when completed: Outdoor Grounds at Weir – starting to reimagine the new space when we move back next year
  - Outdoor garden
  - Outdoor classroom
  - Ministry does not provide funds for these projects
  - Grants available – need parents’ to help with grant writing process (ie. TD Bank grant)

### 3. Questions from parents (submitted to Hailey via emails):

*Grade 5 classes – are students coping well in the new environment? How are students managing without a playground available to them?*

Heather:

- Explained reasons for bringing Grade 5s up to Killarney
  - last year, most of the student behaviours occurred in the Grade 4/5 age group
  - this year - more healthy groupings, separated students whose behaviours were problematic & had interpersonal problems
- Since beginning of school year, the change in student behaviours has been positive – Gr. 5s with older students and having lockers feel more grown up
- Lots of new equipment available for students to utilize at recess and lunch
- Older students are bigger, need to be in a larger classroom & more space for them to move around = results in happier students with less behavioural issues 😊
- Operates as a middle school: platooning between all the teachers; the students get a sense of all the different teachers

*Are there ways to make lunch and recess safer given the fact that students are unmasked at those times?*

- A vast majority of Weir students at all 3 sites are very good with masking compared to other VSB schools
- Champlain & MacCorkindale: staggered recess with host schools to minimize contact between large group of students
- Reverse lunch: MacCorkindale – eat first, play second; Weir students: play first, eat second
- Champlain students: Weir students spend half the outside time eating in classrooms first, then play during the second half to minimize contact
- Teachers wear masks at all times except behind plexi-shields

*What is Weir’s approach on disclosure notices?*

- Not a school approach; follows District rules and liaison with Vancouver Coastal Health
- Last year, school was notified from VCH then school emailed families
- If there is a family disclosure to the school, it is personal info – school contacts VCH to inform but cannot disclose info to school community directly

- This year: VCH is contacting people directly if there is a case and will notify the families directly
- VCH determines if a classroom needs to isolate – will directly contact families, then school will contact rest of class if necessary
- Grade 6 students will be able to get vaccines in January

*What is the protocol for days when the weather is really bad (ie. last Friday's downpour)?*

- A bit more flexible this year in terms of administration having a say in extreme weather
- MacCorkindale: much better at learning after having opportunity to have fresh air and the time to run around; most are appropriately dressed
- Older students need to remember to dress for the weather (boots, umbrellas, proper warm clothing)

*Updates on Seismic Upgrade*

- NOT moving back in January 2022
- Projected to be finished summer of 2022, move back date most likely in September 2022

**4. Adjournment: 7:26pm**