



Gordon Greenwood Elementary School

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Principal: Mr. A. Joo
Admin Assistant: Nicole Ohrlein



December 12, 2024 • GGE PAC General Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Alan Joo - GGE staff
Joel Olson - GGE staff
Joanne Rempell - GGE staff
Holly Miller - GGE staff
Danielle Chretien - PAC Executive
Rhea Fedorchuk - PAC Executive (virtual)
Justine Trenholm - PAC Executive
Elaine Happer - PAC Executive
Olivia McKenzie - PAC Executive
Margaret Holden - PAC Hot Lunch
Tisha Krafte - DPAC
Cathy Hale - before/after school care
Erin Berkyto
Mona Lefebvre
Jessie King
Jenn Bourque
Chadd Little
Tamara Carscadden
Derek Miller
Alana McGillivray
Julia Major
Sara Flann
Caitlin Johnstone
Jocelyn Lefteruk
Maria Carolina Lasarte
Alison Dowding
Jody Grainger
Rae Lynn - virtual

call meeting to order: 6:36 p.m.

land acknowledgement - Mr. Joo

1. Adoption of Agenda

- motion to accept 6:37 p.m. – Justine Trenholm
- Seconded - Sara Flann

2. Administration Report – Mr. Joo

- Happy New Year!
- Thank you to PAC for playground equipment. Issued this week to divisions with user education.
- Vice Principal transition taking place with Mr. Olson (new VP). Working a hybrid schedule with two schools. Weds/Thurs at GGE and Richard Mulpitt Mon/Tues/Fri. Joanne Rempell here for the next week to support
- Next week is Diversity Week. Michael Bortolotto - motivational speaker who uses his experience living with cerebral palsy to promote inclusivity and diversity in the classroom. He will be sharing his special gifts of hope and positivity. He will be presenting at GGE the final week of February. He normally charges \$5000 but has offered to come to GGE for \$1000. Discuss with PAC at February meeting regarding covering speaker fee.
- Kindergarten registration is open until Feb 18. Smaller class sizes than usual/average for GGE.
- FSAs (Foundation Skills Assessments) - Grade 4 and 7's. Packages home next week to families. GGE using data gained to shift teaching and targeted interventions. Tests are a formative assessment which comes down from the ministry.
- Basketball has started with practices this week. PAC funded new gecko jerseys last year. Grades 7's to attend tournaments against other elementary and middle schools. No dates yet. Games start the last week of January.
- MDI (Middle Years Development) survey for grade 5 and 6 will be happening in the next few weeks. About 45 mins long. Data gained for the school to figure out how to help kids feel a sense of belonging and connection. UBC administers this survey. "Playground Pals" and "Big Siblings" came out of this survey in the past.
- Grade 7 teachers went to visit the new camp location today for Grade Seven Graduation Camp trip.
- February 13 Walnut Grove Secondary School is coming to give grade 7's video orientation in preparation of grade 8 next year.

3. Executive Member Reports

Danielle - President

- Last meeting was in November. Since then we've had the Winter Market. Raised \$1800 from vendors. \$350 donated from photographer (donated price of all sitting fees).
- looking for a new hot lunch coordinator for next year - contact PAC or come to a meeting if interested.
- Training for hot lunch and treasurer required if looking to fill either roll - contact PAC or come to meeting if interested.
- DPAC position - will be vacant after this year. Contact PAC or come to meetings if interested.
- Grade 7 parents: reminder - for fundraising please inform PAC so can coordinate together to avoid date conflicts. PAC can help with licensing etc. if needed. Open communication to help events run smoothly.
- Grade 7 committee events based on dates set, June 2024

- Cookie Sale at the end of February for grade 7's? No conflicts. Currently in calendar (Margaret)

Rhea - Vice-President

- no report

Justine- Treasurer

- Regular account: \$49,000 as of end of December 2024
- Yet to pay for playground equipment and field trip money
- \$2700 paid for nets
- One Guest Speaker to pay for still
- Ball and sports to be paid for still as well. Close to \$7000 - \$10,000 for nets and balls
- Danielle - money for classrooms for individual division funds, receipts, field trips, buses. \$150 plus \$3.50 per student.
- Mr. Joo - outside sign/communication board. Original quote was \$25,000. Did some more research and obtained a quote under \$11,000 which includes installation. Don't want it to be too bright and a distraction for the community/neighbourhood. Sign can come with a timer so it can turn off.
- We used to have to save money for computers. Don't need to as of this year
- Last year was our first year back after covid for fundraising. Last two years just trying to get back into things.
- *Parent suggestion* - idea to support grade 6 and 7 band program
- *Parent suggestion* - Reindeer Lane. invest in wrapping material - wrapping paper, bags, ribbon, bows etc.
- *Parent suggestion* - use "man power" to get parents to more PAC meetings. President from a previous executive would go around with a clipboard to enlist parents. Sign-up sheets would be posted outside of classrooms.

Elaine - Secretary

- none

Margaret - Hot Lunch Coordinator

- upcoming hot lunch dates:
 - Jan. 17: hot lunch - Subway/Cobs
 - Jan 24: treat day - cookies and milk
 - Feb 7: hot lunch - Boston Pizza/Cobs
 - Feb 14: treat day - Gourmet Donuts
 - March 7: hot lunch - hot dogs/Cobs
 - March 14: treat day - TCBY Yogurt
 - Reminder that a criminal record check is now required for parents volunteering in school.

Olivia - DPAC

- meeting next week.
- opportunity for education fund: i.e. food safe, first aid. Books etc., Submit receipt for reimbursement. Fixed budget - once depleted, gone. Covers anything that can benefit you and the school. Four reimbursements per school

- Tisha DPAC rep offered additional information - for “food safe” covers \$50. education covers \$80 food
- DPAC offering free parent seminar on Feb 13 at Kwantlen Polytechnic University - “Practical Strategies for Change” by Hannah Beach: Help with “Anxious, Aggressive, and Shut-Down Kids”

4.0 Special Orders: N/A

5.0 Unfinished Business:

Fundraising

- Scholastic Book Fair: Mar 4-6, 2025
 - Drop-off date keeps changing. Will confirm once know
 - Rhea away that week - need volunteer to run event
 - Fair will take place during day, after school and evening hours
 - Learning Commons Teacher - at GGE Wednesday
- Movie Night:
 - Feb 18: schoolwide - Grade 7's fundraiser event (not PAC event)
- Westcoast Seeds Sale (WCS): February
 - Erin Berkyto point person for this fundraiser
 - WCS is a seed company based in the Fraser Valley.
 - Erin is a “brand ambassador” for the company and a contributor to their catalogue
 - WCS has fundraising website - 40% proceeds go back to the school
 - Fundraiser will run Feb 1 - 28
 - Once the website is up, preview options and order. Make sure to select GGE at check out or our school does not get the funds.
 - Letter to go home introducing fundraiser
 - Print posters to put up around the school
 - Also raised - We are in need of trees out back as there is little to no shade. Would love to see the school put trees out back. Mr. Joo: district grounds keepers take care of that so would need to run it by them first.
 - Erin volunteered to put a proposal together for trees or garden beds for the school
 - Portable shelters raised as another shade idea - need to run by district
- Spring Market/Family Fun Night: May 30, 2025
 - Applications now open for vendors - open for a week for parents before open to external vendors
 - 30 applications already
 - Looking for volunteers
 - Need new equipment for this event. All pre-covid equipment lost and/or damaged and had to be thrown away
 - *Parent offer* - letter from the school to get donations and help. Danielle and Mr. Joo to work with Joanne Rempell. Put in letter what fundraising intention is (ie. shade in back etc.).

Votes:

- Grade seven graduation funds: \$1500
 - Favour: 21
 - Opposed: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **approved**

Motions & Proposals:

- proxy vote review (parent proposal: Mona Lefebvre)
 - Raising motion to allow all parents to have a say by proxy (full proposal can be viewed and downloaded [here](#))
 - all details outlined in proposal (linked above)
 - Does not know when PAC meetings will be held as not on regular schedule
 - Voice should be heard even if not able to attend moving
 - *Parent query:* verification mechanism question - How does this work? Email associated with a student? Who would monitor that? Is it secure? What platform?
 - *Parent comment:* had suggestions for a secure platform (missed platform names). *Parent query/comment:* who would take on the admin role? suggestion on creating a new PAC Executive role to do this admin.
 - *Parent query:* Could there be a special mailbox?
 - *Parent query:* Could there be a form saying parent was at initial meeting and then verified they could vote
 - School District can not share student information with 'third parties'. PAC is considered a third party
 - Mr. Joo: IT Department shared that we could not use email associated with student due to "Information Privacy & Security (FOIPPA)" regulations
 - Students are assigned school emails but parents should not communicate through that email address for PAC voting.
 - School Administration is not allowed to be a part of the PAC voting process - can not verify votes.
 - *Parent query:* Can we email PAC with name, class, division to be verified?
 - *Parent query:* Can we just do it on paper?
 - *Parent query:* Could a form go home with every kid?
 - *Parent query:* Where does the administrative burden lay? Who is doing this?
 - Danielle - PAC doesn't take this motion lightly. Danielle reached out to many schools and districts, including DPAC. No other elementary school allows proxy in the district. DPAC and Walnut Grove Senior do not as well. BC Confederation Of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) does but has members all across the province so they have virtual voting. BCCPAC has a paid position to do the administrative work included with online voting.
 - Results from the September parent survey 337 students at GGE - 101 responses. Question regarding how many attended PAC meetings. 75% replied that they have never attended a meeting.
 - Danielle questioned why bringing this motion up now?

- *Parent comment:* “We are the ones doing all the work. Ask yourself why do people not want to show up? Approach the kindergarten parents. People won’t want to join PAC if it is harsh; If there is constant head butting and bulldozing. Need to have people wanting to come to meetings, but that is not what is happening now”
- *Parent comment:* turn-out better than past years
- Oliva: Maybe we bring something forward to be used in other PACs. Get more people involved. Enrich the kids. Every parent’s voice matters. This is an important thing. We are pioneering something.
- *Parent comment:* If I had read \$1500 for Grade Seven grad fund request, I would have voted “no: if voting by proxy. But, coming to the meeting changed my mind and I voted “yes” after asking questions. You don’t get the full details if not at a meeting in person.
- *Parent comment:* Would not be an “informed vote”
- *Parent comment:* reality is things are different now than they used to be. Proxy voting increases engagement and ‘widens net’.
- *Parent query/comment:* Why don’t we/can we record meetings?
- Tisha - direct attention back to the motion with proxy verification. Attention back to the motion as presented.
- Mona: can the motion be withdrawn or tabled?
- Tisha: would have to go through the process again. Present, review, vote etc.
- Mona: would be better to do it right rather than rush it through
- Danielle - this motion was important to people so they made it a priority to show up tonight.
- Working on a precedent? Danielle asked if using this proxy to make it easier to set up after leaving GGE. Olivia would love to see proxy voting available district-wide
- ESL parents brought up. Proxy would benefit them.
- Cathy - ESL concerns have been raised at past meetings. Danielle has brought it up at many meetings. wanted to create a position for translator
- Danielle spoke to PAC being a volunteer position
- If there is no PAC, we lose the money. It goes back to the district to get redistributed.
- Mr. Joo - everyone is coming from a place of conversation. Even if there is disagreement, fruits come from that.
- Tisha - back to the motion as presented. Is it moving forward for a vote at the next meeting or being revised? Referring back to ‘Robert’s Rules of Order’.
- *Parent query:* can we do an amended motion?
- *Parent query:* Do any schools in BC do proxy? parent thinks Prince George may.
- Surrey, Vancouver, Langley, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge do not allow proxy.
- Mona - appreciate concern around validity of voting.
- We need a motion to amend the motion with questions answered. More than two weeks before the next meeting. Must be posted along with meeting minutes
- What needs to be changed? Verification options are not feasible.
 - Sara put motion forward for Mona to amend proxy proposal
 - Olivia seconded

- *Parent comment: FYI - any data repository is still subject to FOIPPA regulations. Just a note for when this is researched. Includes electronic or digital*
- Revised/amended proposal due to PAC by February 2, 2025 so school can send out an it can be posted on the PAC website and social media platform.

6.0 New Business: moved to February meeting due to time.

~~—Saleema Noon~~

~~—parent workshops~~

7.0 NEXT MEETING: February 19, 2025 - 6:30pm, GGE library

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.