

Gordon Head Middle School PAC Meeting

October 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom Online)

MINUTES

In attendance: Marc Lerman (Chair), Erin Eastman Paulson (Recording Secretary), Tiffanie Hanoski (Treasurer), Michelle Gilmour (Grade 6 Rep), Susan Peters (VCPAC Rep), Shawn Boulding (Principal), Jennifer Adamson (Vice Principal), Wendy Eckardt, Gina Zak, Jennifer Hale.

Executive members regrets: Sarah Ball (Grade 8 Rep), Rei Steward (Hot Lunch Program)

1. Call to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Welcome and Announcements.
3. Approval of Meeting Agenda Moved by Susan Peters; Seconded by Jennifer Hale; Approved.
4. Approval of September 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Moved by Marc Lerman; Seconded by Tiffanie Hanoski; Approved by Executive, September 23, 2021. This motion is thus formally recorded in these minutes as an addendum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes process note: In order to make PAC meeting minutes available to the GHMS community via the school's website as soon as possible after a meeting, the PAC Executive members present at the meeting conduct a review and approval of the minutes. The record of the approval process is formally recorded as an addendum to the following meeting minutes.

5. Principal/Vice Principal Report (Shawn Boulding/Jennifer Adamson)

Shawn's Report: Classroom building different this year. Kids groups - want a mix, positive peer connection. Classes equitably dispersed, cross-participation happening.

Basketball season is happening. School sports are up and running. All of the schools are grappling with how to welcome guests to schools. Only want participants. Shawn, Cathy Nelson (Athletic Director) and Jen were talking about the policy for spectators. Discussion around asking that families only bring one family member to a participating game so that we can limit; one parent per participant. An announcement yesterday that we are removing restrictions and so will let our community know by the end of Friday what the final decision is for our school (and will try to make it consistent among middle schools).

Parent teacher conferences by Zoom. More efficient for time, more relaxed feel where families felt less rushed last year. This year, people missed face-to-face conversation and contact. A number of teachers planned to do face-to-face meetings originally this year and walk about the school outside, but the weather was less predictable and didn't cooperate as much. So four or five teachers ended up doing face-to-face meetings in the gathering space inside with limited numbers and it worked well. May leave some parents questioning why some parents had a face-to-face meeting and staff trying to provide opportunities where people's comfort is.

Professional Development School Goals and Focus

Mental Health: Teachers are taking advantage of Advisory time in the morning. Teachers are taking more time to touch base with students and see where they're at and build that sense of community in the classroom. Parents receive an electronic monthly District based snapshot on mental health topics with a middle school theme. Teachers are using these more and more as curriculum in the classroom. Creates a common language that teachers/staff use with students at school and that parents can use at home, which is helpful.

Literacy - Had a guest in the school Jessica Hoyt (Grade 8 teacher on medical leave this year) who is a literacy expert. Jessica has been working with someone who is internationally known for literacy, Susan Close, and together they have been working with the students cooperatively.

Earthquake Drill the other day. Earthquake supplies are in good shape but consumables need to be replenished.

Jen's Report: Talk to your kids about the Earthquake Drill and check out the Parent Facebook page to see a picture of the kids practicing and see a description of the protocol for the parent sign in system. All parents are to come to the parking lot side where there will be a sign in system with a sign out system. Children will be waiting for you on the back field and will be reunited with you. Just know if you can't get to your child for hours, your child will be well looked after and safe until you can safely connect and collect no matter the time. Staff will always stay there until you can come.

If you're not on our school's facebook page, there are two Facebook Groups to Join:

[GHMS Parents](#) and [♥Gordon Head Middle School♥](#)

Remembrance Day November 10 at 10:30 a.m. ceremony on ZOOM. Parents are invited. Choir and band will be contributing. Jennifer will send an invite out to families.

Grade 6 immunizations tomorrow morning. Need parent volunteers.

Parent question:

Mental Health - new child to school and neighbourhood, dealing with anxiety. Curious to know what happens in the classroom re: info being shared/talked about?

Answer: Kids are in their class for the bulk of academic day so teachers build connections and community with their kids and classroom. An identifiable community within a classroom. If your child is struggling beyond the middle school worries - reach out to Jen and/or Shawn and they will do some behind the scenes work to help provide wrap around support and connection.

Parent question: breaktimes around lunch - structured outdoor time. Can you speak to how it all works?

15 minutes nutrition break mid-morning - all kids outside unless really inclement weather.

Grade 6's are very different from the grade 7's and 8's in comfort and kind of where they are. Sometimes when the grade 6's head out to the playground they feel like they can't enter playground/play spaces if big/older kids are in/on them. Gaga ball pit, playground equipment, adjoining basketball area in the back is a defined grade 6 area.

Lunch time is 45 minutes - Grade 6's: the first 20 minutes at lunch have access to the whole school grounds to themselves. This has increased the level of play. Staff seldom have disputes to resolve during lunch time.

Teachers will take 'brain breaks' for 20 minutes as well during the day and go on walks with their class.

Parent question: parents coming into school to watch sports. Do they have to have/prove a vaccine passport?

Answer: We have no direction yet. Looking to have consensus in conjunction with all the other Middle Schools. Shawn will send something out on Friday. Don't think you will be asked to prove vaccination. No desire to gatekeep. Parents will be asked to sign-in.

6. Treasurer's Report

1) **Proposed Preliminary 2021-22 PAC Budget Approval:**

To approve the 2021-22 PAC Budget as presented and amended. Moved by Marc Lerman, Seconded by Susan Peters.

Amendments to proposed Budget:

1) Exploratories budget:

Increase to \$2,400 (budget is for 6 exploratories); with no less than \$400/exploratory.

2) Emergency Preparation budget:

Increase by \$500 to \$850 to cover costs of non food supplies requested this year (jackets and goggles for all GHMS staff, blow horn, mega phone) for Earthquake Emergency Preparation.

3) School Clinic (Grade 6 Immunizations Day) Budget:

Add a budget line and budget \$200 for the cookies and juice required each year for the Grade 6 students attending School Clinic to receive immunizations.

The persons tabling and seconding the motion to approve the 2021-22 PAC Budget agree with amendments as presented. Motion is approved.

2) Teacher's Funding Requests:

We received 3 requests: 1 is not eligible for PAC funding, 1 is in progress, and 1 is to be approved via vote.

Approval of Teacher's Funding Request. Moved by Marc Lerman, seconded by Tiffanie Hanoski.

Teacher funding request: Jolene Smith, Grade 7 Teacher, requested \$200. She would like to teach her class how to play cribbage as an addition/extension of their math program for enrichment as well as supporting mental math. The cribbage boards will be accessible to all other classes if they would like to use them. Fifteen cribbage boards and storage mediums are requested.

Some other GHMS Divisions have expressed interest. Propose to have PAC fund \$200. Berwick House is funding an additional \$200. This will give GHMS sufficient sets and storage medium for all divisions to use.

Approve Jolene Smith's Cribbage Boards Project Funding Request for \$200. Motion is approved.

Due to the fact we received relatively few requests, PAC will be happy to consider funding other ventures during the year.

3) Accounts Report:

As of September 30, 2021:

- Chequing Account: \$ 26,206.96
- Gaming Account: \$14,945.97

- Paypal: \$14,521.24
- GIC: \$10,256.01

7. Committee Reports

a. Fundraising:

- i. Donation Drive Update: No update. Will be ready for the next meeting.
- ii. Bottle Drive Update: The drive held on Saturday September 18, 2021 made \$698.00 for the school.

Next Bottle Drive in January.
- iii. Grocery Stores Fundraising Update: Fairways cards are available to parents.
- iv. Purdy's Chocolates for Winter Holiday Campaign Update: We will be sending out reminders about the Campaign and link by early November.
- v. Cobs Bread Fundraising: Reminder to please mention before you purchase anything at the Shelbourne store that you are with Gordon Head Middle school as we get 5% of sale.

b. Hot Lunch Program:

The program is going well. Two volunteer parents reached out to serve to replace Rei as Program Coordinator and may be in place by November 1st. Olivia Kompier volunteered to serve as Ordering Manager and is transitioning into the position.

8. 2021-22 PAC Executive and Portfolios/Nominations

Gina Zak is nominated by Marc Lerman to serve as Grade 7 Representative. The nomination was tabled for a vote. Motion by Erin Eastman Paulson, seconded by Jennifer Hale. Motion approved.

Executive:

Chair: Marc Lerman

Co-Chair: Vacant

Treasurer: Tiffanie Hanoski

Secretary: Erin Eastman Paulson

Grade 6 Representative: Michelle Gilmour

Grade 7 Representative: Gina Zak

Grade 8 Representative: Sarah Ball

VCPAC Representative: Susan Peters

Portfolios

Hot Lunch Coordinator: Vacant

Hot Lunch Volunteer Coordinator: Deepali Shikhare

Hot Lunch Website/Ordering Manager: Olivia Kompier

Fundraising: Vacant

9. VCPAC Report

VCPAC September 28, 2021 Meeting Update:

Long discussion about mask mandate K-3 (now a moot point). Questions from families from schools regarding clusters and looking for clarity regarding parameters about what is being communicated when and why. Operations policy planning committee - be prepared for another motion for Music Programs to be trimmed this year. If anyone has questions that we would like to ask on behalf of our PAC, please direct them to Susan Peters (susanandwalker@gmail.com). Email about Victoria High re: part of the school property is being leased to build residential buildings when they were supposed to be getting a revamp on their athletic field. They are looking for support from PAC's as they are not getting what they were promised. A survey re: School Police Liaison Officer Program for parents to take.

VCPAC 2021-22 meetings are scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (with the exception of December and March):

Tuesday October 26, 2021, 7 p.m.

Tuesday November 23, 2021, 7 p.m.

Tuesday January 25, 2022, 7 p.m.

Tuesday February 22, 2022, 7 p.m.

Tuesday April 26, 2022, 7 p.m.

Tuesday May 24, 2022, 7 p.m.

10. Other Business

Parent question: Do we do territorial acknowledgements at the beginning of the PAC meetings. Can we start if we don't do it?

Yes, we will begin from here.

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday November 17, 2021, 7 p.m. via Zoom

12. Adjournment at 8:04 p.m.