

Gordon Head Middle School PAC Meeting

January 19, 2022 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), Ying Fan (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Shawn Boulding (Principal), Jennifer Adamson (Vice Principal), Jennifer Hale, Evan Wang, Deepali, Zengyan Sun, Michelle Gilmour, Zoe Orozco, Ping Yang

Executive members regrets: Sarah Ball (Grade 8 Rep), Gina Zak (Grade 7 Rep)

1. Call to order at 7:02 p.m.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We start our gathering tonight by acknowledging the lək'wəḡən (lay-kwung-gen) peoples, represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and the W̱SÁNEĆ (weh-saanich) peoples, represented by the Tsartlip (Sart-Lip), Pauquachin (Paw-Qua-Chin), Tsawout (Say-Out), Tseycum (Sigh-Come) and Malahat (Mal-a-hat) Nations, within whose territories Gordon Head Middle School is located.

The First Peoples have been here since time immemorial and their history in this area is long and rich. We are grateful to work together on their beautiful lands.

2. Welcome and Announcements.

Zoom recording of meetings to assist the minutes process was agreed with the agreement recordings be deleted as soon as minutes are finalized and approved.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda: Moved by Susan Peters; Seconded by Tiffanie Hanoski; Approved.

4. Approval of November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Moved by Sarah Ball; Seconded by Marc Lerman; Approved by Executive, November 25, 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:

Covid Update: He thanked parents for their patience in regard to the extra week of school closure after the winter break, which allowed for the administration and staff to prepare for the application of protocols created by the Omicron variant..

Prospect of 2 types of school closures:

(1) Health Related Closure: Closure decision dictated by Island Health and based on significant absentee rates raising concern for transmission taking over the school. Island Health is no longer contact tracing as the system is no longer capable of doing that and therefore school no longer applies processes relating to contact tracing. If families do learn that their child is tested COVID positive, the requirement is that they remain at home for 5 days past the positive test or onset of symptoms.

Cases relating to the school student population have been minor. Some staff testing positive have had cases less minor in nature. Without being intrusive and understanding privacy, it is really helpful if parents call in and outline the reason for their child's absence to permit the efficient management of COVID cases if necessary. The school population and absentee rate have been healthy. The school has not been really affected by the Omicron variant.

(2) Functional Closures: This closure occurs if there is not enough staff to keep the school functioning safely and provide adequate care for the students. In the district it appears the staffing challenge is more significant with custodial staff. So far our school has been in good shape in regard to staff absences.

Other part of COVID management: Some families are keeping their kids home. A few families are testing the waters about remote learning and asking that the school provide curriculum. Unfortunately, we aren't able to provide long term remote learning opportunities. Certainly we do provide materials/resources for students who are away as per usual protocol.

Grade 8 transitions: Cross-Boundary Transfer process occurs the week of February 7 - 11. Forms will be available from the school office or online from the SD61 District website beginning Feb. 7. Programs of choice application documentation will be made available as they are supplied.

Volleyball season: It is the largest participation sport in the school with 8 or 9 teams running. Due to protocols only 2 teams participate at one venue.

Reports cards and Assessments: Starting during the 2022-2023 school year K- 9 assessment will be moving away from percentage scaled letter grades to proficiency scales system (Emerging, Developing, Proficient, Extending). Format of report cards will be similar but lack the letter grade sections.

Jen's Report:

One of the school's goals is managing social/emotional learning (mental health) with a focus on ensuring students are feeling safe and secure at school. One measurement process is the Middle Years Developmental Index (MDI) Survey, a UBC created research project. Grade 6's in the school district and our school have worked on the survey for the past two weeks. The survey takes up one 45 minutes block and the results help inform the school.

Some surprising results from last year's data include: for the question whether or not students felt people cared for each other in this school, 65% of our students said this was true; 45% said it's either sort of true or not true. This question appeared to be an anomaly as related questions (Do you feel you belong? Do you care about people in the school? Do you feel comfortable?, etc) all scored 80% - 85% as true.

For the question: I feel I am important in this school. Only 55% of students responded that this was true. A result that is shockingly low.

A factor may be COVID protocols leading students feeling unimportant, etc. because they cannot use school grounds as before the pandemic. The administration is working on discovering why the mentioned MDI

questions scored so low and would like to find remedies to ensure students feel welcome, cared for, and valued.

It was agreed that parents attending the meeting reach out to their children to gain insight on the matter and bring suggestions/ideas/strategies the school could employ to help students feel more important. Or how to show each other that they care about each other. This topic will be an agenda item at the next PAC meeting in February.

There are more clubs this year. A human rights club with about 12 students, a leadership club where students led food and clothing drives, and a book club.

A School Based Team (Administration, Learning Support teachers, counsellor, and ELL teacher) meet once a week. - Often there is not a specific agenda and discussion is focussed on how to support the “who keeps you awake each night”. The Team focuses on how every student is doing and providing support accordingly.

The Professional Development Day was nature based and some coaching of staff on holding outdoor educational activities took place.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Accounts Report:

As of December 31, 2021:

- Chequing Account: \$19,057.54
- Gaming Account: \$14,945.97
- Paypal: \$25,017.78
- GIC: \$10,256.01

7. Committee Reports

a. Fundraising:

- i. Donation Drive Update: \$5,620.00
- ii. Bottle Drive Update: Looking into doing around Spring Break (Lambrick had theirs right after the winter break so

didn't do then.) Anyone interested in booking and advertising? Works best on a weekend when we can line the drop off area with the non-sort bottle drive bins. Susan Peters will book it - will need to know how we generally advertise it, and is happy to organize it. Jennifer Hale is happy to help support the effort. Advertising: 2 Facebook pages, email, announcements. Jennifer Adamson offered to be on-site to help support the day of. Susan will follow up and loop in Jennifer Hale and will talk to Jennifer Adamson. Everybody save milk containers, please!

- iii. Grade 8 Popcorn Fundraiser: Going well.
 - iv. Grocery Stores Fundraising Update: Thrifty's cards are no longer viable for fundraising because the program now requires their cards to be loaded upfront. It is not user friendly or all that feasible for most uses.
 - v. Purdy's Chocolates Easter Campaign Update: We have started the Easter Campaign (Please pass on the link to family and friends).
 - vi. 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: So far everything is running smoothly. A very special thank you to Rei Stewart for staying on an extra term to ensure the success of the Hot Lunch Program and going above and beyond to train Ying, Olivia and Deepali - our amazing Hot Lunch Team! Thank you Ladies!
 - c. Staff Appreciation Lunch: Committee creation and scheduling of events is required.

Last year we did an online donation through the HotLunch Site. With the funds we were able to get a catered lunch through Little Piggy Catering. We heard Red Barn was another good option. We also had enough funds to get each staff member a bottle of Non-alcohol Seas Cider (they supplied at cost). We heard that Red Barn may be a good option for the purpose.

Sarah suggests doing the donation drive soon and to see how much funds we might raise and proceeding accordingly. Since gatherings are still not permitted, we would probably not be spending money on decorations etc.

Marc will lead and schedule the event. Last year it happened on a Pro-D day in May, Jennifer recommends using the same day again as it was very successful. The Pro-D day meant that staff didn't feel rushed and there was a high sense of camaraderie. Katrina in the office is a good person to connect with re: legwork.

8. 2021-22 PAC Executive and Portfolios/Nominations

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: Ying Fan

Hot Lunch Volunteer Coordinator: Deepali Shikhare

Hot Lunch Website/Ordering Manager: Olivia Kompier

Fundraising: Vacant

9. VCPAC Report

VCPAC November 23, 2021 Meeting Update:

Presentation with Island Sexual Health about all the programs they can offer. A motion is being drafted to include sexual education at all levels of school and the motion will be disseminated to PACs in the near future.

Trustee Nicole Duncan brought up the issue that the district woodshops are all in disrepair and need to be brought up to code. Gordon Head is in really good shape as our woodshop was updated in the Spring. Anyone who is moving on to Lambrick - that might be a consideration.

VCPAC asked how PACs spend their Gaming Grant funds. Our PAC uses the Gaming Grant funds on approved teacher project proposals (such as this year's cribbage games proposal) and exploratories funding.

All the schools should have emergency kiosks. Our school is in good shape. Our PAC approved \$800 for the purpose and megaphone, air horns, vest, granola bars and juice boxes were purchased to augment existing supplies and stock. Our kiosk is excellent with tents, tarps, first aid kits, wheelbarrows, shovels, etc available for the purpose. Tables, chairs, signage have been added for reunification purposes during emergencies.

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

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.
11. Next Meeting: Wednesday February 16, 2022, 7 p.m. via Zoom
12. Adjournment at 8:04 p.m.