



Queen Mary PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 11th, 2014.

Attendees: Kathy O'Sullivan, Rosemary Thomas, Kathy Findlay, Mahala McCullagh, Rebecca Anderson, Amanda Skuse, John Puddifoot, Judy Yeung, Scott & Carly Trinder, Matthew Taylor, Raymond Afan, Vicky Aneliunas, Maria McAllister, Joanna Wong, Rob Eisses, Sasa Chambers, Julie Bettinger, Carol McAusland, Pilar Ramos.

Regrets: Adina Trowhill, Lori Matick, Jeff Pedersen

Meeting commenced: 7:05pm

1. **Approval of Agenda**
 - **Moved by:** Mahala
 - **Seconded by:** Holly
 - **Unanimous approval – Motion carried.**
2. **Approval of Jan. 21, 2014 Minutes**
 - **Moved by:** Matthew
 - **Seconded by:** Carly
 - **Unanimous approval – Motion carried.**
3. **Seismic Upgrade Project Update – Raymond Afan**
 - Portable gym being erected, only construction happening for the time being. Budget issues are still being dealt with for final budget approval. Budget is still in the “red”, but nothing further can be done to improve – so now up to the Ministry for final approval and “green light” to proceed. Currently still on target for timing of Phase I construction.
 - Classroom sizes unchanged. Multipurpose room, Music room, and Gym storage had to have reductions/restructuring to reduce budget.
 - Entire project out for “Tender”, due Feb. 13th.
 - Budget for 6th Avenue upgrade, per City requirements, came to about \$400,000, which VSB team feels is better used on the school. Told City we could only afford \$150,000, and left with them to decide.
 - Planting boxes, landscaping, etc. has to be planned very carefully with VSB – irrigation systems not included and will not be supported by VSB should issues arise after completion, due to liabilities.
 - Ensured that there are very stringent guidelines and penalties for inappropriate disposal of asbestos and lead paint. HeatherBrae (general contractor) will hire a sub-contractor for the hazmat project that will be held to those Provincial guidelines.
 - John Puddifoot: To keep “red” building, parking was agreed by City to keep 6th Avenue. An application for “contingency funds” to be released, decision should be imminent. Clarifying VSB will cover costs of moving play structures.

- Raymond confirmed that the cost to move one playground would be covered in the Seismic budget and that this cost would include proper ground preparation on the new location.
- Raymond believes that the balcony was put back on the table as being covered in the original budget.

4. **Principal's / Vice-Principal's Report – Kathy O'Sullivan and Rosemary Thomas**

Kathy:

SOA and Staff Information:

- Projections for 2014-2015 – 364 approximately- 30 kindergartens have registered. We are still collecting forms from families about those moving and those who will be staying at Queen Mary
- All principals in the district will be attending a meeting at the VSB regarding projections for the 2014-2015 school year and the recent information from the Ministry this week.

Seismic Update

- Our temporary gym is in the process of being completed.
- We continue to monitor the safety and security of students as new things occur. Last week crews was on site for the fiber optic cabling and the new hot water tanks

Cell Phone Policy

- Our current school policy is **cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during school time from 9:00 to 3:00pm**. Cell phones are for emergency purposes only. Students may use cell phones only with the permission of their teacher. The staff and the PAC have discussed this issue extensively and have approved this as a Queen Mary policy. (This policy has been issued in the last newsletter and was printed in the March newsletter of 2013.). Clarified that this policy did not come about due to rumours of cyber-bullying in the school.

Rosemary:

February Events

- Thank you to PAC for supporting La Grand Coulee with Renee Turmel otherwise known as the "Maple Man". The students and teachers enjoyed the presentation on Feb. 5th which included traditions in Quebec, making maple taffy in the snow and square dancing
- Feb 12 – SLO Shayne Green to speak with gr. 6/7 regarding wise decision making with social media.
- Feb. 14 – Our student leadership team will be selling small bags of candy with the proceeds going the Children's Hospital. Further discussion with the staff have honored the ideas of the Leadership Team students this year and hope that the leadership team will look at alternative items (heart buttons – Me To We program) or healthy things to sell in the future when they support charities.
- Feb. 17 – at our student led assembly Caroline and Virginia from Genesis Security will give a presentation on "Be a Buddy not a Bully".
- We look forward to the PAC hosting Jessica Trach on Feb. 19th who will be presenting to parents how to prevent bullying and how to support your child.
- Jessica Trach will follow up with two assemblies on Wednesday, Feb. 26 (Pink Day) one for the Primary students and one for the Intermediate students on Anti bullying
- Feb 25 – Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences
- Feb 27 – Goodbye to the "old" Gym- Gr 7 bake sale and signing the wall.

- Feb 28 Kindness Rocks – Churchill – Gr 5-7 classes attending
- TEGs – ongoing meetings continue with the students and TEGs committee – At the last assembly, the TEGs students shared fitness exercises that were easy to do in the classroom, hallways and outside. There was a draw with class divisions. Division 8 was the lucky winner. The TEGs team will make a healthy snack for Ms. Stokes class. They will select a new division each month at our assemblies.

Parent Teacher Conferences and Report Cards

- Tuesday, February 25 – Early dismissal 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 12 – Early dismissal 2:00 pm
- Friday, March 14 -Report Cards home

What to look forward to:

- Completion of **Foundation Skills Assessments** for Grade 4 and 7's - end of February
- **Results of the FSA** will be sent home after spring break
- **Satisfaction Surveys – Gr. 4 and Gr 7 - January to Mid April**
- **Ready Set Learn Event for 3 and 4 year olds – March 5**

5. Chair's Report – Kathy Findlay

- Orders from approx. 100 families for Anti-Bullying t-shirts.
- As part of Anti-bullying “week”, a Commitment Letter will go home for parents & children to review and sign.
- May 28th – SOLOS group doing parent presentation on parenting in a digital world. Hoping to do something with the kids too – still to be planned.
- Kathy F., Kathy O. & Raymond (VSB) met to discuss how to deal with items that cannot be included in budget, but that VSB will approve PAC support – ie. Planter boxes, types of plants/trees, etc. Will post a summary of what process we can take on the PAC website.
- Second “direct drive” letter will go out in early March.
- Safe Arrival needs at least one more volunteer one morning per week.
- Teachers reviewing “pinney” design and will bring to PAC before final purchase.
- TEGS meets regularly – Captains more often than general group. Reviewing spending on programs. Any parents willing to help source dishes, etc. would be appreciated.
- Grade 7 Grad – June 19th. Still working out evening vs. daytime to include teachers, etc. Application for a grant for funds towards Grad activities. Other fundraising ideas being considered.
- PAC newsletter went home last week. Only 60% of parents opening email “blasts” from PAC.
- Cell Phone Policy should go up on website & as part of initial paperwork that goes home at the beginning of the school year.
- Any parents interested in being part of a committee with teachers & children to discuss TEGS at school.

6. Treasurer's Report – Kathy Findlay for Adina Trowhill

- A few items went out with regard to small items from Purdy's “manual” orders”, supporting a family-in-need over Christmas.
- Outstanding items still to clear: Anti-Bullying merchandise and PIN money for Teachers.

7. **DPAC Report – Matthew Taylor**

- DPAC meeting coming up in February.
- Feb. 17th – presentation by Dr. Shornert Richert
- Feb. 18th @ 7pm – Terry Small @ Byng on “getting better grades”, for Grade 5 & up.
- Petition on DPAC website with regard to funding.
- Parent engagement process – meeting with PAC’s to discuss parent engagement in schools.
- Feb. 27th – USB Parent Budget Forum.
- Gifted Challenge Summer Program – July at MacKenzie.

8. **Cell Phone Policy**

- See Principal’s & Chair’s report.

9. **Spring Dance – Rebecca Anderson for Lori Matick**

- Scheduled for June 6th with the theme of “1980’s / Rock ‘n’ Roll!”
- Changing up the dinner menu – details to come.

10. **BCCPAC – John Puddifoot (Vice-President)**

- Completely revising curriculum for K-9 to a short-list, can be viewed on VSB website.
- BCeSIS being replaced by a new program, with a “parent portal” for parents to view children’s marks, rolling out 2015.
- May 30th weekend is BCCPAC AGM with many good speakers. Parents welcome to attend, but there is a registration fee.
- John will speak to Ministry with regard to a few items in Seismic Upgrade budget.
- Negotiations still in progress with BCTF & Ministry – good sign!
- Supreme Court decision regarding class size does not immediately affect current contract negotiations.

11. **Adjourn**

- **Moved to adjourn by:** Kathy F.
- Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.