



Queen Mary PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Attendees: Kathy O'Sullivan, Kathy Findlay, Mahala McCullagh, Rebecca Anderson, Raymond Afan, Judy Yeung, Matthew Taylor, Scott Trinder, Evann Siebens, Heidi Harmer, Jim Salzman, Christine Lee.

Regrets: Sasa Chambers, Lori Matick.

Meeting commenced: 7:05pm

1. Approval of Agenda

- **Moved by:** Scott
- **Seconded by:** Judy
- **Unanimous approval – Motion carried**

2. Approval of April 12th, 2016 Minutes

- **Moved by:** Evann
- **Seconded by:** Christine
- **Unanimous approval – Motion carried.**

3. Seismic Update – Raymond Afan

- Phase III under construction – delay in turning over to contractors (which was supposed to be July 2015) in December 2015. Abatement work in Brick building and underground piping took longer than planned. New completion schedule is now delayed until January 31, 2017. They will do all in their power to move up to December 31, 2016.
- Soil conditions were not as solid as planned, requiring extra work before foundation could be poured.
- Heatherbrae is still pricing the additional landscape – hoping to get it to Raymond by the end of this week. Looks like it could be much lower than originally specified.
- Budget has always been challenged. A few furniture items that Raymond & Kathy O to discuss, to see if there are any areas that can come in lower and thus fund a few items on wish list.
- All “unknowns” for Phase III should already have happened by now, and keep us on-budget going forward.
- Committee meets monthly to review all deficiencies on a regular basis.
- \$100,000 received from Maintenance for upgrade on (Red Brick) windows: windows sealed tightly, fix rotting wood framing, painting, etc. Hardware on windows cannot hold windows up, and safety issue comes up with teachers using “blocks” to prop open windows for air.

4. Principal's Report – Kathy O'Sullivan

- Thank you to the PAC for fundraising efforts. Lots of wonderful comments from Staff on the Gala! Staff enjoyed the event so much, saying it wasn't long enough!!
- Staff enjoyed even the short time attending the Volunteer Tea.
- Attending HR Meeting tomorrow regarding Staffing for 2016-17 – after two delays, due to VSB budget issues. Could be down to 12 divisions, from current 14.
- Seismic update: Roof framework on the Gym & Multipurpose room is up!
- Summaritive Goals being set:
 - Literacy – improve student learning and acquisition of literacy skills, focusing on communicating information.
 - Building Community – build community by caring for environment, solving problems, valuing diversity and building relationships.
 - Aboriginal Enhancement Goal – to increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.
- Traffic safety: congestion problems with traffic on Trimble Street, causing some “near misses” to children. Requesting that parents drop off/pick-up before 6th Ave (next to Trimble Park) or park 1 or 2 blocks away and walk to school. HeatherBrae to move post for chaining off driveway, to prevent driving, but allows strollers & pedestrian traffic.
- School Events:
 - Grades 3&4 attended Museum of Anthropology's First People's Festival, and sang song written by Greg Weir: “These Are the Animals the First People Knew”. An invitation to have 20 of QM students come sing that song at the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement signing on June 8th.
 - Strings Concert on May 12th in the Gym – 1:30pm for school & 7pm for parents.
 - Grade 4's learning about the Fur Trade.
 - Grade 6/7's learning about the Influence of Colonization of Indigenous People Around the World.
 - Some of our middle grades are learning the Recorder for the first time.
 - Kindergarten classes have watched eggs hatch & raised three chicks; feeding and watching caterpillars change to butterflies; as well as growing beans and other plants.
 - Division 4 is in process of building a Museum and working with Sketch Book Art.
 - Intermediate classes working with French Monitor who has been teaching them to speak French.
 - Primary classes have been involved with a Young Actors group, learning improvisation and drama activities.
 - Potatoes growing wildly on the deck – TEGs team involved in planting, watering & harvesting!
 - Track & Field – Mini-Meets are at Camosun Park (QE Elementary): May 10 & 16 = Seniors, May 12 & 18 = Juniors. Looking for more volunteers. VSB Zone finals on May 26th at Point Grey Secondary Track – 8:30am-3:30pm.
- Photos: Mountain West used in recent years. Does PAC have any issues or concerns before renewing contract for next year? (No complaints mentioned.)
- Planning School Organization for 2016-17 and class placements.
- Welcome to Kindergarten – May 26th, 9:00-10:45am – 40 new kids and families.
- Planning Year-End Activities, as well as calendar for 2016-17.
- Scott suggesting having Sports Day another day, rather than the last day of school. Many parents leave early for holidays.

5. Chair's Report – Kathy Findlay / Mahala McCullagh

- Sports Day coming – need volunteers!.
- Strings Program not looking very hopeful. Meeting scheduled to discuss was shut-down by Union beforehand. Survey results will hopefully provide some impact to decision. There was frustration about QM not on the drop-down list online. KF working with other PACs and Ms. Akita to provide a Bursary program to help families with financial difficulty to still participate.
- Teachers' Appreciation Lunch – many volunteers and food. Thanks to all who helped! Teachers loved it!
- Scholarship applications – only two received this year. Surprising after being sent to 14 schools!

6. Treasurer's Report – Kathy Findlay for Sasa Chambers

- Lots of Gala activity.
- Will be cutting a cheque for our Netscaping equipment that will be installed after school is out in June. Will be less than priced out!
- Landscape Architect invoice came in at \$3,500, lower than planned.
- Hoping our Landscaping budget will come in lower than planned, to be able to use for other additional items for classrooms, etc.
- \$131,000 in donations, plus \$18,000 from Gala. Also more coming to Gaming Account.
- Looking at \$170,000 total landscaping funds!

7. DPAC Report – Matthew Taylor

- VSB Budget:
 - Under the School Act, all Districts required to submit balanced budget by June 30th.
 - VSB's total budget is \$590 Million for 2016-17.
 - Current projected shortfall is \$24 Million.
 - Preliminary operating budget (POB) contemplates 130 FTE job cuts, including the athletic and fine arts coordinator, gifted staffing, special education support, early literacy and implementation of a user-pay strings program
 - On April 28th, the Board voted against approval of the POB.
 - One option available to the Ministry of Education includes termination and replacement of the Board.
 - Minister still focussed on school closures to meet budget requirement. Strings program at serious risk.
 - Discussions between the Ministry and Board are continuing.
- BC Redesigned Curriculum – next week Tuesday, May 17th, a session at Magee, discussion on feedback from parents 7-8:30pm – each school is entitled to three parents for feedback. Matthew would like to have two other parents join him at the meeting. Please let Kathy or Matthew know!

8. Call for Nominations

- Call will go out by email blast to parents.
- All positions are available, as many members have done a number of years, and can always benefit from fresh ideas. Anyone interested in a position, please let Kathy Findlay know before June 14th meeting.

9. Gala Update – Kathy Findlay

- See Chair's Report.

10. Spring Dance – Kathy Findlay for Lori Matick

- June 10th – Theme is Hip Hop.
- 5:30-8:30pm!

11. Other Business:

- Scott suggesting that QM look at a Plan B idea of hiring someone to teach Strings before/after school, in the event that the Strings Program is shut down. Need to wait and see what the budget outcome brings, before working on Plan B.
- Evann mentioned that SPUD is offering to do a fundraising initiative, and a new hot lunch program. Wanting feedback from QM on any “pilot project” interest. Many regulations need to be followed, before VSB approves hot lunch providers. Would be helpful if SPUD could provide PAC and a selection of students a trial test.
- Our Sister School (that we donated clothes to) is looking to raise \$10,000 to provide healthy snacks to all the kids in the school. Kathy F. wondering if we should donate some of our Hot Lunch fundraising towards their efforts. If people are supportive, will put a motion in the June Agenda to donate funds. Still looking at the “Back Pak” initiative (September?).
- Heidi mentioned that TEGs had three parents join the Team!
- Spring Plant Sale – Leadership team to help distribute next week!

12. Adjourn

- **Moved to adjourn by:** Kathy F.
- Meeting adjourned 8:14pm.