



Bayview PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: General Gordon Library

In attendance: Michael Rossi, Kelly Ryan, Joss Taylor, Ilka Strang, Birgitte Biorn, Anna Friedlander, Cora Korthals, Ebru Montagano, Muriel Marc, Emilia Doro, Sandy Chih, April Niul Sun, Sarah Jane Damiani, Itzia Paz Cortes, Kylie Taylor

Agenda Items

1. Introduction/call for additional agenda items

- Minutes of last meeting were adopted as written

2. Principal's update: Birgitte Biorn

- Busing updates: Michael Rossi (VSB district principal)
 - Bus 3 was half an hour late arriving at the school this afternoon, and kids were left waiting in the rain; bus 2 did bring some of the younger kids, as many as could fit.
 - Michael is still waiting for a response from Corey at Lynch bus lines regarding what happened; he will forward everything he finds out to Birgitte.
 - When they had met with Lynch recently, the plan was that an email would have to go to Birgitte and Michael if they were going to be significantly late, so that should have happened but did not.
 - Birgitte, Michael, and teachers have been very blunt with Lynch about their dissatisfaction with the problems we have had.
 - Suggestion: if there is heavy rain, maybe the policy should be that if the bus is more than about 5-10 minutes late, the supervision adult should stay outside but should send kids inside to stay dry (would need to determine a place for the kids to go).
 - It also would be helpful for the school to be told where the late bus is, so that the teacher supervising can make the call as to whether to bring the kids inside; and it would be helpful for the teachers to have a contact number for the drivers.
 - Also, the school could email parents from a particular bus, to let them know if their bus will be late.
 - Parents: remember to let the school know if a student will be absent from the bus in the afternoon, so that they don't get delayed while looking for that student.
 - On early dismissal days, the buses will be accordingly early (one hour early).
- Hot lunch status
 - Birgitte met with Eric of C'Est Mon Cafe (the hot lunch provider) yesterday. We still have kids eating in four different places, so it's hard to have hot lunch with the logistics of before.
 - A complication is that at the time when Eric needs to set up, the QE kids are in the lunch room.
 - A solution could be for Eric to make box lunches that the kids pick up from a location and then take to their table to eat. Maybe try this one day a week and see how it goes, then maybe increase to more days a week.

- There would be three options for the box lunches (in a compostable paper box that could be reused also), e.g., three choices of main, with similar pricing to before.
 - We will go ahead with a trial run, once a week.
 - The PAC is happy to entertain the possibility of a different hot lunch provider or system, but we would need a parent(s) to step up to manage it.
- After-school programs (JKC) status
 - The sharing of spaces between the two schools is a considerable challenge—there is less extra space available after school than we had thought.
 - While at QE, JKC will not be organizing community programs as before; instead, we will work with VSB's Community Schools Team (Jasica Grewal) to have at least Chris Kerslake's computer classes and a drama program.
 - Mr. T has volunteered his classroom for computer-class use, starting in January. We are looking for possible space for a drama program.
 - Question: can Bayview join in on QE programs?
 - So far, only the lunchtime FreeKick soccer program.
 - Birgitte will ask about anything else for next semester.
 - International "take me outside" day is on October 23: everyone at school will spend an hour outside on that day, taking advantage of the location near the forest.
 - Seismic updates
 - The construction fence at the old school is supposed to start going up this week—all the equipment is currently waiting in the multipurpose room. First to go up will be protective hoarding around the trees and their roots. The next step will be removal of the playground equipment.
 - Parents have wondered what will happen with the salmon on the fence along 7th Ave. Michael's understanding is that Kent (project coordinator) is planning to have them taken down and stored, but so far they are still on the fence.
 - It would be nice to have a very rough timeline of interior/exterior demolition processes that we can post on the PAC website, for parents to explain to their kids.
 - Michael emphasizes that it's very hard to get dates from the project office, but he will pass along any information that he gets.
 - Student leadership is up and running

3. Teachers' updates: Ebru Montagano

- *Div. 9, Ms Duncan*: Division 9 went on our first outdoor learning experience last week. We worked on using our senses, particularly hearing. We created a sound map of all of the sounds we could hear in the forest around us. Some of us even thought we heard a mouse rustling around! We are enjoying having the forest so close for us to explore. We are doing another outdoor learning day in the rain Wednesday!
- *Div. 8, Ms Rossignol*: Division 8 has just finished our first forest connection, which was trees, and we are now exploring our first tree connection which is the little brown bat that lives in our forests. We will also be exploring weather which will link to our study of the water cycle later in the year. To kick off our study of weather, we have a meteorologist from Science World coming on Thursday!



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For our literacy, we are writing our own books this year and exploring the features of language through books creation – we love writing books in our class so we went with that

- *Div. 10, Ms Taylor:* Division 10 has been doing weekly outings into the forest and the school surroundings. Every Wednesday the children explore one aspect of nature such as the oak tree, deciduous trees and coniferous trees. We have looked at the apple tree that is on the school grounds and talked about the life cycle of the apple tree. We have also gardened. Thank you to two parent volunteers, Dariens and Benjamins who support the children and ME.

After every outing and exploration we spend time recording and drawing in our bog books, which are actually becoming an amazing piece of art and information that they will want to keep forever! It has been very rewarding, fun and bonding!

- *Div. 11, Ms. Jung:* Division 11 went on our first field trip last Thursday to Camosun Bog / Pacific Spirit Park. We learned about the plants and animals in the forest and developed a stronger understanding of the importance of Camosun Bog. We had two park interpreters who facilitated the two-hour field trip. It cost \$160 but the students did not have to pay because we used some of the field trip money that PAC gave us. We want to thank PAC for their generosity and for supporting our learning outside of the classroom.

- *Div. 13, Ms Kochan:* In Division 13 we have been reading fairy tales, making props and acting out the stories in small groups. So far we have done The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and this week we are reading The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Last week when we were reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears we learned the song “I’m going on a bear hunt” and the students made maps to help them find a bear. Then we used the maps to go on a bear hunt (in the classroom of course)! We walked through long grass, a river, mud, a Chicka Chicka Boom Boom forest, a snowstorm and then we tiptoed into a cave. In that cave, we found a BEAR!!!! Since that was such a hit, this week we will go on a ghost hunt (paper ghosts with pictures/words that start with G, lights turned off and flashlights in hand) and the students will make a list of words that start with G. Hopefully it is as successful as the bear hunt! Students have also been experimenting this week with making bridges (to tie in with the Billy Goats Gruff book) and they have come up with many creative ways to get the goats across the river to the meadow so they can get fat! With all these activities we have worked on the letters P, B, G and T.

- *Div. Mr. T:* Student vote will be run at Bayview on Friday after the assembly. The national student vote results will be released after the election. Students have been meeting candidates (thanks Ebru!) and learning about the political process.

4. Treasurers' update: Joss Taylor/Emilia Doro

- Bank balances as of September 30

Regular acct \$ 54,420

Gaming acct: \$ 8,281 (this year's gaming grant of \$ 5,200 was received Sept. 30)

5. Welcome-Back Carnival recap: Kelly Ryan

- Over the three years of having the carnival, we have gone with two rental companies: Vancouver Party Works in 2017 and 2019, and FunZone Rentals in 2018.

- Vancouver Party Works is more professional, but they have a cancellation policy that was going to cost us \$460.00 this year. Kelly convinced them not to charge it given that they didn't put the inflatables back up again after the rain eased. If we cancel due to weather we have to do so 72 hours in advance. 24 hours incurs a 10% penalty. Less than 24 hours means we pay the whole thing even if they can't set up. This year our two largest (and most fun) inflatables were shut down after an hour (because of the rain) and never inflated again, despite easing of the rain.
- We should check out FunZone Rentals' cancellation policy and see if it is a bit more lenient. We may also want to go with more of a mix of rides and inflatables, as rides don't have to shut down in drizzle.
- Kelly wonders if we should reconsider the timing. There is a reason most schools have their blowout party at the end of the year – weather. Maybe we do a less dramatic Welcome Back, in the form of a pot luck/open house combination, then a Spring Fling in May with the inflatables, and maybe a market of some sort. It's something that bears further discussion.
- Many parents seemed surprised at the \$5 cover charge, as it had been free in the past.
- Total revenue: \$2,836; costs \$5,167 (net cost of \$2,330)
- Candy kebabs were a hit.
- Cut down from 3 hours to 2 for the carnival.
- Maybe have classroom open houses concurrent with festival time, instead of later.

6. Halloween Howl status: Emilia Doro

- Several people have stepped forward as new organizers--Susan, Claire, Christine—thank you!
 - We are still working out exactly what spaces we can use and when we can set up; it sounds like all but one of the spaces will be available for setup ahead of time (one will only be available as of 6:00).
 - Proposed time is Tuesday, October 29, 5:30-7:30.
 - As soon as times are confirmed, there will be an online volunteer signup.
 - Events included: haunted house, cake walk, dance party, bake sale by the preschool, craft tables.
 - Ebru will check with grade 7s if they would like to perform the Thriller dance again—on the floor of the auditorium.
- halloweenhowlbayview@gmail.com is the email address to use for any questions to the organizers, or to volunteer.

7. Parents' nights out: Emilia Doro (for Peter Graham-Gaudreau)

- With less opportunity for parents to connect at school pickup and dropoff, no Gala, and perhaps no Howl, we could use some opportunities for parents to get to know each other.
- Perhaps have nights out in late October/early November, January, March, and May
 - Saturday October 26 for first night out: the Lollygaggers already have a show booked at the Legion, so this can be our parents-only night. We could do a 50/50; Peter will ask if the Legion could do a drink special; might look into ordering food in (the Legion doesn't have a kitchen).

8. Direct-drive fundraising for new school: Kelly Ryan

- Over the past several years we have been gradually accumulating a surplus to cover our usual operating costs for the next 2 years. Our fundraising efforts during this time will be focused on raising a projected \$250,000 for the new school. This estimate is based on the best information we've been able to gather from the VSB and also from other schools who have gone through the seismic process in the recent past. For example, one school spent a total of \$80K to buy and install 22 short-throw projectors.
- Learning commons furniture (commercial grade) is very expensive.



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- We hear different reports from different schools as to what was paid for and what wasn't paid for
 - Michael asked the project office director why there isn't a standard list of what PACs will need to fund. Answer: if there's money left in the project budget, they use it on the extras; so what we need to pay for depends on what happens with the building budget.
 - There are some schools that can't afford this level of fundraising, so it is an equity problem.
- We will do a first round of direct-drive fundraising in November, then maybe another in the spring.
- Kelly to draft an appeal letter to parents.
- We will also be appealing to local businesses for donating to sponsor pieces of the school furnishings.
- We will fundraise using the VSB online payment system, so that donors get tax receipts.
- Michael mentions BestBuy grants for education technology (\$50K) and other similar ones we should look for.
- We will do some cost-splitting with JKC (e.g., for lunch-room tables, which JKC uses regularly), and will also seek co-grants with JKC.

9. Popcorn sales and hot-dog lunches: Emilia Doro

- We own a popcorn machine, and we will do popcorn sales at recess on Fridays.
 - It's up to teachers to recruit parents from their classes to run popcorn popping and sales for designated Fridays, and keep the funding for their class.
 - Emilia will get all supplies in place
- No planned dates for hot dog lunches yet, but it has been lucrative in the past, even if we don't get the supplies donated. Emilia will check the calendar and pick some likely dates. Volunteers will be needed.

10. Holiday Market (14 December): Emilia Doro

- We have a market with vendors on the market day. Beforehand, we do presales of wreaths, trees, coffee, tea, chocolates, and gift cards, which can then be picked up at the market

11. Support for sister school (Hastings Elementary) over the holidays: Joss Taylor

- Jasica Grewal (our community schools coordinator) will ask Hastings school how they prefer to receive our support (gift cards, hampers, other...).
- Last year, they indicated that they didn't want hampers, so hampers were sent to women immigrant support organizations.
- QE Annex has a sister school, and one thing they do is send outgrown winter jackets to sister school.
- If we don't do hampers, based on their preference, maybe we could do a toy drive in conjunction with the Holiday Market.

12. New business

- We had inquired at Redemption Church about using their space for events or meetings.
 - They charge just \$50 per event, but only have a few dates available (mostly Thursdays and Saturdays).