



Bayview PAC Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Location: Virtual meeting via TEAMS

In Attendance: Joss Taylor, Birgitte Biorn, Anna Friedlander, Kent Grier, Michael Rossi, Kelly Ryan, Sarah Shneiderman, Sam Asmoucha, Jocelyn Chang, Cora Korthals, Sarah-Jane Damiani, Emilia Doro, Itzia Paz, Ebru Montagano; Sue Kochan, Jennifer Tham, Jack Judge [or Vivian Chong], Jacqueline Henderson, Lauren Angelucci

Agenda Items

1. Introduction/Call for additional agenda items

- Minutes of the last meeting (following pages): minutes were accepted as presented.
- The order of agenda items was reorganized somewhat to accommodate speakers' schedules.

2. Teachers' update: Sam Asmoucha

- Things have been going very well, and the teachers have been a happy group, happy to be at Bayview in person with the kids. We hit the ground running from the holiday break
- Mr A's class is working on stop-motion movies on the school iPads—it's fun to watch them learn the tech and then use it to convey meaning and stories
- The FSA (Foundations Skills Assessment tests for grades 4 and 7) test will be coming up in February. This test is opposed by teachers' groups. Parents can request that their child be withdrawn from FSA testing, and the Bayview teachers encourage this. In a nutshell, teachers feel that it doesn't help kids learn, doesn't inform teaching, and takes up a lot of time and adds stress. Speak directly to your teacher(s) if you have any questions.
- Question from a parent re FSA: what are the results used for? Mr. A: as far as he sees, not much is done with it except for ranking schools, which teachers feel is unethical. It doesn't have anything to do directly with what's being done in class.
- Birgitte comments: Bayview has many fewer kids writing the FSA than other schools she has experienced. At other schools where she has been, the information was used to see if there are any patterns emerging as to what types of knowledge or skills are strong or weak; this could inform the school's growth plans or directions of instruction. Teachers at Bayview have a pretty good sense of where their students are and where they need to go, without the test. Birgitte will send grade 4 and 7 parents the FSA information when it comes from the Ministry of Education.

3. Masks in school: Anna Friedlander

- The question of whether kids should be wearing masks in their classrooms has come up in various parent conversations lately, and the BC Teachers' Federation has asked people to encourage mask-wearing in schools, so it seemed like this is a conversation that we should have as a group, among parents and staff.
- We're so grateful to have the kids at school in person, for so many reasons, so it's a preeminent priority to keep our schools open as long as possible.
- The health authority hasn't mandated masks in schools, so we can't force anyone to wear them. And there are lots of different points of view on this. Anna personally feels that although we can't force



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mask-wearing, we should *very* strongly encourage a culture of mask-wearing indoors, since masks are one of the most effective of the various protective strategies, and it's a pretty easy strategy to implement. The BCTF actually is asking parents exactly that: to "help us support a culture of mask-wearing." Kids in school will readily follow what the teachers strongly encourage, and as more people around them wear masks, it soon becomes normal and expected. We're already making them wear masks when they go into places like supermarkets, so why should they expect different in any other indoor group space?

- Especially with more-infectious variants of the virus circulating, it seems like a particularly important time to up our game in preventing the spread and keeping our school open.
- Teachers' perspective (Mr. A): this is left mostly to the individual teachers. In general, teachers take their orders from the health authority; we respect kids who want to wear masks, but haven't been enforcing masks. Unless it's mandated, teachers won't push in that direction. So far, we've been lucky at Bayview. If teachers go to another class, they will wear masks, but otherwise generally aren't wearing them in their own classrooms.
- Jennifer (Wesley's mom): Wesley is in kindergarten, and she was hoping that masks would be worn. She works in long-term care, and has an elderly mother helping at home, so feels strongly that the kids should wear masks. She has had to keep Wesley in Option 4 because masks aren't being worn. If a culture of masking comes from the adults, even the youngest kids will adapt and wear the masks fine.
- Ebru is on the VESTA (Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association) health and safety committee, which just met. They were told that none of the VSB cases were transmitted in school—they were all community transmissions.
- Sarah asks: is there any policy on mask-wearing for teachers who work with multiple classes (e.g., gym, library)? Also: has this become an issue of social pressure among the kids, re kids who do and don't wear masks?

[this discussion was put on hold here while Michael and Kent give their update, then we returned to it]

- Birgitte: for staff who work with students outside their cohort, they wear a mask when with those students. Staff always wear a mask outside their own classroom; Ms Hinds and students going into QE for gym wear a mask, so kids should always have masks with them. If they don't have one, they go to the office to get one.
- Re dealing with social pressures among kids re masks: Ebru hasn't noticed any social problems around masks.
- Birgitte: at a recent administrators' meeting, the district health and safety officer gave an update, using language that staff and students are *strongly encouraged* to wear masks; we will reiterate this strong language with Bayview staff.
- Joss: if there was more encouragement of wearing masks, then parents who may not feel strongly would be willing to support that. At the safety orientation the first day of school, every kid had a mask, even though they weren't mandatory; but by the second or third week, kids weren't wearing them anymore.
- Ebru agrees with Birgitte that it's hard for teachers to teach in masks and project their voices. Some of the Bayview teachers do wear a mask most of the day, but others feel that their classroom functions as a bubble. On the bus, all students should be wearing masks. Having to enforce mask wearing in the classes would heighten anxiety and stress for both teachers and students.



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- Jennifer agrees that having the masks gives everybody a buffer of safety, with the kids inevitably close together, riding buses, and sharing playgrounds with another school.

4. Seismic rebuild update: Michael Rossi, Kent Grier

- Chandos Construction is making good headway at the construction site.
- Timeline: we are still targeting winter of 2021-22 for completion (“winter” being mid-Dec. to mid-Feb.).
- Workers have finished all excavation under the building; recompacted new fill, and put in concrete foundation walls with drilled-in soil anchors (40 of them). Most of the noisiest work has now been completed.
- Now they are assembling components: first, pouring foundation concrete; the CLT wood wall panels (6”-thick modular panels) are in production at a factory in the Kootenays. As soon as foundation is done, those will be trucked in and the building shell will take shape.
- Question from Kelly: we need to know the fall-height requirements on the playground, for playground-surfacing grant applications (one has a deadline of January 31). Michael responds: after trying several times, he has now asked the right question of the grounds crew, so should get an answer soon. They were trying to calculate the fall height for each piece of equipment—what we needed was the fall height of the tallest piece.
- Question from Kelly: re projectors, the installation is covered by the project budget? Kent: yes, installation of all classroom and library projectors is covered. This cost is ~\$500 per projector. Maple Grove and Tennyson just opened, and they are dealing with projectors now, so we might want to talk to them about what they like or don’t like about the projector models they have, and the costs. Michael comments: the VSB has procurement agreements with particular companies: he believes that BenQ is the current preferred brand.
- Kent: the gym scoreboard supplier we have lined up is very good. Kent suggests that the installation be coordinated with the construction company. The floor in the gym is sprung, so it would be good to have the scoreboard installed when it can be supervised, to avoid any damage to the floor.
- Question from Sarah: if the school were done in February, would we move in then, or wait until next year? Michael: It depends on what works educationally and what works for the project. It’s very hard to move over a single weekend, especially with the distancing required between movers and school community. Details will be ironed out when we get closer to the date. We would need a long weekend, or spring break. But move-in will be done as soon as feasible, rather than waiting until the next full semester.

5. Principal's update: Birgitte Biorn

- Our new teacher, Katrina Leroux, is settling in well and enjoying the school.
- Report cards go home next Friday. All teachers have now moved to an online format for generating the report cards—a big learning curve, but everyone has it figured out. Teachers can report cards to Birgitte electronically, and she can review online and comment immediately. There will be more pages to look at (explanation of performance scales, etc.), but what the teachers are actually writing is about the same. What comes home will be on paper as always.
- At assemblies and throughout the school year, we’ve been focusing on being an anti-racist school. With Black History month coming in February, we will continue discussions around anti-racism.



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- Staff have started a book club, now reading and enjoying *The Skin We're In*, by Desmond Cole
- The January 29 assembly will be attended by VSB chair Suzanne Hoffman (just observing).
- Registrations for kindergarten are going well; we will definitely have two K classes next year.
- A few families have left, and others are coming in, although there has been a bit less than the usual amount of mobility.
- Student leadership will get up and running in February.

6. New school fundraising update: Kelly Ryan

- ~\$160K raised so far; we need about \$250K total for everything we would like to do.
- We have hit a wall with individual donations; are now working on companies, businesses, banks, grant applications (Telus community participation grant is being written by Sandra Mithani; Rebecca Bansbach is working on a grant for recycled-rubber playground surfacing).
- Wesgroup donated \$8900 for gym scoreboard; they are not requiring inclusion on a donor plaque.

7. Treasurer's update: Emilia Doro

- Current bank balances:
 - Regular account: \$28,886.26
 - Term deposits: 3-year \$30,750; Cashable 30-day \$10,000; Non-redeemable annual \$15,000
 - Gaming account: \$6,401

8. Kindness Week activities (February): Emilia Doro

- Yuka and Emilia are working on possibilities for fun activities for the kids during the week before Valentine's Day (which falls on a Sunday); this is a 4-day week, with Friday Feb. 12 a pro-D day.
- The plan would be to have an activity for each day of that week:
 - Candygrams fundraiser sale; spirit day dress-up; hot chocolate (left over from IGA's holiday breakfast donation); some sort of contest (e.g. colouring sheet, poem), with the winning class getting something like chips and juice boxes--the items crafted in the contest could be donated to a seniors' home.

9. Pink Shirt Day shirts (February 24): Joss Taylor

- Bayview custom pink shirt sales
- The idea for a student-designed pink-shirt-day shirt came from a parent last year; the winning primary and intermediate designs are being printed on shirts that can now be ordered.
- Shirts will be delivered the week of February 17.
- So far we have sold about 60 shirts; will need a reminder to go out soon.

10. Staff Appreciation (March?): Emilia Doro

- We usually do a staff appreciation potluck luncheon with special decor, but with Covid, we can't do this, so we're looking for some ideas and for a few people to put it together.
- e.g., coffee and muffins; delivery lunch; etc.?
- Ebru: Staff Appreciation is always super-appreciated by the staff. The notes that students write mean the world to everyone, so that's a great thing to do if nothing else.



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- We are also looking for a coordinator(s) to set up a Dine and Donate event, in which a restaurant does a particular day when all orders from Bayview have a portion donated to Bayview. If interested, please email the PAC.

11. Purdy's Easter chocolates fundraiser: Emilia Doro

- This will be all online, as with the Christmas Purdy's sale.
- The Easter ordering is already live. The ordering deadline is March 22; pickup will be at McBride Park on March 31 (Easter is April 4).

12. New Business

[no new business was proposed]