

Date: Feb 2, 2021	Location: online (zoom)	Start Time: 7:30pm
Chair: Shandelle Skaley	Recorder: Avishai Weissberg	End Time: 8:30 pm

Membership	Role	Attended
Bridget Ford Ashley Hansen Shandelle Skaley Avishai Weissberg Joel David	Co-treasurer Co-chair Co-chair Secretary DPAC rep	Y
Peter Woo	Principal (Non-voting member)	Y
Other members or participants	Denis Ryan, Jennifer Durham, Pearl Yiu, Jimmy Lee, Lyndon Price, Sophia Lopes, Anita	
Next Meeting	Mar 2, 2021 at 7:30 pm online (zoom)	

Review Last Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved. Motion raised by Ashley, seconded by Bridget and approved.

Principal's Update

Valentine's Day Fundraiser for Food Bank

We sold approximately 400 Valentine-grams raising approximately \$800 for Food Bank. This was due to lots of hard work by the teachers, we thank them for their effort.

Ashley: Is it too late to order more?

Mr Woo: I think it is.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) and Student Learning Survey (SLS)

Coincidentally, both are done by grade 4 and 7 students.

FSA tests fundamental literacy and math skills. It is controversial, since results are published by schools as a whole (not individual students) and comparisons are made. Some teachers (not in

DLG) actually teach to the test and exclude ELL and Special Education students at their discretion. Teachers sent home a union letter, advising parents to exclude their kids.

SLS asks questions about what you learn, nutrition, and out-of-school activities. It allows the Ministry of Education to look at how schools are doing and which areas to focus on.

Anita: Are the tests required? Can I exclude my child?

Mr Woo: Yes, you can decline. There are no marks. It'll just give you an idea on how well your child is doing compared to others. However, the value is questionable, since there's very little time to grade them.

Report Cards Sent Home

Report cards were sent home last Friday (January 29, 2021).

For elementary, all Vancouver schools no longer use traditional letter grades (A,B, C+,C, C-, F). Instead they use Student Competency Scales (Beginning, Developing, Applying, Extending).

At-Home Learners received a short version which reported out only language arts and math.

At-School Learners who returned late had varying degrees of reporting depending on time back at school.

Mr Woo was requested by the school board to contact all the at-home learners to see if they wish to come back. They know remote learning is challenging.

Music Concert

Ms. Tchir is in the process of recording a concert to be published for public viewing on March 1.

Mr Woo will help in recording the video, and Ms Tchir's partner will assist in editing.

Seismic Update

Basketball court is gone. Students playing in that area are playing on the hard-packed dirt between the fence and intermediate playground. Formally we are still at the "clearing portables" stage.

Mr Woo had a good talk with Kent the project manager about the top floor, current progress, and finances.

A portion of the budget is set aside for incidentals, e.g in our case some is used for removing the oil tank near near Mr Woo's office.

Avishai: Was it expected that we will lose our basketball court?

Mr Woo: No. They needed it for safety, and to get a larger area for work, e.g easier access for the trucks. They need access to some sewer/water line in that proximity.

Bridget: We're going to lose another quarter of the gravel yard, but they're not digging there right now. Can we ask Kent about that?

Mr Woo: We're also going to lose the parking lot.

Shandelle: How are the kids managing with this?

Mr Woo: They're doing ok. The basketball court changed to a soccer field. Behavior-wise, their behavior is actually improved compared to last year.

Ashley: There was water pouring into the daycare. Maybe due to the huge puddle near the entrance.

Mr Woo: We called maintenance but they were busy with an emergency and didn't come.

Denis: what happened to the time lapse camera we discussed?

Mr Woo: I put it up! It's attached to the window in Ms Mah's class.

DPAC Update

Approved a motion on 28th around sale of land

The motion was that the school board should not be selling land for cash. However, a lease or exchange is ok. The reasoning is that it's short term thinking.

The school board is projecting to have fewer kids year over year. The board's planning is at odds with Vancouver city.

Avishai: How does the board plan for the number of kids?

Joel: It's a projection. DPAC disagrees with the methodology used in this projection.

Bridget: How often do they put out these long range plans?

Joel: It used to be once every 10 years, refreshed annually. But it never officially gets refreshed.

Looks like there's a will to approve the Long Term Facilities Plan.

There's also an Alternate Use plan. The board is considering ways to raise revenue. The DPAC resists sales as this part of the plan.

Terms of reference for an anti racism committee

There are going to be a DPAC committee and a school board committee. If you want to provide input on the scope or if you want to be part of the committee, let us know.

Shandelle: DLG unconventionally has a full time music teacher and music program. We also received a request for feedback on our music program. I sent it to Bridget. It's very lengthy. I'm unsure what kind of feedback they want.

Bridget: We are very privileged at DLG in that respect: the string instrument program is free.

Mr Woo: This fits perfectly when there's a space when the teachers don't have to teach (due to union rules).

Mr Woo: The school board has a 10 year plan to roll out music teachers everywhere.

Bridget: In the new school, where are we going to have a dedicated space for music?

Mr Woo: One of the multipurpose rooms will serve as a music room,. the cabinetry for the instruments.

Financial Update

There was one deposit of \$2008, from the Purdy's Christmas fundraiser.

This leaves \$16,737 in the general account, and 17,744 in the casino account (where there was no movement this month).

Bridget got another \$200 check from Purdys that needs to be deposited.

New Primary Playground Update/Plan to Raise funds/Direct Donation

Last time (a few years ago, when the current playground was built), the PAC raised \$20,000 for the playground. We are reusing the "direct appeal" approach.

Any company can donate over \$3000 and get their name on the plaque. Real estate agents also donate money every year.

The request letter is going out home to everyone and will also be published in the weekly online newsletter. It's translated to Chinese.

Bridget talked with multiple builders, and only got a negative response from one of them. That's a good indication, as negative responses are usually fast.

Bridget visited 4 companies to get playground plans. However, they all asked for more detailed plans from the school board, and the school board hasn't provided it yet. Therefore, there's nothing to report on it tonight.

Kent was supposed to send it today, but he hasn't.

Bridget worked a lot with kindergarten teachers to give them some ideas, in order to avoid them being biased by the plans from the contractor companies.

Ashley: Kindergarten kids are going to lose their running area. Any ideas what we can do about that?

Multiple ideas were suggested.

Other Business

Movie Afternoon

Shandelle: I suggest March 12.

Mr Woo: The teachers are supportive of this idea.

Shandelle: Do we need to purchase the license?

Mr Woo: Let me know which movie you want and I'll try to get the screening rights.

Shandelle: what do you think about "Soul"?

Ashley: I agree, it's a good movie for the upper grades.

Denis: I rang Dunbar Theater about getting a giant bag of popcorn, freshly made. It's \$50 for about the equivalent of 13 large popcorn cinema boxes.

Shandelle: Let us know if you'd like to volunteer to the movie team.

Shandelle: We are going to have unities bags of 4 items in order to stay Covid-safe.

Ashley: We can add tiny gifts that I can get for free.

Set next Pac Meeting Date

Shandelle proposed March 2.