

**David Livingstone PAC
General Meeting Minutes
April 15th, 2020**

Welcome: Welcome and quick discussion on how our first Zoom PAC will proceed, muting lines, how to ask questions, motions and approvals etc.

Jo-Anne: We have 20 people expected, but I don't know if that is happening. In terms of etiquette, we think it would be better not to block people from talking. If we are not speaking, we should mute our lines so background noise doesn't interrupt the meeting or who is speaking. Please say what you have to say and then we can have a break for questions. Tonight, the main focus is to have a touch base. We haven't done anything since the last PAC meeting. We just wanted to touch base and get an update from Carrie. We only had one or two questions from the DL community. We had very little in the treasurer's report.

Acknowledgement: We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land in which we gather is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh First Nations.

Approval of Agenda:

Approve Minutes from March: Minutes were placed on the Facebook page and Andrew sent it out through the parent reps. There was a request to initiate the motion but there was also a concern we didn't have enough people on the zoom session. March minutes were moved to the next meeting for approval.

Number of people on the zoom call: 16

Principal's (Carrie Froese (CF)) Report: Part of why we haven't gotten a lot of questions here is because I have been getting a lot of questions directly. I think there is a lot of conversation happening. Week one was focused on researching digital formats, and week 2 has involved implementing multiple pathways of learning and communicating. Some of the teachers are using Blueprint, and others are using Office Teams. There is also a range of technology capacity so some teachers are very new to these platforms while others are more familiar. Every teacher has been in contact with their classroom families. Resource and SSA support has started this week. Staff meetings are all done on teams (Microsoft office). Everything is a work in progress. This week, we learned that there will be assessments and report cards to be sent out. Questions such as 'what is sufficient learning' and 'how will we assess' will need to be considered. While this is all happening, there are many 'regular' things happening too. Kindergarten enrolment is happening and in the coming year, we will have 3 Kindergarten classes. This has allowed us to accept everyone in catchment and cross boundary siblings. We are exploring what staffing will look like for future years with 3 kindergarten classes. Susan (office

administrator) is not back yet but I am working on submitting receipts/invoices to the PAC for reimbursement.

Question: How are Staff handling these new changes and different ways of teaching?

CF Response: Teachers do have professional autonomy; which includes how they will facilitate their teaching. Some teachers are doing online opportunities while others are doing packages for pick up. The key thread is the curriculum which is driving the learning opportunities but teaching looks different within schools, and across other schools/district.

Question: If assessments are going to continue for report cards, how will this be done given the flexibility around doing and submitting assignments?

CF's Response: Today was the first day we learned that we will have report cards. The children will need to demonstrate sufficient learning; which will be based on teacher judgement. This information was communicated at 2 pm today during a meeting with the superintendent so the teachers haven't had a chance to discuss this. Because things are changing so rapidly, teachers have requested 2 staff meetings a week to address changes like this. We have to balance the "assessments" with what is going on in the wider world and with our families. I have parents calling me in tears that they aren't doing well at teaching their kids. People are dealing with multiple stressors and we don't want to increase stress on families. If people need help, we hope they will come to us for help. This whole situation is a dance. We know that we have to figure out realistic expectations around sufficient learning. What data will we draw on to make those assessments? We are going to be assessing that. We have already done report cards in January and we have all of that data, and we have data from January to spring break. We will draw on this existing data, and assess how to incorporate new data.

Question: Does every teacher have to connect at least once a week with students?

CF's Response: We are all having a tough time advising people what the world is going to look like. It is tough to navigate. At a minimum, all teachers and families need to connect on a weekly basis. We went through emails, parent phone numbers and then through emergency contacts to ensure we connected. I have a list of resources. It is part of our job to take care of each other. One of the first questions I received was about childcare support for essential service providers. I contacted the district to let them know that this was an important concern. If people need food security and support, we can help there too. We have to do the help and safety piece first. The second piece is the curriculum which is layered on top of the safety piece. If parents don't want to connect with teachers to indicate hardships or stressors, they can come to me and I can connect families to the right people and agencies. This information is being communicated in the newsletters as well but I will include it in subsequent communications too.

Chair Report: Julia & Jo (5 minutes)

PAC budget will look different next year. We would have had 26,000 dollars of fundraising for the remainder of the year. What is still going to come out of the account is the money allocated for teachers and teacher supports. We will work with Carrie on what needs to be done. We need to have some priorities for September like teacher supports at the beginning of the year. We also don't know what September will look like. We are considering all of these factors. We will pass at least some sort of budget even if it is a skeleton budget. We want staff to have some funds to rely on when they return. We also have a small budget to support families in need. If we need more money for this support, we will hold a PAC meeting to approve that. Carrie is the point person for support requests to maintain confidentiality.

Recruiting New PAC Execs: We would like more DL families to join the PAC. Ideally, if people joined this year, they could learn the processes by working alongside current members so that any future transitions would be easier. It would be amazing to have new people on the PAC Exec in June so that when we start in September, the PAC Executives are in place.

Treasurer Report: April [Treasurer's Report](#) and approval – this was deferred for next month's PAC meeting.

Unfinished Business:

SSA Letter: While we won't be speaking about this tonight, we will keep it on the list so we can pick it up when we can. I did have some communication with Jodie today and in 2 weeks to 4 weeks, we can reach out to superintendent and trustee, and inquire about the state of the SSA education program? What will that mean for the Vancouver district.
CR Responded: There was an announcement today that people are still in progress with graduating at the end of this year.

Jo-Anne: There are a handful of people spear heading this and it would be better to have information coming from them if anyone has any questions.

We will try this again in May and at that point, we may have a better picture of what will be happening around school.

There was a DPAC meeting last week and questions were raised about children's safety. There are a lot of moving parts right now, but there were some practical safety processes being considered such as replacing faucets so they are touchless. With our upcoming seismic upgrade, we are putting those questions back to the trustees so they can include these new safety measures in the seismic plan. We do have to include these pandemic safety protocols on top of the earthquake situation.

Questions:

Parent: What is going on with the grade 7 trip?

CF: It is cancelled. The biggest thing is how we reimburse money back to families. We are still trying to figure this out but most likely cheques will need to be issued.

Parent: We also want the longevity of that tradition (annual large field trip) to stay alive, so is there something we can do as the PAC?

JA: I would love to do something special too but we typically the PAC has not been involved directly but have done supportive things such as paying for the movie licensing for the movie fundraisers. We will discuss doing something special for the grade 7s with Carrie.

Carrie: DL staff will definitely be doing something special for the grade 7s and the Pac is really meant to use funding and distribute for the benefit of the whole school.

Parent: If there is going to be assessments, not everyone has access to the materials or technology/resources. In our situation, we aren't able to do the assigned work as we don't have the material. How is that going to impact the individual students?

CF: There is going to be flexibility. We just heard today about report cards going out, and we don't know what it will mean to meet sufficient learning. It is a new adventure. The teachers are trying their very best to make the connections and see this through, and we will have to be patient with each other as we create new assessment strategies and processes. The number one point person is the teacher. We strongly encourage parents to say what they can do and what they can't do. This needs to be communicated with the teachers and we will navigate it one way or another.

Parent: Each parent is going to have advocate for their children with classroom teachers?

CF: We want to have communication between families and teachers. Currently, teachers are working with SSAs and resource teachers via their weekly back and forths so we can try to develop structures that are working with students. This back and forth, can be done between the student and DL staff or parents/student and DL staff. It may that you are at a meeting, or a phone call, or finishing an assignment, or being on teams. Some people are doing zoom. There are all sorts of things playing out and exploring what will work best.

Parent Question: Some families don't have printers and they are getting print offs?]

CF: That was one of the first questions asked by teachers to the families (if they have access to suitable technology), and I have only lent out one piece of technology. It is early in the process so we have to change and shift things. What I am really worried about the loss of engagement. Now, students will be sitting down with a parent and possibly reading something trying to make those connections - that will be the best engagement. Engagement is part of the new curriculum but challenging to do online at times. Also, it is important to remember these are still early days and we can keep working on these issues. I strongly encourage parents to connect with teachers. Teachers are the ones who are orchestrating all of the teaching with resource support and SSAs.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20th, 7:00 p.m. Zoom call instructions will be sent 1 week in advance.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:53 p.m.