



**Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2017**

**Meeting Highlights:** *We learned about memory and how to help our kids remember new things they've learned; discussed new staff and classroom changes; and looked forward to the Courageous Conversation on Race on April 26.*

**Welcome and Acknowledgments**

An acknowledgement that we meet on the traditional Aboriginal territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

**Memory and the Young Learner Presentation – Jackie**

Jackie reviewed some of her findings from her Master's degree, which parents can use to help their children's learning. Much of what people learn is forgotten almost immediately. Jackie outlined three strategies to help retain information better:

- Practice and retrieval (i.e. a test or pop quiz) one day after learning new information leads to greater retention in the long run. The brain needs practice in calling forth the new knowledge.
- Put new learning into a context of information the learner already knows and is interested in.
- People learn better after they are excited.

**March 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve March 2017 minutes: Tanya. Seconded: Jackie. Approved.

**Principal's Report – Mr. Mitzel**

VSB Budget Survey. VSB is looking for more people to give input to the VSB budget process. A link to the survey will be in the newsletter. The budget will now be tied to the five year strategic plan.

Garden. Mulch will be used to reduce the mud in the garden. Older classes will have to figure out the required cubic meters, and the City will supply free mulch. An upcoming newsletter will have a call for large pieces of cardboard to cover the grass before the mulch goes down.

Multicultural Day May 12. This event will encourage students and families to look back at their history. Forms have gone home for some classes; others are on the way. The day will include participation by a local Aboriginal representative, a band performance at 2pm, and a bead string as a visual reminder of the length of human history in Canada.

Courageous Conversation on Race April 26. Angela Brown will facilitate a talking circle. Parents and staff will be able to attend. 7pm in the library.

Staff Changes. Due to shortages of teachers on call, resource and administration have been filling in when teachers are away. Ms. Arvanitis (resource and reading recovery teacher) is on mat leave. Mr. Vokarath is filling her role until June.

Class Sizes and Classrooms. Due to reductions in class sizes, Livingstone will be gaining 2 divisions next year (for a total of 15). The current music and resource rooms will be used for enrolling classes, and the music program will be in the primary lunchroom. The logistics will have to be worked out, but Ms. Presley is confident. Spaces will also have to be found for resource spaces, psychologist, counsellor, etc. The portables used by Spare Time will not be affected. The District will provide funds to retrofit spaces (buying cupboards etc.).

Classes are more likely to be straight grade classes rather than split grades next year.

There will be 39 new kindergarteners next year in two divisions. 8 children are on the current waitlist; these children will attend Brock next year unless their families apply elsewhere.

### **Co-Chair Report – Judy and Andrew**

PAC Executive. PAC is looking for nominations for executives for next year.

Fundraising Events. There will be no Walk-a-Thon this year. Staff were consulted and requested to hold off this year; given the large effort already underway for the school multicultural day in May, they were concerned it would require too much work and class time. PAC does not have any large projects on the immediate horizon, and our current fundraising needs will be met by other ongoing fundraising efforts such as Fun Lunch. Car Free Day will likely go forward.

VSB Budget. There is an opportunity to speak at the VSB budget meeting. The District will be balancing the budget, so the primary message will encourage ongoing advocacy

for Provincial funding. Andrew will make a presentation; if you have feedback please let him know.

Seismic Upgrade. VSB is working on their operating budget, not the capital budget that deals with seismic upgrading. Livingstone is in the business case development phase. PAC has contacted the VSB and the Ministry of Education. Parents are encouraged to also communicate their personal feelings directly with VSB.

PAC Multicultural Night. There is a committee of six people who will soon be starting planning for a September event.

Courageous Conversation on Race. PAC will host a facilitated event on April 26. The school Code of Conduct was discussed; there have been requests to explicitly update the Code to include a prohibition on racial discrimination. Translation of the event notices was encouraged.

#### **Treasurer's Report - Lennie**

Lennie reviewed the Treasurer's report dated April 2017. The balance in the general account was \$30,390.55. Much of this money is committed. The Gaming Grant balance was \$4,459.62.

Motion to approve treasurer's report: Jackie. Seconded: Caroline. Approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Next meeting: May 10, 2017 at 7pm in staff room.