



**Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2018**

Welcome and Acknowledgement

Judy acknowledged that the land in which we gather is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Intention

Judy began by setting an intention for the gathering. All PAC meetings are to be held with respect, inclusiveness, and understanding of others. We are gathered to create and share ideas that will enrich the education of our children through community based learning.

Participants were asked to choose a river rock and think about their own intention for the meeting.

December 2017 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve December 2017 minutes: Cara. Seconded: Nicole. Approved.

Chair Report - Judy

DPAC. Our representative to DPAC (District Parent Advisory Committee) is Bindy Kaur. DPAC is the legislated parent voice at the school district (vancouverdpac.org). Bindy takes minutes on our meetings to DPAC, and will report back to Livingstone PAC on district activities. Parents are encouraged to check it out and consider being the rep in future years. DPAC also holds one gathering a year regarding Ministry of Education issues; this meeting is usually held at Tupper.

Passage Adventures. This summer, two Australian women will be kayaking the Inside Passage, to raise funds and awareness for garbage cleanup along remote beaches on the BC west coast and in Australia. The new BC curriculum studies local environmental issues, so PAC requested a Passage Adventures presentation to students in April. There would also be additional communication in the fall to report back after their trip. Judy proposed using some of the Fall Fund Drive proceeds for an honorarium to the speakers (to be voted upon later).

Stream of Dreams. This is a local program to educate students about streams and waterways within the city and local efforts to restore them. In addition, students will each decorate a wooden fish, which are placed along one of the fences around the schoolyard. More details will be provided at future meetings.

PAC Funding. A parent wondered if PAC should reduce fundraising efforts because we are looking for ways to spend the funds. Judy explained that new expenditure ideas will be coming forward at the April PAC meeting. The April meeting will be dedicated to voting on programs and expenditures for the 2018/2019 school year.

Jo Anne explained the advantages of planning 2018/2019 expenditures in April 2018. This allows teachers to plan ahead e.g. performances or programs can be booked further in advance, ensuring the best dates and programs.

All parents/guardians with an idea they would like to implement are encouraged to bring proposals to the PAC executive before the April meeting. All proposals should have teacher support; check with Mr. Peeters or a teacher with whom you have a good relationship. Projects do not have to be applicable to all grade levels. PAC supports community-based learning, so all projects should involve students.

It was confirmed that teachers can also come to PAC with funding requests, usually through Mr. Peeters. Teachers have a fund request form that they can submit.

After-School Programs. There is lots of demand for the Tupper after school programs; parents asked whether PAC can support more spaces or programs. Mr. Peeters explained that external program providers have to rent spaces and require teacher(s) to provide their classrooms. This interferes with teachers' lesson planning and preparation time. The Tupper programs are though VSB, so they are limited to the staffroom or gym space, if available.

Field Trip Fund. Parents asked whether PAC can support field trips. PAC has approached Livingstone teachers about this idea in the past. Teachers were not supportive.

Sister Schools. Parents discussed the idea of assisting sister schools that do not have the same fundraising capability as Livingstone. The idea was considered worthy and was tabled to the next meeting to allow for fuller discussion.

Car Free Day. In past years, Livingstone has had a booth at Car Free Day, to show community spirit. Volunteers are needed to run the booth and supervise student volunteers. The booth could be done in combination with Tupper's booth. There is no class time involved.

Walk A Thon. The Walk a Thon will be held May 25. Students get sponsored to walk laps around the field on a Friday afternoon. Many volunteers are needed: ahead of time, on the day, and for clean up. A Google doc will be posted on which volunteers can sign up.

Two years ago the Walk a Thon proceeds paid for the front entry mural and the new library furniture. This year, funding will be used to support items that are proposed at the April meeting, which may include giving back to the larger community.

Jerseys. The school has requested a few more jerseys in larger sizes for the grade 7 boys and girls. Twelve jerseys at \$40 = \$480. Mr. Peeters confirmed that students have been very responsible in returning their jerseys after each sport season.

Motion for \$480 for 12 large size jerseys: Judy. Seconded: Jo Anne. Approved.

Around the World project. Judy described Ms. Geri's current project, Around the World in 180 Days. The goal is to instill a sense of wonder about people from around the world. From January to June, each student has a "passport" and will read books and explore online to see cultures throughout the world.

There will also be "Living Library" events at the end of each month: up to 20 community members/speakers from a variety of countries will be available for students to meet and ask questions.

In June, students can enter their passport to win a prize (the prize will be an experience). Parents who can help source this prize are encouraged to drop by the library and speak to Ms. Geri.

Motion to provide Ms. Geri with \$500 to purchase speaker/presenter gifts at her discretion: Jon. Seconded: Nicole. Approved.

We agreed that Ms. Geri can also approach the PAC executive regarding any larger honorariums for professional speakers/presenters.

Treasurer's Report

Judy reviewed the Treasurer's report dated January 2018. The balance in the general account was \$45,331.66. The school has been given nearly \$26,000 in cheques that have not been cashed, and there are also lots of fun lunch expenses and other expenses that have already been allocated. Roughly \$12,000 is currently available.

The Gaming Grant balance was \$6,729.31.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Nicole. Seconded: Caroline. Approved.

Committee Reports

Soiree Committee. The committee met last night. No report.

Fall Fund Drive. Karin reported that the Fall Fund Drive raised nearly \$11,000. Based on teacher and staff requests, this funding is proposed to be allocated as follows:

- \$1,950 science and math resource space
- \$750 Passage Adventures
- \$750 arts performances
- \$750 athletics (e.g. sports equipment)
- \$6,500 iPads

Motion to confirm the allocation of funds as outlined above, with understanding that items will be purchased no later than March 2018 (or when applicable): Nicole. Seconded: Jo Anne.

Motion amended to clarify that \$6,500 can be used for iPads OR other technology such as keyboards, to be determined by staff.

In favour: majority. Opposed: 2 (Jessica and Alisa). Abstain: 1 (Jon). Approved.

Accounts Receivables. Jo Anne had no report.

Principal's Report – Mr. Peeters

Basketball. Basketball teams have formed. The boys' team has 20 students and two parent coaches, Judy and Warren. Another parent, Jer, is coaching the girls' team. The girls' team has only 7 or 8 members; they are considering adding grade 5s. Games start next week.

Performances: A drumming performance has been booked, and Hip Hop is underway. A performance will be held next Tuesday morning, ideally for students to perform for their peers. Due to space constraints, parents are asked to watch from the stage and only watch their own child's class. Consent for photos/videos has not been provided for all students, so parents and guardians are asked NOT to take photos or videos.

Around the World: January 31 will be the first Living Library event.

Student Learning Grant: Livingstone received a Student Learning Grant from the Ministry of Education of approximately \$50 per student. Roughly \$20 per student has been spent on staff computers and laptops for non-enrolling teachers (resource, librarian, music). Funds may also be used to purchase art equipment or fund activities. Mr. Peeters will make a final report to PAC after all expenditures have been made.

Screen Time. Some parents have raised concerns, and staff has held discussions, around screen time in the classroom. Livingstone is a tech-forward school, and some teachers use technology extensively. However, staff is aware that constant use can be dangerous.

A parent clarified their concern is about the kind of screen time, specifically movies. Mr. Peeters encouraged parents to talk to their child's teacher if they have concerns. Teachers generally have educationally sound reasons for using technology. However, if a parent is not satisfied after speaking to the teacher, they are welcome to speak to Mr. Peeters. A BC Teacher's Federation resource document on technology and teaching will also be posted to the school website.

Communicating Student Learning. A parent asked for clarification on reporting requirements for classes that are not using traditional report cards. Teachers that are doing the pilot (that is, are not using report cards but are using Fresh Grade or some other communication method) have to communicate about each child's learning during the year. There will be midterm reports at the end of January, and at least three other communications during the year.

After the end of June, the District will be providing opportunities for feedback on the pilot classes and communication methods.

Closing Intention

Judy described the closing intention. Each participant gave their river rock to the person sitting beside them: Judy reminded us that the energy and intentions we bring to these meetings are shared with others. Participants are reminded to please be respectful and kind to each other.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

The next PAC meeting will be February 17, 2018 at 7pm in the library.