



**Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017**

Meeting Highlights: *We learned about the history and current happenings in the school garden; discussed new class size rules and PAC advocacy; and reviewed staffing, PAC executive positions, the grade 7 trip, and the multicultural night committee.*

Introductions and Acknowledgments

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

Garden Presentation – Lea and Cara

Lea gave an overview of the history of the school garden, which in 2011 began as the idea of one of the SSWs, Jen Fisher. New beds were added in 2014, and this year PAC funds helped bring the “Classroom Gardener” program to Livingstone.

Cara provided an overview of the program. Classroom Gardener provides a resource package to each teacher, with materials including books, tools, gloves, resources, and two Pro D day presentations. The curriculum was developed by a teacher, in partnership with Victory Gardens (a non-profit gardening organization).

It is not anticipated that the Classroom Gardener program will need to be funded on an ongoing basis. Teachers have been given resources and ideas that will enable them to continue using the garden in future years. As in the past, PAC can continue the regular annual funding (approximately \$500 in recent years) for new equipment and maintenance costs.

Teachers are finding the program to be an excellent fit with the new BC curriculum, and the activities help connect our children to the natural world.

There are several ways that parents can participate in the garden:

- Volunteer in your child’s class (April 18/19; May 16/17; June 20/21)
- Take seeds home over spring break

- Join a work party on April 6 or 28 (3 to 5pm)
- Care for the garden for a week over summer (water, weed, and harvest)
- Attend a summer celebration on July 18 or August 15 (10am to noon)
- Donate free-play materials (rocks, untreated wood cuts, stumps, logs, durable toy animals, measuring cups, dinosaurs, trucks). Bring materials to Julie Paris.

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Motion to approve February 2017 minutes: Maggie. Seconded: Cara. Approved.

Principal's Report – Mr. Mitzel

School Organization for 2017/18. There is not yet a final word yet on class sizes and enrollment for next year. The teachers are in process of ratifying their agreement with the Province, and the District will be working over spring break to assess impacts.

Livingstone will be getting smaller class sizes and more supports for the students. By early April, Darren hopes to know the resulting impacts on kindergarten enrollment and the music, resource, and childcare programs. PAC executive wrote letters to VSB and Ministry of Education to ask for involvement in the process, and to call for more provincial funding.

Staffing. Mr. Philips was hired as the new resource teacher. He will take the new position when Miss Moy returns to classroom teaching.

Global Days. The global day of play was very successful. As a result, a global design day is being planned for the end of April.

Co-Chair Report – Judy and Andrew

PAC Advocacy. In addition to the letters to VSB and Ministry of Education mentioned above, PAC wrote to the Ministry regarding the seismic upgrade of Livingstone. The school is at the “business case development stage.” Although there is no clear timeline, an upgrade could be done in less than 10 years. PAC asked to be kept informed.

Events. The PAC website lists many upcoming advocacy events. DPAC is hosting an all candidates meeting April 25 to discuss education issues ahead of the provincial election.

New Executive: Nominations are open for a new PAC co-chair (to work with Judy) and a co-treasurer to work with Lennie. Executive members-at-large are also welcome.

Treasurer's Report - Lennie

Lennie reviewed the Treasurer's report dated March 2017. The balance in the general account was \$31,193.46. The Gaming Grant balance was \$7,788.96.

Uncommitted funds are approximately \$2,000 in the general account, \$0 from the fund drive and \$300 in the gaming account.

Motion to approve treasurer's report: Cara. Seconded: Maggie. Approved.

Other Business

Grade 7 Fundraising. The Grade 7s will be going to Haidi Gwail at the end of May (a late change of plans). There may be some fundraising events, such as bake sales.

Multicultural Night. There is support for a parent-led multicultural night in September. Planning would occur in this school year. Anyone interested in joining the committee can contact Judy Mulder at Judy@HulaEvaAfta.com.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Next meeting: April 12, 2017 at 7pm in staff room.