



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Hastings PAC – Wed April 22, 2020
7-830pm ZOOM meeting

(26 people in attendance)

1. **Welcome and introductions** (7pm)
2. **Review of minutes from Feb 21, 2020** (715pm)

Motion to approve the minutes from Feb.21

MSC

3. **Reports/Updates**
 - a. **Administration** (730-8pm)

Principal - Vital Peeters

1. School situation

a/ 1st priority: ensuring health and safety: staff try to maintain physical distancing when they do have to go to school. 2nd priority: communication; info sometimes comes to them at strange times and contradicts what they heard the day before; constantly asking questions. Doing their best to share what they know. 3rd priority: connections – 2nd week back / making connections with families; improving email address list in MyEd; teachers reach out and check in by email or phone; a few families don't have email access but only a handful. Kristin (Indigenous support worker) and YFWs – helping families get access; some families choose not to be connected; in the continuity of learning phase now – info that people are getting from the Ministry applies to the whole province, not just Vancouver. Not always fair to compare to other districts, bigger districts, harder to get mobile. Vital feels they are doing well - staff is reasonably tech savvy. Teachers are starting to get in the groove – MSTeams constantly evolving; neat time to be in education, despite the challenges.

b/ Soap dispensers: one particular washroom near the gym - one student removing the soap dispenser from the wall and putting it in the toilet; Ken trying to find a solution; got worse around Covid-19 and became a much bigger issue; some undeserved negative light shone on Ken unfortunately; he is dedicating a lot of time cleaning up and replacing them; waiting for the more robust dispenser to arrive after being ordered; Ken attached with wood frame; think that will deter whoever is doing this.

c/ Online Learning / MS Teams: 1/ VSB removed the chat function between kids so kids couldn't send gifs and other distractions; 2/ Teachers looking at how they can manage their meetings; kids are going wild on chat; Teams environment has to be treated like a classrooms; treat it as a teachable moment – how to treat people; rules and norms have to be reiterated and reminded as in regular classrooms. 3/ MS said the 'raising hand' function should be ready next week.

d/ When will we go back? Some talk in the media doesn't necessarily apply to Vancouver. Could be contemplating a return in smaller communities; form what admin knows, not in the plans for Vancouver at this time. Just don't know; superintendents all talk to each other, so assume there will be some consistency across districts; and then across the country.

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2. Vice Principal - Susan Dent

a/ Kids like to experiment – no exception with technology; Want to try things; What happens? Teachable moments are great opportunities.

b/ How are the teachers doing? Better now that they are connecting with their kids; tech is a stressor/ disruption in relationship with their kids. First week was improving contacts; second week focus on connections.

c/ Librarians: working on curating resources and making them available to staff; use them in the lessons; prep people a space on the website; announced there is an easier interface for teachers to upload content themselves.

d/ More to come; just a matter of finding the right delivery system for content like music, art, gym content from Mr.Lewis, Mr.O, Kaitlyn, Ms.Nina for example.

e/ Do all classrooms have websites? No, teachers are experimenting with best delivery system for their material.

d/ Are you still meeting with teachers every morning? Meeting with teachers less this week now that teachers are meeting with their students; administrations meet in afternoon, find out new info and then relay it staff the next morning.

e/ Has become more collaborative among the teachers; have created an environment that welcomes trying things / learning is messy, sometimes you make mistakes, manage your expectations for others as well as yourself.

f/ Opportunities for “authentic communicating” for students – eg. Writing letters to their teacher – not just an abstract exercise; they can see the purpose and importance behind this during time of isolation.

g/ Role of parents is to model calmness and kindness to their kids, and they will be ok.

3. Chair - Jacqueline Shaben (8-815)

Role of PAC is to facilitate communication and sense of community.

ii. Highlights from past month

1. Facebook page

- a. Request to check it out and leave messages; start to communicate with other parents.

2. Mural

iii. Upcoming events

1. Garden installation

- a. Deliver planters and the soil on Friday May 8th; Jacqueline will coordinate – by family for installation. 2 sets of tools to keep people safe; maintain social distancing. PAC will send email reminders.

2. Speaker? Ideas for online speaker (body science? How to cope during COVID?)

- a. Saleema Noon group can still do a digital talk – is this a relevant topic now? Better idea? Counsellor to talk about parenting during Covid-19; adapting / challenges / building community. Nicola Doughty. (90minutes - \$400-450)

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- i. *Survey monkey? Gauge the interest in having a speaker and if so, what topic. Marcie & Jacqueline to coordinate and send out.*
 - 3. *Book exchange?*
 - a. *Perhaps share links on Facebook.*
 - b. *WebCat – entire school library service - resource to narrated books. (Hastings school website – there is a link); admin will figure it out and try to get it into Vital's weekly email.*
 - iv. *Cancelled events:*
 - 1. *Parent Burger Bevvie night - Saturday, April 25, 2020*
 - a. *Hopefully will have in the fall.*
 - 2. *Spring Fair Friday May 29, 2020*
- 4. *New Business (815-830pm)*

Adjourn (8:38pm)

Next meeting: tentatively May 28 @ 7pm-830pm ZOOM - check with administration.

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