



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Hastings PAC – Tuesday, September 28, 2021
630-8pm ZOOM meeting

31 people in attendance

1. Welcome / Introduction / Land Acknowledgement (6:30-6:32)

Karen West the Vice Chair will chair the meeting tonight.

2. Meeting Overview and Review of Minutes from June 23rd/21 meeting (6:32-6:35) – MSC

3. Outgoing Chair Report (6:35-6:50) – Jacqueline Shaben

- a. New PAC executive spaces opening up for 2021/22 school year!
 - i. Chair (2 year)
 - ii. Treasurer (2 year)
 - iii. DPAC Rep (2 year)
 - iv. Member at Large (1 & 2 year)

Get involved! Great opportunity to connect with other parents, empowering parents to pursue interests (eg. Art projects, diversity book drive, Anti-racism committee, garden project) at the school. Don't necessarily need to be on the executive to help with a project – can be behind the scenes.

Will post positions on the PAC website.

*b. Grounds Committee Update – Presentation on new outdoor project proposal
Committee tasked themselves with locating areas of the school grounds that could improve; making these areas as engaging as possible; identified the area outside the office on the south side of the building as a bit of a dead zone. Restricted by things like manholes and access to other services; Proposing a combination of simple mural and concrete stepping stones of various heights, as well as some plantings on either side. Has to be simple but enables access to services. Confer with school grounds committee / admin / VSB / teachers + staff; proposal enclosed.*

Question: How much? Would use up the balance of what was in the playground / grounds committee fund plus account for a bit more – so would need to be in the budget for AGM and voted on.

Question: Could this be folded into beautifying the bike racks and approved together? 1/ There is a teacher (Michael Weiss) who is interested in doing this as a class project; 2/ sometimes lumping things together causes more delays with VSB so might be better to keep separate anyway.

Another grounds improvement idea: Indigenous themed mural outside of Mme. Sylvie's classroom on outside of school would be amazing!

*Parent has stepped up to take over from Jacqueline to head the grounds committee – needs someone to help her - *callout*! Contact info@hastingspac.ca if interested*

4. Admin Reports/Updates (6:50-7:10)

a. Administration

i. Principal - Vital Peeters

1. Covid update

Health & Safety: Covid protocols moving to a Prevention of Communicable Disease plan); cautioned to take it slow and gauge comfort level of staff and families. Potential to do larger group gatherings, but for next few weeks take it slowly; please remember to do daily health checks; masks wearing mandate change – K-7 (all students); See email from school district sent out Sept.28th on mask mandate extension; Hastings stance is to help support students to wear masks – baby steps for daily mask wearing for those who need time to adjust; Communicable Disease Prevention Plan and exemptions listed at govsb.ca/covid.

Question from parent: Covid exposure notifications – is the school doing them? Admin can't confirm if there have been exposures – Vancouver Coastal Health is handling the communication to affected people (including staff, students, and families). Hastings follows the mandate from Coastal Health; Last year, VCH would get in touch with school -process not this year. Taken it upon themselves to inform.

2. School Happenings

School events – cross country: first of 3 mini meets happen tomorrow (Sept.29); drivers to come before the end of day to get forms signed and copied.

Orange shirt day acknowledgments – virtual assembly online / special presentation.

Terry Fox Run – Friday, Oct.1st

Vital's last e-newsletter needs an amendment for student learning conferences: NOT the 21st/22nd; conferences to be held Wed.27th/28th – more info to follow.

Earthquake drill - The Big-One at 2pm on Oct. 21st

Question - Team sports opportunities? Hastings follows the Vancouver Elementary Physical Activities Association (VEPAA) calendar <https://vepaablog.wordpress.com/> ; cross country; soccer (this year will be intramural); volleyball (Halloween to winter break); basketball (end Dec to spring break); badminton; track & field; ultimate; limited to grade 6-7 because of room and the need for gymnasium time. Will investigate adding the sports opportunities to the PAC website for parents. Sports offered depends on staff interest in coaching each sport; teachers running sports is a volunteer position.

Question: parent knows a staff member at Strathcona school willing to coach grade 4 basketball – can this happen? Vital says the main issue is space during the season – Vital is willing to talk further and try to figure something out.

3. Staffing updates + Introducing new Acting Vice Principal

New counsellor – Ian DeLong

Teacher Librarian position – since the August posting the new librarian has moved on; temporary TL Michael Leff

Vital hoping to put something together virtually for families to meet other staff besides the teachers at the conferences – more info to follow.

ii. Acting Vice Principal – Andrew Coelho

1. Introduction

Susan is now Vice Principal at Tillicum; acting VP Andrew Coelho replacing her until end of December at this point; the permanent position is still open. Andrew was at Hastings several years ago as a prep teacher with a Fine Arts background. Welcome Andrew!

5. Guest Teacher (and VESTA Rep) – Ms. Bion (7:10-7:20)

Union is Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association (VESTA) and any teachers that attend the PAC meetings are representing all teachers. This year feels much better compared to last year's uncertainty; the known is much more manageable. Any questions for the teachers can go through her and she will disperse to them; it's a good way for all teachers to hear what's happening at PAC. ebion@vsb.bc.ca

6. Sub-committee reports (7:20-7:45)

i. Hastings Anti-racism Committee:

1. All Nations Room update: *haven't heard anything else after the June staff meeting; Vital will follow up with those who were spearheading it; some discussion around who else uses the space for eg. speech language pathologist uses that space, so would they still have access and / or where would they move?*

2. Next meeting is Monday, October 4th

ii. Communications:

1. Community Message Board update – *last told it would be completed by this week; Vital to follow up with Ron (VSB construction).*

iii. Speaker Series:

1. Online Safety (Merlyn Horton) – Tuesday, October 19th – motion to spend \$500 from PAC operating budget for speaker fee

Motion to use \$500 from the surplus funds (\$1,292.07) given from DPAC this month and spend on this speaker – MSC

The PAC will start promoting the speaker event and callout to parents to send in questions / discussion topics to cover

2. Other ideas?

iv. Call Outs:

1. Online Safety Committee

PAC could find ways of supporting families, kids, staff, admin; Parents giving cell phones to their children - communicating the responsibilities that comes with that; Kids can access school wifi after school hours is a concern; VSB planning a more robust signing in process – track activity / warning that activity will be monitored, but this is not in place yet. Parent education and tools are important and needed. How can PAC support this initiative? Please contact info@hastingspac.ca if interested in being part of this subcommittee

2. Outdoor Events

VSB given a green light for some events to take place. Ideas?

Undercover area: outdoor movie night? Projector from classroom area and a white screen.

Pumpkin Patch: callout to parents to help / organize; Karen will start with a call to Donald's re: pumpkins.

T-shirt sales: Andrew has a provider that they can share; parent feedback is that a Hastings tee would sell well!

Parent Dunya Hood offered golf course in the Keefer Bar – would love to host a fundraiser for Hastings PAC. Karen to follow up on more details.

7. New Business (7:45-8:00pm)

- i. *“Cascading” Staircase concern (parent email) – Vital forwarded the message to director of Instruction who in turn forwarded to Geoff (VSB grounds supervisor); he is aware of the flooding on the fields and that it needs to be fixed, but a matter of finding funds; closing the field down and rip up most of it and surrounding area around the gym (sandbags at the door currently when heavy rainfall); project has been ok'd but no timeline yet.*

Adjourn 8:07pm – *motion to adjourn the meeting - MSC*

Next meeting: PAC AGM – Monday, October 25th online Zoom; 6:30pm