

Gordon Head Middle School
PAC Meeting minutes
November 18th 2015

APPROVED

Present – Brent K, Lisa W, Lesley D, Faye H, Marion G, Andrea C, Sheri Y, Carren D,

Meeting called to order at 7.05pm

Approval of prior minutes – The minutes from the October 2015 meeting were approved. A copy of all the latest minutes can be found under the Parent Info section of the GHMS website.

Update on recent events

The **Remembrance Day Assembly** went very well with the students showing a pleasing level of respect and maturity. Particular reference was made to the beautiful singing from the choir. Thank you to all involved.

Upcoming Events

A **new online parent handbook** is being planned and a draft document is in progress. Carren D will circulate to the PAC Exec for feedback before the next PAC meeting in December. Any suggestions for useful things to include can be emailed to the PAC for consideration.
ghmspac@gmail.com

The PAC is starting a **Helping the Community Campaign** in order to collect warm clothing and toiletries for those in need this winter. All gently used winter clothing and new toiletries can be brought in to the school and be placed in the gift boxes under the Giving Tree.

The **Pancake Breakfast** will be held on December 15th and parent volunteers are welcome to come help flip pancakes at this fun school event. Please contact Renata at ghmspac@gmail.com if you are able to help. Notices for ordering pancakes will go out in the first week of December.

The **next PAC meeting on Dec 16th** will be a short meeting followed by a **potluck social**. All are welcome to attend and it will start at 7pm in the library.

Committee Reports

Fundraising

The Grocery cards from Thrifty Foods have hit a bit of a problem as our registration for 2015/2016 was not properly recorded. Thrifty's is working with us to rectify this problem. All

purchases going forward are now correct so please keep using the cards as much as possible. We have raised \$160 via Fairway Markets to date.

Coupon book sales went well this year and the campaign is now closed. There are a few books in the office for sale if you still want one. This campaign made us a profit of just over \$2200.

VCPAC News

The VCPAC are introducing a Parent Education Fund this year which is worth up to \$250. It was agreed at the meeting that this money would be used in conjunction with other school PACs (Mount Doug and Lambrick Park) to fund a speaker for a parent education evening event.

The next VCPAC meetings are – November 24th at Strawberry Vale and January 26th at Margaret Jenkins. Anyone interested in attending is more than welcome. More details can be found at - <http://www.vcpac.ca/>

Treasurers' report

All is on track and going well. The gaming reports have been submitted. Our savings account has been closed and the funds transferred to our chequing account. Account balances as of 15th November 2015 are –

- a) Gaming - \$11,996.00
- b) Chequing - \$23,698.60
- c) GIC - \$9,618.21

By end of the school year, the Gaming and Chequing accounts will expend most funds covering budget line items and costs of hot lunch and other events.

Principals Report –

Following a knee operation Debbie H our school secretary will be away on medical leave until after the Christmas Break. It was agreed that the PAC should send flowers to wish her well for her recovery.

All the clubs are doing well – swim club is up and running again as well as dance club and comic club.

The recent Arts Starts performance by Teddy Anderson was very popular. His hoop performance was excellent and the positive message behind the visual performance was well received by the students.

Feedback on the recent band performance was very positive. The length of the performance was great and the latest chair layout well received.

Students from Morioka in Japan are currently visiting the school and were brave enough to present to our students in a recent assembly.

The 3D printer is up and running and is housed in the display case near the office so all can see it in action. There is another in-service session planned for the teachers next week to continue their training on it.

48 new Chromebooks have been ordered and have arrived in school. Carts have also been ordered which will enable them to be wheeled – fully charged – in groups of 16 from class to class.

Some of the teachers are attending a Google Apps for Education seminar at Oak Bay this Friday as part of their professional development day.

New report cards will be rolled out soon as part of the MyEd system. These will be an interim measure as we move forward. Some teachers are using Fresh Grade and therefore these students won't receive the new report card.

As mentioned in a recent newsletter 2 one off additional non instruction days have been added to the New Year (Jan 11 and 4th April 2016) to allow for training of teachers in the new curriculum.

Other Business

The Playground Committee was struck and is being led by Andrea Coppard. This topic will be added to the regular agenda for future meetings so all can stay involved in this important project. Research has started into possible grants, cost sharing and equipment. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact Andrea via ghmspac@gmail.com

A question was asked as to how often the sensory room was being used. The answer was that it is now fully outfitted and is getting good use. For example, some of the new seats were brought into the recent assembly to help students concentrate.

Paperwork for the pathway to the emergency container has been submitted to the district and hopefully it will be installed soon.

Meeting adjourned – 8.35 pm.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 7pm.