

Gordon Head Middle School
PAC Meeting minutes
October 21st 2015

Present – Brent K, Lisa W, Lesley D, Faye H, Bonnie D, Liz L, Marion G, Andrea C

Meeting called to order at 7.05pm

Approval of prior minutes – The minutes from the Sept 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 **Used Book Drive** was well supported and we managed to restock some of our own library shelves as well as donate some of the books for younger children to two other elementary schools. Thank you to everyone who took part.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** was equally well supported and we took advantage of lots of visitors to the school on Election Day as well as during the Parent Teacher interviews. A big thank you to Wendy L. who did such a great job of organising this event.

The **Grade 6 immunisations** went very smoothly this year - thanks to the three excellent parent helpers. Thanks also go to the PAC who provides juice and cookies each year to help smooth the process along.

A **new online parent handbook** is planned to try and provide useful information to all parents as their offspring join the school. Any suggestions about useful things to include can be emailed to the PAC for consideration. ghmspac@gmail.com

Committee Reports

Fundraising

Grocery cards from Thrifty and Fairways are going to be handed out to parents of new Grade 6 pupils in an attempt to boost our income from this fundraiser.

Coupon books are selling well with 134 of the Save Around books being sold so far for a profit of \$1675. Some books are still outstanding so this figure may increase. The Entertainment Books have not sold as well with only 50 books so far. It was decided at the meeting that next year we will only focus on the Save Around coupon book. If anyone is interested in stepping up to co-ordinate this next year then please contact the PAC email - ghmspac@gmail.com

VCPAC News

Discussions were held about the recent request from the VCPAC for PAC members across the district to join the Tech Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee. Anyone interested can contact our PAC email - ghmspac@gmail.com

The next VCPAC meetings are – Oct 27th at Torquay from 7-9pm and Nov 24th at South Park Library. Anyone interested in attending is more than welcome. More details can be found at - <http://www.vcpac.ca/>

School Planning Council (SPC)

Following instructions from the district SPCs are now being disbanded. However our group of parents have offered to get together to respond to a recent request for feedback from the district about budget priorities ahead of the budget planning process in March.

Treasurers' report

The savings account has been closed as agreed and the funds transferred to the Operating – chequing account.

The donation drive has brought in \$5882 and the hot lunch orders have brought in approx \$24,000 however costs will still need to be taken from this figure before we know the exact profits.

The Gaming funds of \$6920 have come in and been deposited.

All core expenses have been paid and the new varsity mats have been delivered and are in use in the gym. The High jump equipment has been ordered,

The 3D printer has now arrived in school and the Prod D Day on Friday 23rd will focus on training some of the teaching staff in its use.

Principals Report –

Mr. Kelly presented a short YouTube clip about Famous Failures that had been shown to the students during a recent assembly. The key message being that failure is simply ‘the first attempt in learning’. This also related to a recent conference some of the teaching staff had attended on the subject of assessments. The September Pro D day also involved all staff attending training and brainstorming sessions on this subject.

Success for students is often linked to the school environment and their sense of belonging and feeling safe and respected and this was highlighted in the Justice Theatre presentation on 21st October. They held a mock trial on the subject of cyber bullying and included 12 students in the jury process.

Mr. K also stressed that the school has an open door policy and that he is always available to discuss any complaints, concerns or questions.

All the clubs are up and running and doing well. Soccer has now finished and basketball is starting up. Well done to all the students who took part in the recent Cross country events – we had some great results.

Other Business

A couple of **parent workshops** were advertised which are being held in Sidney on November 28th. They are 'Identify your child's Person-Career fit by mentoring them' and 'Assertiveness Training for handling Everyday situations'. Cost is either \$30 or \$40 and registration is required in advance via www.crd.bc.ca/panorama

Habitat for Humanity's 'Meaning of Home' writing contest

This is a free to enter essay writing contest for students in Grade 4, 5 and 6 and entries are accepted until Nov 9th 2015. Genworth will donate \$5 per entry to Habitat for Humanity and the top prize is a \$50,000 grant to Habitat for Humanity Victoria from Genworth, Canada. The winner also receives an IPAD and a pizza party for the whole school. Students have to put their creative writing skills to work by describing what home means to them in a paragraph or two. More details can be found at – www.meaningofhome.ca

Meeting adjourned – 8.35 pm.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th November 2015 at 7pm.