

DRAFT MINUTES

Lord Roberts Elementary School, Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Wednesday, January 23, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (library)

Meeting chaired by **Randy H.** (Past Co-Chair, filling in for Co-Chairs Gwendolyn G. & Nevena T.)

Present: 9 parents (minutes by **Jill S.**)

Principal: **Valerie Coopersmith**, Vice-Principal: **Angela Hughes**

1. Adoption of Agenda

2. Adoption of November and December, 2007 PAC meeting minutes. Jill moved and Lisa G. seconded approval.

3. Introductions

4. and 5. Principal and Vice-Principal's Report

Val: Lord Roberts Annex applied for and received a \$20,000 grant (ActNow BC funds, administered through BCCPAC) to upgrade their playground.

FSA Test: Grade 4 and 7 parents received a letter explaining the VSB's position on this matter. All grade 4 and 7 students are expected to write these exams unless they have been excused by the administration.

Satisfaction Survey: grades 4 and 7 have completed an electronic survey. Parents are expected to complete their surveys and return them to the office.

Angela: The Credit Union school banking program will be starting up on January 31st.

There are several *Community School Programs* offered at the King George School for students and adults. Registration is at the WECC. There will be a 2 week Badminton program for grades 4 to 7 and a 5 week Gymnastics program for grades K to 7.

Val: Svetlana, the school's Neighborhood Assistant, will be starting a new position on January 27th. She will be a Settlement Worker for the Vancouver School Board, and will continue helping new families who have just arrived in Canada. We wish her all the best. **Randy**, on behalf of PAC, expressed heartfelt appreciation to her for her many years of helping families at Lord Roberts. **Tomoko N.** presented Svetlana with a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Topics arising from Principal's Report:

Music Program Teacher: Parents expressed their desire for continuity and certainty over the position of the school's music teacher for the remainder of the school year. (The current music teacher's position is a temporary one.) It was decided that PAC may write to the Associate Superintendent in the near future if necessary.

The Mount Seymour snowshoeing field trip for grades 4 and 5 was a great success. Randy reported that the PAC had received a beautiful thank you card from these classes thanking the PAC for paying (\$700.00) for transportation. PAC has allocated \$400.00 for Grades K to 2 to go on a snow field trip but there were prohibitive height requirements. They are now considering going to the Maple Wood Farm for a field trip.

6. Neighbourhood Assistant's Report

There are free February 17th symphony tickets available in the parent's room. Parent **Dina S.** will be hosting the Friday morning coffee groups until a new Neighbourhood Assistant is hired.

7. Treasurer's Report

Gaming Funds: **The Drama Club** performance in December went very well. Parents and students really enjoyed the show. PAC provided \$70.00 for costumes. Thank you to **Rolland** and keep up the good work!

I-can-do-it Club receives \$50.00 a month from PAC to cover costs of supplies.

General Funds: No new activities to report.

Badminton: PAC contributed \$800.00 last year for half of the costs. PAC will pay \$800.00 for this year's program. It is a pay-per-child program for grades 4 to 7 students.

Gymnastics: PAC will pay the full cost of this K to 7 program of \$400.00.

PAC voted to approve the \$12,000.00 for these programs.

8. Co-chair Report:

Gwendolyn: The PAC was considering changing the meetings to all evenings because it is difficult for **Tomoko** (who does child-minding), and **Nevena** to attend day meetings. **Randy** thinks that we should continue with the original plan of alternating morning and evening meetings for now. One reason for alternating meetings is to allow choices for parents (some cannot attend during the day, and some cannot attend at night). It was suggested that Tomoko (treasurer) be scheduled first and leave after her report at the morning meetings.

Randy: Branches were recently cut down from the trees in the "*Mountain Area*" (hill covered by trees in the eastern corner of the school field) by an unauthorized person late one night. School board workers had to come in to clean up sharp branches that remained. Some parents and playground supervisors had expressed concern about lower branches obscuring the view of children playing there, making it difficult to supervise them. Others were unhappy about losing the natural play environment. Parents and the community are reminded that unauthorized persons must not alter School Board property. Randy suggested that the PAC and school administration discuss and write down a future vision for this area, including both safety concerns and the preservation of natural features.

9. Committees:

10. New Business:

Randy: PAC has allocated \$250.00 (25% of the \$1000.00 fee) for the *Boy Smart* Workshop tentatively on April 15th at King George High School.

On February 5th there will be a seminar on *Building Bridges with your Teenagers*, organized by the King George PAC group.

A formal thank you needs to be sent to **MusicBC** and **First Act** for all their work on behalf of our band.

Val: Thanks to **MusicBC**, the grade 7's will be going on a field trip to the *Commodore* to hear a Canadian music artist speak and perform next Wednesday, January 30th at 10:00 am.

Randy: nominations for the next PAC executives are due at the April PAC meeting, and elections will be in May.

11. Meeting adjourned.