

## Point Grey Secondary PAC Meeting Minutes

21 April 2009

7:15 pm Staff Room

Attending: Alan Bayless, Randy Clark, Sydney Hughes, Carolyn Kennedy, Carol Prantner, Scott Morris Rose, Linda Yorke, Shirley Zhang. Minutes by S. Morris Rose.

Call to order. PAC chair Carolyn Kennedy ([kennedyg8@hotmail.com](mailto:kennedyg8@hotmail.com)) presiding. Minutes of the March meeting approved.

S. Morris Rose presented the **Treasurer's report**, which was prepared, as usual, by Cynthia (Devine) Dong.

Carolyn Kennedy led a long discussion of the planned 17 September 2009 **outdoor movie night**. Alan Bayless confirmed that there are no conflicts with Jewish holidays nor mini-school trips on that evening.

It is expected that the cost of the event will be closer to \$3000 than to \$4000, given discounts and the stated judgment of the vendor that a less expensive small screen will work in the planned location, which is the grass field in front of the school. It's possible that we will mitigate the costs with sponsorships by various local merchants, such as Kerrisdale Lumber. Also, we may raise some funds by selling food or inviting local vendors to do so, sharing revenue with the PAC. And while we may not charge for the event, we can solicit donations at the door.

Randy Clark recommends that the event be cast as a "family night." That has implications for the nature of the film we choose, and, somebody observed, may reduce the need to provide security. He also said that the activity, lights, and noise from the adjacent track may pose an issue- while the school can control the lights, the parks board schedules events on the track every day, and there is also ad-hoc activity. He will contact the board to express our desire that nothing be scheduled that evening.

Next, the **Chair's Report** was presented.

Linda Yorke observed that the **calendar of events** on the Point Grey Secondary web (<http://pointgreysecondary.ca/>) has become cluttered with events such as birthdays, which impacts usability. Randy will discuss it with the teacher.

Carolyn Kennedy asked about what to do with the various **event announcements** that she receives via both email and in hardcopy. S. Morris Rose offered to put them on the **PAC web site** (<http://www.pointgreyparents.com/>) and pointed out that the costs of the web have been borne by Maureen Bayless, who recently paid \$90 for a two-year renewal of the domain name and for "premium hosting." It was moved and accepted that the PAC would reimburse her upon presentation of a receipt.

Alan Bayless asked if we wished to join **BCCPAC**, the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils. The annual fee of \$65 gives those PACs that are members in December the right to attend the annual general meeting in May. This organization is sponsored by the Ministry of Education, and therefore has the minister's ear. Consensus was that we should reconsider early next year.

We discussed the recently-announced cancellation of the LALS (**Learning Assistance Life Skills**) program at Point Grey Secondary. Carolyn Kennedy read a letter to the Board from the parents of the

seven affected students, who are displeased. The Board has stated that they are prepared to consider an appeal. The parents seek the support of the PAC in their quest to overturn the decision, and Alan Bayless offered to draft such a letter.

Randy Clark gave some background information on LALS, which is a “district program” drawing students from beyond the catchment. The program is targeted at high-functioning but learning challenged students. He received a letter from the Board on 1 April (while on parental leave) announcing the closure, which he found to be an abrupt and ham-handed approach. The letter stated that the closure is not a budget issue. While there are only seven students currently enrolled in the program, which has a maximum of fifteen students, five incoming students were expected in 2009-10.

We discussed a controversial **letter from VSTA** (Vancouver Secondary Teachers Association, a collective bargaining unit) that was sent home with students last week, and which appeared to be appealing to parents to support the New Democratic Party candidates in the forthcoming provincial election. This letter resulted in a Vancouver Sun article. Randy said that the distribution of the letter had been approved by the Board, an action unprecedented in his experience. Alan Bayless pointed out that seven of the nine Board members are strongly pro-union.

Randy Clark presented the **principal's report**, beginning by thanking parents for their support of the school and particularly for the staff appreciation luncheon, which will be held on 22 April, and is very popular with school staff. He continued with a summary of recent and near-future events at the school, such as a recent and a future trip of students to Japan, the startup of Spring sports, a student production of the musical theatre title *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, forthcoming visit day for incoming grade 8 students, exams, and et cetera. Spring dance is 30 April. Multicultural Day is 26-7 April.

Alan Bayless gave the **DPAC** report, presenting the draft letters that are addressed to the MLA and Board trustees, expressing the PACs distress at the loss of assistant principal positions. Carolyn Kennedy asked Alan Bayless to give the optional oral presentation to the Board on 28 April, as she is unable.

We next discussed the **2009-10 Wish List**. A large packet of printed source material from the teachers was distributed. Randy Clark will email his take on each request. Treasurer Scott Morris Rose was asked to consult with Cynthia (Devine) Dong to determine exactly how much money we have available, because the treasurer's report remains inscrutable to all. Also sought is an emailed report on the 2008-9 funded wishlist [Postscript: Randy Clark will work with staff to prepare this.] We agreed to carry on a conversation about the wishlist via email but consider an actual meeting on 12 May, the typically unused slot reserved for the PAC executive meeting. Next- and final PAC meeting of 2008-9- is 19 May.

Linda Yorke presented a draft **appeal for direct donations**. Randy Clark expressed his judgement that the best appeals for support are those that are directed at a specific purpose. The idea of a checklist was floated, where folks could direct their donations. Consensus emerged that we would cast the appeal in terms of improving our funding of the wishlist, and Alan Bayless offered to create a draft.

Adjourn at 9:30.