



PAC Meeting
Wednesday September 16, 2020
6:30 pm via Zoom

Present:

Stephanie Beattie
Craig Bench
Alexa Bodel
Shevaun Brown (Secretary, PAC)
Aron Campbell (Principal, GEC)
Rachel Clearwater
Tanya Cosgrove
Lisa Fairburn (Chair, PAC)
Polina Fink
Pippa Fry
Emily Gardiner
Sara Gardner
Lauren Gilchrist
Katie Hlynsky
Wendy Human (DPAC Rep, PAC)

Kelly Kerklaan (Treasurer, PAC)
Christina Lee
Lisa Leeson
Ryan Leeson
Robyn Markham
Jill McNeill
Kelly Richter (Vice-Chair, PAC)
Heidi Scorgie
Kirstie Simpson
Jenn Tieche
Jim Wilford
Gabrielle Young
Joseph Young

Meeting called to order @ 6:31 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda (including addition of Gardening report)
Kelly Richter, Jill McNeill

Adoption of minutes from June 10th meeting.
Kirstie Simpson, Kelly Kerklaan

Chair's Report (Lisa Fairburn):

- LF welcomed attendees and acknowledged new parents in attendance; introduced GEC PAC Executive and outlined the purpose of the GEC PAC (as per our PAC constitution): to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and the well being of the Gleneagles Chaxay School students. We work together to:
 1. Advise the principal and staff on parents' views on matters relating to school programs, policies, plans and activities;

2. Communicate with parents and promote cooperation and support with the School in providing the best education for our children;
 3. Assist parents in gaining access to resources in the educational system;
 4. Organize, in conjunction with the principal, volunteer PAC activities and events which support the school;
 5. Contribute to the effectiveness of the school by promoting the involvement of parents and other community members.
- “Golf Game For The Kids” organised for Oct 1; detailed in recent PAC newsletter
 - Pay via Munch-a-lunch; email foursome requests and tee time preferences to PACChair@gmail.com
 - 50/50 tickets available on the 1st tee (and should also be available for purchase through Munch-a-Lunch shortly).
 - Limited child care available through Saplings

Garden Update (provided by Rachel Clearwater)

- Veggie delivery boxes to be assembled next week with student help and delivered by parent volunteers;
- Info to be included in GEC newsletter coming out at the end of the week, including instructions for ordering.

Treasurer’s Report (presented by Kelly Kerklaan):

- KK reviewed 2020/21 budget approved in June; highlighted bank balances across all three accounts (\$45K).
- Healthy bank balance to start the year, but we are projecting a deficit due to limited fundraising options in the year ahead.
- Gaming Grant TBC – hoping to receive the same amount as last year.
- Hot Lunch viability/timeline to be clarified by District in October.
- Projected expenses to be confirmed once there is more information/guidance provided by the District. We are hopeful that most planned enrichment activities will go ahead, even if they look a bit different.

Principal/Vice-Principal’s Report (presented by Aron Campbell):

- AC acknowledged that there has been lots of information required by/for all parties heading into the new school year; expressed gratitude for the administrative support he has received from Ms Pistilli & Mrs Hulme these past few weeks.
- New protocols in place this school year, but general experience is not that different; thanks to parents for doing their best to adhere to physical distancing requirements.
- Thanks to Rachel Clearwater & Jackie Brock for spearheading the GEC garden project, which has yielded incredible crops and captured interest.
- AC shared class configurations; 252 students enrolled to date; most of 11 divisions not at capacity.
- New staff: Ms Maledy (Gr 4/5), Ms Cheng (Gr ½) covering Ms B’s medical leave, 3 new EAs, 2 admin positions still to be filled (Office TA & Library TA)
- AC outlined current Stage 2 status, explaining that our learning cohorts at GEC are at 30 (vs Ministry guideline of 60).
 - Stage 1 would be ‘normal’ in-class instruction.
 - Stage 3, if necessary, would involve existing cohorts but fewer days of school access for each division.
 - Stage 2 schedule from Sept 17 onwards involves staggered start/finish times, staggered recess/lunch breaks, assigned entry/exit points for each cohort, hands washed before/after eating and upon each entry to classrooms.

- KH questioned practice of splitting kids in one grade across 2-3 (sometimes 4) classrooms – AC explained theory and logistics behind class configurations, with reference to breakdown between grade demographics.
- AC outlined recent purchases thanks to PAC financial support + wish list for the coming year:
 - Modernisation of the upper intermediate wing: 90 lockers now instead of 60; shared learning space at the back of Divs 2 & 3.
 - Updated gym equipment
 - Zen Maker labs, dance in-service, classroom funds for fun projects, bus transportation, Grad farewell events, etc
 - Wish list for this year includes new set of 10 iPads to be used by the intermediate team in ADST and digital media assignments; Artist in residence; Zen Maker Labs
- Terry Fox Run tentatively planned for Sept 24th; appeal for parent volunteers along the route. Online Policy & Procedures forms will need to be signed beforehand for children to participate.
- KK sought clarification regarding physical distancing requirements on school grounds – AC confirmed that, at this time, parents are welcome on school grounds but requested that everyone do their best to spread out on the periphery, away from entry/exit points.
- Bank/Choir questions – AC explained that the band program has been put on hold until a temporary replacement can be hired in place of Ms Inkster (who is on medical leave). If the new hire does not have band experience, a band-specific instructor will be hired.

Adjourned; 7:30 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7th @ 6:30 pm (via Zoom)