

Minutes Of PAC Meeting

April 9th, 2019

Attendance:

Jill Jordan	Hanif Virani	Tze-Wo Leung	Steve Asaoka
Melissa Cheevers	Cristal Egan	Juliet Dong	Cristina Aydin
Tracey Macleod	Nora Harmsworth	Gord Lau	Ian Cheyne
Alison Scarlett	Carrie Linegar	Annie Li	Jessie Chen

1. Reviewed March Minutes.
 - March minutes approved by the room.
2. March Financials
 - March financials approved by the room
3. Update on Admin:
 - Jacquie spoke about online payment for field trips etc.
 - Easier for Sharmeela and teachers.
 - Gymnastics is first trial of the system (5-6 session over 3 weeks period. starting April 15th to May 9th)
 - Track and Field starting.
 - Tuesday and Thursday morning practice.
 - Class photos tomorrow.
 - Quebec students will arrive May 1st-8th.
4. Tech Update
 - Tracey has checked in with the teachers to see how they have been used the iPads thus far in the year.
 - She had left a form in office to get feedback from teachers. About half responded. most said they can get their hands on laptops when needed. New ones are working great and kids are thrilled. iPad are hard to get a full class set. Madame Michelle said hers are being used often and her next goal would be to get rid of desktops and have 15 more ipads.
 - Next ask from the teachers to consider is mounted projectors. Approx cost is \$600 per projector. Mr Rupert requested one in the the activity room. Further review as time goes on.
5. DPAC update from Gord Lau
 - Please see this link for further information on the DPAC initiatives, monthly newsletter and meeting minutes: <http://vancouverdpac.org/about-dpac>
 - Our purpose is to: Support Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) at the school level and to encourage them to share their parents views at the district and provincial levels. Represent the views of city parents to the Vancouver Board of Education through participation on school board standing and advisory committees. Advocate for Vancouver parent concerns at the provincial level through representation to the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC), Vancouver Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and the Ministry of Education (MOE).
 - Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) does not represent one voice. We try to represent the diverse views of Vancouver PACs and parents. Recognizing that each student is unique, our goal is to attain the best education for all students in our school district (SD#39). We

strive to ensure that our input to various committees and levels of government will represent the diverse views of Vancouver PACs.

- Gord informed the meeting that overall compared to other district, our facilities are old and we spend twice as much on maintenance. The age of the schools in Vancouver are effecting the costs. Trafalgar has been seismically updated as have many schools in the district. Enrollment in the district is declining. The board and ministry are being challenged to make decisions based on these numbers about potential closures and building of new schools. Log range planning and equity issues are considerations for the plans being made for the next 10 years.
- Henry Hudson full and there is a proposal to move district program to Strathcona. This could effect our program because families would potentially move to Trafalgar however this is just in the proposal phase at this time.
- Jacquie said we now have confirmation of two french kindergarten next year at Trafalgar. English kindergarten is not confined as two class thus far.
- VSB budget is being released tonight.
- Gord also talked about the PAC to PAC program. It was started by the DPAC chair. It is a program that a PAC can donate to a fund and the money is given to other PACS in need. VSB would find the recipient school to distribute the money. Gord suggested we look at donating to this program in the future. More information about the program can be found on the DPAC website.
- The DPAC's role is available and if anyone is interested please contact Gord.

6. After school Violin classes - Tze-Wo

- two high school students would like to start a strings club for free at our school. They are looking for volunteer hours. One student is alumni. The challenge is that it needs to happen after school. A number of questions from the attendance: Will they need insurance? Is there a liability of supervision needed? Do we need to pay the rental fee? Would the Choir teacher be able to be the supervisor? Would they want to come in the morning? All things to look at to see if the program can happen starting in September.

7. International dinner Update - Jessie Chen and Nora Harmsworth

- Jesse Chen
 - Raffle Baskets: Most class parents have chosen their baskets. The basket will be ready a week before the dinner and will be displayed in the library. Tickets can be sold outside under the cover or by TOOSC if the weather permits.
 - Parents volunteers have purchased decorations.
 - More volunteers needed. It is a potluck and they need extra people to supervise the food.
 - Live music will be happening in the hallways from 5:30 to 6:30 to welcome people. Dinner at 6pm. Students will also present about their home and culture.
- Nora Harmsworth
 - Thanked Jesse for all her hard work.
 - Focus this year should be on multiculturalism to show our kids what we value as Canadians and not just "stuff". Emphasized getting everyone in the school to attend.
 - Would any parents like to present anything to celebrate their own culture, for example henna or origami? Suggestions are welcome and help needed as she will be away 10 days before the event.
- Tracey suggested an email that can go to class parents asking for help, ideas and volunteers. Also to encourage everyone to attend. Also if any students wants to perform in the hallways. ACTION ITEM: Tracey will send it out.

8. Playground accessibility update and discussion - Christina Aydin and Carrie Linegar
 - Christina Aydin reviewed the following:

Trafalgar Elementary Accessible Playground Upgrade Project

Goals of the project include:

1. To generate awareness about the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the Trafalgar School community and the need for accessibility upgrades to the Trafalgar Playgrounds
2. To explore options to upgrade the play spaces on the Trafalgar school grounds to be inclusive and accessible for the Trafalgar school members and surrounding community
3. To secure funding to perform the required upgrades

Actions performed to date related to the above stated project goals:

1. To generate awareness about the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the Trafalgar School community
 - Presentation at the February PAC meeting in support for the playground accessibility upgrade
 - Letter of support from Jacquie Lavoie on behalf of Trafalgar Elementary School
 - Engagement with TOOSCS regarding this project and letter of support received
 - Evergreen Preschool: contact made requesting letter of support for project (no response)
 - We will explore the opportunity to provide an in school education / disability awareness session with students and staff at Trafalgar Elementary School with school administration. Disability awareness in our school is extremely important because it educates students so they can become better citizens. We as parents can model this for our kids and we have a few ideas of how we can bring this topic forward.
2. To explore options to upgrade the play spaces on the Trafalgar school grounds to be inclusive and accessible for the Trafalgar school members and surrounding community
 - Meeting on site with an accessible parks planner. Feedback received regarding ideas and suggestions to upgrade our current play spaces. Committee to meet and review feedback.
 - Contacted the City of Vancouver to request upgrades to the play spaces on city grounds Trafalgar Park (awaiting response)
 - Quotes received from Rec Tec regarding swing installation and rubberized surface installation
3. To secure funding to perform the required upgrades
 - Grant application drafted
 - \$7500 received from Supported Child Development Swing purchased and will be stored at the VSB.
 - Inquiry sent to the Ministry of Education and follow-up email received regarding access to provincial funding to upgrade school play structures. Response: Encouraged to apply for a PAC gaming grant to support this project.
 - Grant requests sent to: BC Rehab Foundation, Rory and Jane Young Foundation (awaiting response);
 - Other grants identified: Hamber Fdn (Sept 2019 deadline); Rotary Arbutus Club; Chris Spencer Fdn; Vancouver Fire Fighters Charitable Fund; Tire Stewardship grant

Initial Budget Requirements: Total - \$32 000,
Raised to Date - \$7500
Balance - \$24 500

Request to the Trafalgar PAC

- 1) We are requesting an initial financial contribution from PAC from the 2018/2019 budget of \$5000 to go towards the purchase of an accessible disc swing and rubberized surface. This contribution will enhance the viability of our grant applications as many funders take into account the amount of funding already raised ie: to increase the likelihood of project completion.
- 2) We are requesting that a portion of the 2019/2020 PAC budget be allocated towards increasing inclusion/ accessibility at Trafalgar Elementary School.
- 3) Please forward any grant opportunities or fundraising ideas to Carrie at clinegar@gmail.com or if you are interested in getting involved in this project in any way.

- Carrie Linegar:

- She met with a Park Planner/registered landscape architect/friend from the city and feedback was given on how we can improve the grounds to make them accessible to all. The following is a summary of notes from their meeting and these are just suggestions. The school has no plans to implement them at this time. It is food for thought when considering long range planning of the outdoor spaces at Trafalgar.
- In the large playground the grade in and out of the playground is too steep. A child in a wheelchair or even an adult with limited hand function would have a hard time getting into the playground. You could ask the VSB to pave the path entrance from the main path and into the playground so that the ground is smooth and the grade is not as steep and more even.
- This space is jam packed right now and really there is no room for additional apparatus with the required safety zones and basic space requirements. You could add a few playground activity / sensory panels to the big existing poles supporting the playground like a tic tac toe or spinning gears...I am sure you have seen items at other playgrounds but if we do this you should provide a rubber access path from the entrance.
- We could add a fun brightly colored path that goes to a few items with lower level access items and kids could have fun navigating the path and playing with their friends but the apparatus is very high and not geared to someone with limited mobility so options for this playground are limited but still it would promote social interaction under a few items. You would have to bevel the edges of the path to ensure there is no drop off when the wood chips shift/move.
- In the small playground the entrance / exit is too steep, there is a dip so someone would need to perform a wheelie to be able to get in and out.
- The apparatus again is not geared to someone with limited mobility. Could provide a rubber path but not a lot here for someone to play with unless we add something.
- There may be space in the southwest corner for a spinner bowl if a child could transfer in to ...basically something that could rock, bounce or spin and ideally something that lets at least 2 people play to promote social interaction. Need to check if there is enough space as the red spinning wheel up high is close by (so what is the safety zone for this? there may not be space because kids spin and fly off the high spinner)
- Could also add some type of play table that would encourage imaginative play and kids play store or restaurant etc. but again not sure there is room
- Sand Box. This space would be a great area to upgrade with a raised sand table portion someone can wheel up to right off the path. Great for imaginative play.
- Disc Swing - The space identified between the red playground and the TOOSCS building would likely work re placement if we had to build on VSB land and the disc swings are great. You can have multiple kids on these swings at once and she says Rec Tec is a good company/product to deal with as well.
- Parks Board Playgrounds - smaller lower playground and 2 swing set playgrounds. It would be ideal for us if the parks board would upgrade their 3

play spaces as they are not at all accessible and quite old and then they would need to maintain too! Really their 3 are outdated and should be replaced.

- Carrie was given a name of someone at the City who reviews request for park upgrades and an on-line tool to make this request. The person is going to check with a contact at the City of Vancouver to see how best we could approach them and if it is at all likely they would engage in any project work at the Trafalgar Park right now. She mentioned that really East Vancouver is a priority right now but at the same time pea gravel which is in the spaces is not considered accessible and there are not entrances even for access. If we also have Jacob's story to promote and letters of support from various community user groups this might help our cause.
- The small low playground would be a great space to add an accessible slide and more universal activity apparatus for someone in a wheelchair.
- The two swing areas would easily fit disc swings and the baby swings etc. and would be great updates and provide stroller access etc. in addition to wheelchair access along the path we have there.
- She wondered if there was a plan to replant these trees and trees also provide great shade for play areas too
- She cautioned people thinking that play spaces need to be defined...we have all these boxed in play spaces and less space/ features that promote imaginative play and provide a more interesting landscape...think gnome garden, big oversized chairs to play on, rocks or animal sculptures, not just big square play areas. Big picture focus should be on creative and imaginative play not the boxes that we currently have that are restrictive and full.
- Please see link to the Rick Hansen Accessible Playground Toolkit <https://www.rickhansen.com/sites/default/files/downloads/letsplaytoolkit.pdf>
- Other examples of Parks in the area that are a good example are Carnarvon and Maple grove. General Brock has just installed the disc swing that is being proposed at Trafalgar.

- Carrie wanted to recognize the work and initiative that Cristina and Ian have done to get this project of a disc swing off the ground. 25% already raised by them. Carrie would like the PAC to discuss a funding option for this year to contribute to the project.
- Further discussion took place of Grants and when they would come in if they are accepted. Does anyone know of any granting agencies that we have not thought of? What about Corporate donations?

- Tracey reviewed what is left of the budget.
 - Our goal is that \$10,000 will be put in a GIC for next year.
 - We would also like \$15,000 in an account for next year to fund programs if we don't get funding next year from VSB.
 - That leaves approx. \$4000 of wiggle room remaining this year.
- Gord talked about historically the PAC have had a policy that the previous years PAC does not dictate what the next years PACs decided to do with the money so if we decided to use some money this year and allocate some money from next year, that could be tricky and not fulfilled.

- Melissa asked how much are they wanting from the PAC? Carrie would like an initial commitment of \$5000.
 - **MOTION TO PASS:** Gord made the motion to commit to \$5000 from PAC for grant. Crystal, Melissa to second the motion.
9. May PAC meeting will be a CSL review and look at the budget for next year.