

FA PVG Meeting Notes September 29, 2016

In Attendance:	Caroline Richardson	Vivian Cantas	Gisela Escher
Marielle Smith	Debbie Heeps	Daljit Patara	Belinda Curyer
Caroline Rossitter	Susan Horne	Tasso Kanavos	Sharon Mishler
Nicole Heighington	Andrea Potter		Cathy Barr
Maureen Steltman	PJ Wiese	Regrets:	Michele Mendelson
Jessica Gibson	Leslie Fillingham	Tracey Custodinho	Nori McGowan
Judy van Halst	Shelagh Cluff	Erica Johnson	

Introduction of the PVG executive and parents in attendance

- Marielle Smith, Chair
- Caroline Rossitter, Vice Chair
- Nicole Heighington, Treasurer

Head of School Update, Maureen Steltman

- School year started well; FA grew 10% from last year - from 225 to 249 students
- Over the summer there were renovations to the home economics kitchen; original kitchen was split into 2 rooms; therefore, able to grow the school with the added classroom
- Introduction of Tasso Kavanos to the PVG (new Assistant Head, School Life); Mr. Kanavos came from Collingwood School and has experience with students with learning differences and understating of IEP's and psych. ed evaluations. His previous experience and insight with CAIS is an asset to the school
- Mr. Kanavos spoke of the CAIS accreditation process at Collingwood being a very positive experience:
 - Everyone is involved in the process
 - All processes are looked at and suggestions made as to how to improve
 - There is great value in knowing what the best practices are in other independent schools
- **Simon Uden came on board May 2016 as Director of Advancement**
 - Did a fantastic job of fundraising for the FA bus campaign in a short period of time. Both Simon and Maureen thanked the PVG for taking a bit of a back seat to let the bus campaign push forth to meet this important goal for the school.
- **CAIS - Canadian Accredited Independent Schools**
 - FA will be taking part in this 2016/2017; CAIS assesses schools against best practices to see where they stand and gives feedback as to how to improve

- As outlined by Mr. Kanavos, the value of this accreditation “is really in going through the process itself”. It’s an opportunity for examination and reflection of current protocols and execution of procedures with the intent to improve and streamline, therefore, increase consistency and efficiency.
- The Fraser Academy’s board of directors are volunteers and this gives them access to peers and best practice standards to be able to improve the school
- There will be 2 high level individuals on the accreditation team who have experience with our LD community
- Mrs. Steltman mentioned that moving forward to support the momentum of positive change, the school is working towards best effort and best results and CAIS is a very appropriate tool to identify where things are not working, to acknowledge and make changes/improvements in those areas.
- **The school is going to the City of Vancouver Board of Variance regarding the sports pad**
 - The development application to make the parking lot play space was denied
 - Judy van Halst, a Fraser Academy parent, is helping with the Board of Variance application to have the parking lot re-zoned as a play/sports area and we are all very thankful for her involvement
 - Board of Variance meeting is November 30, 2016
 - There will be a letter sent out to parents to invite them to write letters of support for the application
 - Any and all support from residents or businesses within a one block radius is especially relevant and useful
 - There will be a draft letter sent out to the parent body but it was brought forth by one of the parents in the meeting from experience that the board of variance may look more favorably if it is modified to give more individuality and thought to the application
 - The main concern is the noise impact to the school’s immediate neighbours
 - If the application is approved, there may be an opportunity to put a roof on the sports pad or put noise modifications on the ground to decrease the sound
- A new reception desk has been installed on the first floor and they are currently looking and hopefully hiring next week for a receptionist
- **Vigidami** – photo sharing website
 - Parents, as well as, the school can upload photos to Vigidami
 - Please only upload photos that show the students looking good...especially the teenagers as they can be self-conscious about this type of thing

- **Post-Secondary Planning Guide 2016-17** was just published by Fraser Academy and will be going out to those in the senior school
 - Mrs. Steltman advocates going into a smaller school post-secondary to get your “sea legs” and then transferring to a larger school after if that is your desire “nobody asks where you started, they only ask where you graduated from.” There has been success with Fraser Academy alumni in the past couple of years using this strategy
- Acknowledgement from Caroline Rossitter that the type of information shared by Maureen is very valuable and to encourage other parents to attend the PVG meetings beyond their preconceived ideas that its some type of gathering for experienced long time parents of FA or that all the PVG does is fundraise.

PVG Secretary Nomination/Volunteer

- Shelagh Cluff volunteered for the PVG Secretary position – Thank-you Shelagh!

Financial Update : Nicole Heighington

- Currently there is \$18,500 in the PVG account
- Last year we allocated \$8,100 towards 4 school water fountains, 2 bike racks and 3 document cameras
- Of this \$8,100, \$1,384 has been spent on 1 bike rack and 1 document camera
- There is no room for another bike rack and the school is going to see how much use the document camera gets before purchasing more
- The original quote for the water fountain was low. The actual cost is estimated at \$10,000
- After a discussion, it was determined that the money from the one bike rack not yet purchased will go towards the water fountains and there was a vote to allocate further PVG funds towards to water fountain
- PVG voted to give up to \$10,000 to Fraser Academy for the 4 water fountains
- It is estimated that the installation cost will be \$2,200. The PVG will ask if any parents know of a plumber or company that might give a discount or donate their services
- The installation will most likely happen at the Christmas break while the students are not in school
- There was also a request from the school for new Fraser Academy branded tents for track and field. This request was taken into consideration and is acknowledged as a priority for the PVG when funds are available.
- In the 2015-2016 year, the PVG raised \$3,500 from the Purdy’s fundraising and \$7,800 from the Earthquake fundraising

- In the 2015-2016 the PVG funded the Holiday Baking and Staff Appreciation gatherings, the Safer School presentation, a parting gift for Alan Klassen, frames for the grade 12's and website/technology costs along with the bike rack and document camera.

Projects and Fundraising Events 2016

- **Purdy's** - Donna Williams will be managing the Purdy's fundraiser this year
- **Mustang Safety Kit**
 - It is most likely the Mustang safety kits will be sold for fundraising this year in February 2017 with a launch of videos in October 2016 and a workshop with Tracy Custodinho
 - We still need to confirm pricing with Nancy (our supplier) before going ahead
- **Uniform Sales** – Because of the rebranding there has not been any used uniform sales in the past 2 years - there were 5 volunteers to manage the uniform sales for this year
 - The school will help find space for the storage of uniforms
 - Uniform Sales Volunteer Team: Vivian Cantas, Caroline Richardson, Debbie Heeps, Leslie Fillingham - Thank-you!!
- **Blank Art Cards** – Andrea Potter and Susan Horne agreed to take on this fundraising effort in partnership with the PVG and Cindy Schreyer.
- **Mr. Uden:** There was a discussion regarding consolidating all the fundraising projects for the school, with dates in one place and the possibly of setting up a fundraising calendar so that the parents body have the ability to choose where to put their gifts.

PVG Parent Community Building

- **PVG Potluck Area Socials** were discussed to bring the FA Parent community closer together.
- The PVG will collaborate with parents to organize these events.
- This is not intended to create a financial weight on the hosts, families are invited to host a space only, with simple potluck items brought by parent guests.
- 64% of the school is based/living in the Vancouver area
- After discussion it was determined that there should be 5-6 socials

LOCATION & GRADES	WHEN & WHO
Richmond/Delta (All grades)	Host to be determined
Surrey/White Rock (All grades)	October 20th : Donna Williams

North Shore/West Van (All grades)	Host to be determined
Vancouver – Junior Sch (1-6)	Host to be determined
Vancouver – Middle Sch (7-9)	October 25 : Andrea Potter and PJ Weise
Vancouver – Senior Sch (10-12)	Host to be determined

- The parents in all areas, of course, always be welcome and invited to attend ANY local area social.
- Parents from other grades are also invited to attend specific grade Vancouver socials if they wish, but having all the Vancouver parents in one house might be too crowded
- Staff members will be in attendance at these socials

New Business

Gardening: Call out for volunteers to help with gardening

Speaker Series: Discussion regarding have a speaker series for the parents and students. The speaker series would bring in leaders who are dyslexic themselves or who have other learning challenges to tell their story of how they overcame their challenges or how it helped them in their life.