

# Parent Volunteer Group

AT FRASER ACADEMY

## PVG Meeting Minutes

Date: January 18, 2019

Time: 8:00 am to 9:15 am

Location: Fraser Academy, 5th Flr

### Attendees:

Belinda Curyer, Shelagh Cluff, Andrea Potter, Brandy Hughes, Vivian Cantas, Jessica Gibson, Belinda Boyson, Debbie Heeps, Susie Stewart, Maria Lajeunesse, Michealanne Dodds, Doug Paul, Kirsti Hardie, Veronika Carson, Kimberley Handelt, Karen Sadler, Erin Kline, Dass Tuck, Neil Johnston, Maureen Steltman, Anita Perkins

### 1. Welcome back- Andrea Potter

Thank you to everyone who helped with the December events including staff holiday baking, winter concerts, art cards and Purdy's fundraiser. All were a great success.

### 2. Update from Head of School - Maureen Steltman

Welcome to Neil Johnston as Director of Advancement. Neil comes from the Banff Centre of Performing Arts where he was involved with fundraising and business development for 12 years. There will be strategic planning in February for the placement of a new school and we look forward to his leadership. There will be a need for database assistant. The school is asking that parents share the job postings through their networks. <https://fraseracademy.ca/careers/>

Mr. Sun has been diagnosed with stage 4 Colon cancer. The faculty has decided to start a GO Fund Me page. Funds may be collected for his wishes to go on small trips in between chemo treatments which will start shortly after his operation early next week. The PVG Chair put a motion forward to allocate the extra cash donations from the staff holiday baking event to the Go Fund Me program to make the next year a bit easier for the Sun's. The vote was unanimous to contribute \$585.

### 3. Update on Wellness Program - Erin Kline

Great progress has been made with the initiative to date: designing the initial program outline (faculty on the wellness committee attended the CAIS (Canadian Association of Independent Schools) Strategic Change Accelerator program for planning the roll-out), increasing the knowledge and expertise of staff, and raising awareness in our community – notably through the presentations and webinars with Dr. Shimi Kang, speaker Sarah Ward, and screening of Angst last year. Currently, the program is in a research phase which will inform the full

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program. As part of this, the school will be sending out a survey to our current parent community next week. A focus group will be conducted on Jan 30, 2019.

This spring, a development phase with a prototype program will take place, which will then be refined for the launch of the full program in the new school year.

Dr. Shimi Kang will be presenting A deep dive into the science of raising motivated kids on Jan 22.

The goal is to provide informative planning for the whole school; faculty, parents and students and caregivers.

#### **4. Introduction of Neil Johnston, Director of Advancement - Maureen Steltman**

Neil introduced himself to us all and welcomed parents to introduce themselves. Neil's office is located in the Fraser Academy Association office, across the street from the school. Also Neil's wife Naomi Johnston will be joining the admissions team as Brooke Ellison is moving later this year.

#### **5. Financial update re winter concert/art cards, Purdy's – Brandy Hughes**

The following is a list of what monies we have raised so far for the PVG in 2018.

\$3200 Purdy's  
\$2500 Art Cards  
\$2500 Used Uniform  
\$579 Holiday Baking  
\$5976 Gaming Grant  
\$14,600. Total

Balance: \$55,000

It was noted that the JCC, asked for a portion of the sales from the Art Cards. For future concerts we will not be able to sell art cards at the JCC.

We are now over capacity at the JCC and the students can no longer remain in the theatre to watch other grades. We will be reaching out to various other facilities for the spring concert.

All parents are asked if they know of an affordable facility that can hold a minimum of 300 people to let the School know via Cass Tuck. Andrea P will connect with Crofton House School,

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Susie Stewart will contact Vancouver College, Belinda Curyer will contact St. Georges.

Note: After the meeting Zanna Downes indicates she would inquire if the theatre at UBC might be available, as she is involved in the theatre program.

## **6. Annual Art Gala - Vivian Cantas**

There will be an Art Gala planning meeting at Trees Organics following the PVG meeting. All our welcome to attend.

The Art Gala will be held on Thursday February 28 from 7-10pm at MNP building on West Hastings. Tickets will go on sale Monday Jan 21, at \$100 will include one drink ticket and appetizers. Tickets can be bought online (Eventbrite).

There will be 10 pieces from the art team to buy and a piece of art work from a Fraser Alum whom is attending Emily Carr. Also, the art teachers from FA will be donating art work.

Monies from this event will be for the outside landscape project (west and north side of the building) and student locker area. The goal of the event is \$50,000.

Please spread the word to friend, alum, alum parents, and family etc to attend the event. It was a super fun event for all last year. Our goal is to have 150 people attend.

Belinda put a call out for local places for door prizes. We are looking for wine/drink donations. Last year, all of the parents supplied or donated wine and beer. Also, if any parents have small businesses that they would like to promote and donate a door prize we would greatly appreciate the contributions. Maureen suggested inviting faculty to volunteer as a way of mingling and that the tickets will be purchased on their behalf. The "donating tree" will be there again for items to be purchased that the school needs. This is a way for parents to donate monies and receive tax receipts.

## **7. Landscaping project - Andrea Potter**

Andrea and Michelanne have a meeting with Houston Landscaping for the North and West sides of the school after the PVG meeting today as a way to get a preliminary design and budget for improvements to the outside areas. A healthy portion of the PVG's fundraising will go to improvements to make the area better utilized by students, teachers, families and the community. Ideally the area will be used by everyone; to eat lunch, class time, parents to congregate, enjoy a coffee, wait for a meeting at the school. A couple of items that need to be

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retained are the planter beds, place for refuse, and bicycle racks. We are hoping to have some drawings and preliminary budget in the next couple of weeks.

Karen Sadler made mention of a Vancouver Parks Board Grant for funds towards the outdoor space. Andrea added that Avviva Insurance has a community grant program and possibly other large companies may have community grants available.

## **8. Zero Waste initiative - Anita Perkins**

Anita reported that she has done some research with various other organizations to see what works and what doesn't work. She concluded that the PVG should be in a supportive role to the initiatives at the school rather than attempting initiatives independently as there are many groups involved in changes, including, social studies classes, parents, maintenance department, teachers, students. Small steps are worthwhile. The school needs to have a zero waste policy initiative and guidelines. The Zero Waste Initiative at the school is spearheaded by Catriona Gordon (Biology/Science) and Cindy Schreyer (art teacher), with 8 other teachers involved on this committee. Anita mentioned that Science World has a program where schools can submit an initiative and a class can win a free visit. Thanks goes to Anita for her continued lead on all things Zero Waste.

## **9. New business -**

The next 2 PVG meeting are scheduled for Friday March 8th and Friday May 31.

And as always, even if you cannot attend Parent Volunteer meetings, please let us know if you want to volunteer in any way. Connect with the PVG: [fapvg@fraseracademy.ca](mailto:fapvg@fraseracademy.ca)