

PVG Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, Feb 7, 2020

Time: 8:00 am to 9:15 am

Location: Fraser Academy, 5th Flr.

In attendance:

PVG Members:

Andrea Potter
Belinda Curyer
Vivian Cantas
Debbie Heeps
Judy Van Halst
Brock Martland
Kirsti Hardi
Mie Tam
Doug Paul
Hunter Wilson
Natalie Longo
Maria Lajeunesse

Staff:

Maureen Steltman, Head of School
Tasso Kanavos, Deputy Head of School
Neil Johnston, Director of Advancement
Travis Thielmann, Director, Academics & Curriculum
Natalie Glover, Executive Assistant

1. Sign in and welcome - Andrea Potter

Ms. Potter called the meeting to order at 8:06 am, and the meeting began with all members introducing themselves around the table.

2. Welcome and update - Head of School Maureen Steltman or designate

Mr. Kanavos began by stating the school has been busy with winter sports and Odyssey trips, and that Curriculum Night for Middle and Senior students would be taking place next Wednesday, February 12th. He also noted that report cards would be published on MySchool today. Mr. Thielmann reminded parents about the proficiency scale that is now used on Reports from Grade 2-8.

Mr. Kanavos quickly briefed the PVG on more current events happening around the school. All the basketball teams are about to head into playoffs, and last weekend the both the Gr 7-8 and Gr 9-10 boys basketball teams came third place at a tournament. The School will be having 'FA Smiles Week', the week of February 24th, which is an extension of Pink Shirt Day, the anti-bullying awareness campaign. On the evening of February 27th the student council will be hosting the Love Ball, a dance for Middle and Senior students on the 5th Floor. Student council will be selling pins leading up to the dance, the incentive for which is that students can wear casual clothes during Smile Week if they are wearing a pin. All proceeds from the dance and pin sales will be donated to the BC Cancer Foundation in memory of Matthew Sun. The same day as the Middle and Senior school dance, the Junior students will have their own activities on the 5th floor during the school day, including a dance party and games. Mr. Kanavos informed that a notice with all the Smile Week information would be circulated via email.

Mr. Thielmann announced that course selection for Grades 9 to 11 is coming up, and advised parents to check dates in the school calendar.

Mrs. Steltman reminded the PVG that the school is transitioning to continuous enrolment, and the Tuition Fee Schedules are located in MySchool.

Ms. Heeps asked when families find out if their child will be placed in on-to-one versus group Learning Services, and Mr. Kanavos confirmed that information would be published after the break.

Mr. Johnston finished the school update by announcing that there will be a community event on March 5th at the Vancouver Lawn Club, to launch FA's Strategic Path towards 2025. An invite has already been sent out via email to the parent community, and we are all looking forward to the event.

3. Discussion on name change- Andrea

Ms. Potter raised the discussion of changing the name of the PVG, Parent Volunteer Group, to something that is more all-encompassing and community-based. The goal of having a new name is to represent the mandate of supporting new families, creating safe space for students and building community - not necessarily specific to just volunteering. After a lengthy discussion on new name possibilities, the attendees proposed: **Fraser Academy Parent Community**. The group agreed this name creates a welcoming environment and parents feel as though they are automatically a part of it,

instead of needing to necessarily commit volunteer hours. Ms. Potter moved to change the name of the Parent Volunteer Group to the Fraser Academy Parent Community. Unanimously agreed. Motion passed. *Going forward the PVG will be referred to as FAPC in the minutes.*

4. Financial update - Andrea Potter for Brandy Hughes

Ms. Potter presented the FAPC's current financial standing on the projector; the current cash total is \$39,795. Ms. Potter noted a portion of their funds had been used to pay for the landscaping out front of the school, and a portion of last year's gaming grant was put towards the furniture that would eventually be out front. Ms. Potter also noted that Ms. Hughes would be in attendance at the next meeting to discuss financials in more detail.

5. Staff Appreciation Lunch 2020 - Doug Paul

Mr. Paul announced he is taking the lead on organizing the Staff Appreciation Lunch again this year. It will be taking place on June 18th at the Creekside Community Centre in Olympic Village. Mr. Paul requested that the group use a majority of the next scheduled FAPC meeting on March 6th to plan the staff appreciation lunch, and noted he would send out a request for more volunteers. Ms. Potter stated that in terms of fundraising for this event, typically the FAPC has asked families to donate funds instead of getting staff individual gifts. Mr. Paul requested if the group could reserve the 5th Floor after the FAPC meeting on March 6th until 10:00 am for any continuous planning they may need to do. Ms. Potter requested that Mr. Paul bring an approximate budget proposal to the next meeting.

6. Community events and class activities - Belinda Curyer

Ms. Curyer reported that the class activities have been quieting down after winter break, however going into the second half of the school year, class parents would like to increase the number of activities being organized. Ms. Curyer made a few

recommendations to the group, such as having a nutritionist come present to the students, hosting a screening of Screenagers 2, or hosting pub nights for parents. One parent had hosted a Holiday party over winter break for Grade 5 and 7 families and said that it was very successful, with approximately 40 families attending. Ms. Potter suggested sharing photos of these events on Fraser Academy social media platforms. A parent noted that some families might not be comfortable with their children having photos made public, but Mr. Kanavos assured the group that all photos are vetted by our Marketing and Communications team before being posted, to make sure that the families have signed photo release forms for their children.

Ms. Curyer concluded her class activity update by asking for feedback via email, about any suggestions they might have for community and parent events, or what has worked at other schools.

7. Landscaping update - Judy Van Halst

Ms. Van Halst announced that the picnic tables and benches will be arriving at the school within the next month. The table that will wrap around the flagpole is taking a bit longer than expected to arrive. Ms. Curyer asked if the table would prevent the flag from being raised, to which Mr. Kanavos presented there should not be an issue, but they could double check with the Building Manager, Mr. Major.

8. 2021 Art Gala - Vivian Cantas

Ms. Cantas stated that For The Love of Art has been confirmed for 2021, and is scheduled to take place February 25th. They are actively searching for a venue, and soon will be looking to recruit volunteers. Ms. Cantas noted she would wait until after Mr. Paul recruited volunteers for the Staff Appreciation lunch before seeking out volunteers for the Art Gala.

The PVG is hoping that senior students donate pieces from their art show in May 2020, to have on display at For the Love of Art, or for art to be donated by Alum.

One parent asked if families can donate pieces of art for the show, but Ms. Potter stated most art is done by the students, however other art pieces are welcome to be donated as auction items.

9. Used uniforms - Vivian Cantas and Debbie Heeps

Ms. Heeps announced the last used uniform sale made between 400 and 500 dollars, and that the next one would take place on April 30, from 2:30 to 7:00 pm.

Mrs. Steltman noted that Mr. Norrish would be doing a uniform review regarding pants vs. skirts for older students. She also explained that as a smaller school, we are fairly restricted in what we can order from uniform shops, and Top Marks has been a consistently good partner that is easy to work with.

With no new business being presented, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.