

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
(PAC)
NOVEMBER 25, 2015 GENERAL MEETING
AT 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY AT LORD BYNG SECONDAR SCHOOL**

Approximately 53 parents in attendance

Table Officers Present

Jake Fry, Christine Dearing, Janis Liu, Tracey St. Denis,
Amy Yan, and Linda Liu

Time	Item	Speaker
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7:02	Welcome	Jake
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Four teachers (Dan Kamin, Amy Hughes, Sonia Blair, and Sara McNeil) were in attendance for presentations at the meeting

7:05	October Meeting Minutes and November Agenda	Jake
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Motion to approve October 28, 2015 minutes - John Puddifoot;
Seconded - Anda Ma

Anda translated in Mandarin; question from the floor asking about a translator; Jake advised he would explain what he wanted to try regarding the translation after the minutes approved; all approved; motion carried.

Jake explained that Robert Li from the VSB was unavailable to act as an English-Mandarin interpreter; given that we have a full agenda tonight, it may be more efficient to break into groups for translation and stop for questions when needed so as not to protract the length of the meeting; people reorganized themselves to be seated near a translator.

Motion to approve agenda - Nancy Bradshaw;
Seconded -Jane Speakman

ELL scholarship added to Other Business; all approved; motion carried.

7:15	Principal's Report	Annette
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Dates confirmed for new curriculum implementation (March 4, 2015 and April 15, 2015) so these will be treated like Pro D Days; new curriculum includes a new framework for learning and fewer reports, community based, flexibility, and the whole child; 3 year plans to be developed which are reported on annually; this year is for simply adopting the new curriculum with a roll out next spring.

An app is being developed in many languages so that all notices can be translated specific to the user.

Annette announced she is leaving the school in December to become the principal at Britannia (their principal is retiring); Geoff Taylor will be the new principal January 1, 2016.

7:20

Teacher's Report

Scott McKeen

School has received funding for:

1. Grit and resiliency program for students and
2. Strengthening environment and community including aboriginal principles (in participation with Jules Quesnel)

There are curriculum changes coming including one additional AP course; see school website for more details

7:20

Department Heads Report on School Plan Initiatives

Math

Dan Kamin

Provided handout regarding math contests for the current school year and math course selections for the subsequent school year; goal is to improve achievement of math students; initiating peer tutoring by grades 11 and 12 students to lower grade students; looking at introducing a statistics course next year; a reminder that the math contests need funding by the PAC; his email address is dkamin@vsb.bc.ca

Counseling

Sonia Blair

There are 5 counselors in the counselling suite. Focused working on mental health, balanced mind, making connections, mindfulness exercises etc.

- Counsellors make classroom visits to explain roles of counsellors, they try to make connections with students, do presentations on mental health, presentation for parents.
- Lots of programs such as balanced mind running at Byng.
- Presentations on mental health: incorporating more people from outside to talk about it.
- Creating opportunity for connections: tea and talk/cocoa and chat/marshmallow moments.
- Mental health group: the **Balance Mind @ Byng** group activities includes: pizza group/learning to breathe/counseling suite with music and colouring.

Thanks to Byng PAC for funding some great resources.

English**Amy Hughes**

Shared her experience working in Byng English department for 26 years, emphasized “You are not your marks”, encouraged students and parents to make connections to school, and not to compare marks.

PE**Sara Neil**

It is a high-energy department, also with lots of fun, and a variety of activities to make it enjoyable. It is mandatory G8-10 and optional for G11 and G12. To make it more fun, it is not only in Gym, it also can be lots of fun activities like field trips, climbing, laser tags etc.

Basketball season now, Rugby, Swimming: senior boys doing very well.

Terry Fox run: bring a Toonie for Terry.

Leadership class –running campaign to contribute toys to two needy families.

7:27**Q &As**

How can PAC best support teachers with the new curriculum?

Annette stated that there are lots of uncertainties for teachers. PAC wants to ensure that teachers know we are here to help.

7:34**Brochures with additional information about role of PAC****Christine**

Brought brochures regarding newcomer parents in English and Mandarin for parents to learn more. A link will be put on the PAC website to these brochures as well as additional information about the role of PAC from the School Act and the BCCPAC.

7:38**Treasurer’s Report****Tracey**

Tracey gave detailed report ending Oct. 31st. These documents were sent home to all families by email before the meeting.

Wish list for Gaming Account was explained and discussed:

Motion to approve all items submitted prior to Sept. 30th on the Gaming Account including the following items:

- Annual subscription for the Reach for the Top team
- New buzzers for Reach for the Top team
- Math contest entry fees
- BC Youth Slam Poetry contest entry fees
- Ice maker for injury treatment for the rugby team
- Guest speaker honorariums for Social Justice 12
- Music teacher for the Lord Byng Life Skills class

Moved – Chris Bromige

Seconded - John Puddifoot

Carried

Motion to extend funding the following two items on the Gaming Account:

Moved – Lisa Tuer

Seconded – John Puddifoot

Carried

- French Play
- Debate Team entry fees

Questions and discussions regarding the T-Shirts fund request of \$2500 for 80 of them. More information and options will be gathered.

Motion to approve the following 2 time-sensitive items:

- Guest Speaker for Social Justice 12: \$600
- Music Teacher for Life Skills program:\$850

Moved – Nancy Bradshaw

Seconded – Jim Busser

Carried

- Tracey explained that the October meeting was so long that we did not have time to discuss the Wish List at the last meeting. Typically, we have two meetings to consider Wish List items and to engage in discussion about each item. Teachers will submit the next round of requests in January and we will have the January and February meetings to consider and discuss these. In the meantime, we need to undertake fundraising activities to be able to fund additional requests.

Wish list for General Account was explained and discussed:

Motion to approve to buy the following two new, exciting things.

Moved - Elisabeth Baerg-Hall

Seconded - Chris Bromige

Carried

- 1 Glowforge 3-D cutting machine for Applied Skills and Fine Arts: \$7,784.89
- Tinkerine DittoPro 3D Printer: \$2,014.88

8:44

Other Business

Jake

Proposal to form a sub-committee to fundraise money to create scholarships for English Language Learner (ELL) students and confirmed historical initiatives for ELL scholarship.

Sue Xu explained the purpose of setting up a sub-committee to fundraise for scholarship for ELL students and the reasons to keep this request separate from the Wish List process, which already has a long list of requests. This initiative will take place outside the PAC process for funding requests and will not be a PAC scholarship. The committee will work in collaboration with the ELL department and the administration to develop a fundraising plan, criteria and delivery mechanisms.

Motion to approve the ELL scholarship fundraising committee – Sue Xu

Seconded and carried

Not enough time to break into committees to discuss fundraising initiatives

9:10

Meeting Adjourned

