

Jamieson PAC General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019

In attendance:|

Executive members:

Grace Chan
Flo Lum
Kim Lai
Wanda Chow
Alex Dow
Edwin Lee
Janice Yip

Jacqueline Tiong
Cindy Ling
Mei Ling Khong
Lily Chang
Kathy Tran
Steven Bartlett, vice-principal
Natasha Miladinovic, principal

General members:

Angela Choi, Alex Lam, Han Shin Kim, Stella Heo, Carmen Lee, Jo-Ann Fong, Mark Emperador, Vivienne Soo, Anne Chiu, Eric Shum, Mingchia Lee, Daniel Poulsson, Michelle Leung, Jonathan Au, Vania Ng, Cheryl Luey, Jason Luey, Daiichiro Ishizuka, Kelly Liu, Gary Lee, Derek Kuo, Yuckun Zhou, Derek Chong, Anita Tam, Joy Valderrama, Holly Lee, Stephanie Yada, Michelle Robinson, Kitty Liang, Dova Tsang, Roxanne Louie, Katherine MacPhee

Grace Chan calls the meeting to order at 7:11 pm

Approval of Agenda

Flo Lum motions to approve agenda, seconded by Edwin Lee, carried

Approval of Minutes of the Nov. 28, 2018 PAC General meeting

Katherine MacPhee motions to approve minutes, seconded by Cindy Ling, carried

Chair's Report: Grace Chan

Welcomes new principal Natasha Miladinovic. Ms Miladinovic started only nine days ago even though it feels longer as she visited in December while still on maternity leave. Thank you.

Hamber seismic update - Stephanie Yada and Michelle Robinson, co-chairs, Hamber PAC

Stephanie: we are co-chairs of Hamber PAC. Construction of a new Hamber, an \$80-million project, is the largest school to be built in VSB history. Plan to break ground in January 2020, completion target in January 2022. To be built to LEED gold standard, state of the art, no question will be best school in city.

There are good features in the new building but key pieces are missing. Meanwhile the neighbourhood population continues to grow from higher density developments planned /in process.

We are concerned there are significant items missing. It will be smaller than the existing school, with no auditorium or performance space, even though it is currently very much used for dance, drama, and music

programs. Gym space is 19% smaller even though overutilized now. Will be losing space for fashion program. Will be losing playing field and track for 10 years. Will have two high schools plus Jules Verne Secondary sharing small field for 10 years while existing building is used as a swing site after construction of the new Hamber is completed. Playing field will be gone for football. Hamber is only public high school in Vancouver with football program, will probably lose it. Also affects Hamber's ultimate program, the biggest in province. Of 1,500 students, 1,200 students use gym and fields for PE and athletics programs, 700 in extracurricular programs. Track and field, cross country also affected. No contingency plan so far, they are told to go find another space.

Auditorium: bands, strings, choir, fashion design, drama, will be affected if no place to perform.

The fashion program is the largest in province. Many students graduate and move to fashion design careers, and compete internationally. Program will be squeezed into a quarter of its current space risking its viability and may disappear eventually.

The school population is projected to be the same in the future but overall space is reduced by 26%. Classrooms will be smaller. Project planners argue that 21st century school design uses common, shared and flexible spaces so less overall space is needed.

Hamber PAC started petition calling for these vital spaces to be included. Feeder school families will be affected especially students in Grade 7 and younger. Elementary schools are key to fighting for this. Visit hamberpac.ca for the latest updates, sign petition, and write to the Vancouver School Board.

Project was announced end of June 2018. Seismic advisory committee established. RFP bidding process April to September 2019.

The province works with Partnerships BC, in charge of design, but VSB trustees will approve the design. The design to be finalized end of March 2019. There is urgency.

Parent: Is there space on the site to build it all, and is the budget capped at \$80 million?

Michelle: VSB made decision to keep existing Hamber as swing space which may limit available space on site.

Stephanie: There's no question they're saving money by using Hamber as swing space. We are told budget and square footage is set based on area standards set in 2004. The standards are outdated, and current government is committed to updating it, but has not done so yet. Playing field is large enough to accommodate auditorium and larger gym. City-run daycare on rooftop. We believe anything is possible if voices are loud enough. Tight timeline but there's a chance.

Our petition started two weeks ago. Media is drawing attention to the issue. We plan to attend VSB planning meetings. The petition is out there as a means to show them people are engaged and concerned.

It is harder to get current Hamber parents engaged because it won't affect most of their kids. We have written letter to MLA, can see it on Hamber PAC website. Hamber Alumni Facebook page is very active on the issue.

New Kitsilano secondary completed recently, included ample gym space and auditorium.

Daycare will be city run, not part of school's 15,000 square metres. Not part of seismic budget.

Principal's Report: Natasha Miladinovic

Very happy to be here, from Edith Cavell elementary. Kids and staff have been very welcoming. look forward to getting to know everyone. Am still working on addressing deficiencies from seismic project such as hallway bulletin boards, shelving. Playground still being worked on. Orange fencing around new grass to be up at least until April.

Senior and junior boys basketball teams in progress. Thanks to Ms. Lam and Ms. Joseph for coaching and Ms. Alexander for scorekeepers.

Mandarin Bilingual Program (MBP)

Info night held last night. We don't know at this time how many new students will be admitted into the program. Registration for Kindergarten and MBP closes Jan. 31. Don't know how many MBP classes next year. Same format as last year, admission by lottery draw, expected to be held by spring break.

MBP is a district program. VSB policy on district programs allows all families the opportunity to apply and be selected ie. the elimination of student assessment of Mandarin applicants remains. We recommend that applicants not be native speakers and to have strong English language arts skills. We hope families decide to apply based on that info but are not required to meet either recommendation. Even if fluent in Mandarin the child would be admitted into the program if their name is drawn. Applicants with a sibling currently in the program still receive priority.

Flo: How do teachers teach for range of Mandarin ability? Seems to be a disservice to the teacher.

Natasha: We recommend fluent Mandarin speakers not apply but ultimately it's the choice of the family. Students are placed in the appropriate Mandarin levels based on their ability.

Steven: We would inform parents that the native speaker will reach the top level after Grade 4. If that child drops out after Grade 4 their spot would be refilled.

Parent: Mandarin teachers admit there are new challenges when teaching students with such a wide range of abilities, and those with English language difficulty. They have had to seek more resource teachers for assistance from administration.

Parent: Concerned about the quality of Mandarin teaching being watered down if teachers need to focus on helping students whose English skills are lacking.

Parent: Expressed support for giving all students the same opportunities, and not to restrict them because of their abilities.

Parent: Suggested adding capacity to the school such as portables, to help accommodate more Mandarin classes.

Natasha: Portables cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to install. Unlikely to happen.

Grace: We are waiting for application deadlines to close Jan. 31. In-catchment Kindergarten kids receive first

priority. This September Jamieson received three classes of Kindergarten, up from two classes. As South Hill did not have sufficient space, the MBP was reduced to four divisions, down from five divisions. We want to advocate for the program to ensure its growth and continuity, and for it to remain at Jamieson. VSB can move district programs such as ours to neighbouring schools with spare capacity. It would be sad to see that as it's been here for over 20 years.

Extracurricular Strings

Natasha: Mr. Colpitts will provide an extracurricular Advanced Strings program for Grade 5/6 and Grade 7 in the mornings, volunteering his own time.

Grace: We are very happy to see Advanced Strings return. Also need to voice our support and continue to advocate for strings and music education to grow and continue in our school and in the district.

Part of our frustration is that the school has gone through much change. My kids arrived in Kindergarten and are already on their fifth principal.

Parent suggests larger venue for strings concert so parents of younger students can experience it before their kids participate to help get them engaged.

Treasurer's Report: Kim Lai

Spending on target. Most was deferred until we returned to Tisdall site. Will share more at next meeting.

Grace: Fundraising results: silent auction \$3,600, Two Rivers meat \$650, gift cards netted \$2,000 (from selling \$52,000 worth of gift cards over three weeks), Cineplex certificates raised about \$600, some still available, poinsettias \$200, jelly bean contest \$50. Expect to get teachers' wish list soon.

DPAC Report: Alex Dow

Lois Chan-Pedley is our VSB trustee rep, Janet Fraser is the trustee rep for Hamber.

Old Business

Hot Lunch - Janice Yip

Just started up, have new vendor, term 2 is a short term.

Adjournment

Flo motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm, seconded by Jacqueline, carried