



# Beaconsfield PAC Minutes

Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 @ 6:30pm (on Zoom)

*The purpose of the Council is to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and well being of students at Lord Beaconsfield Elementary School.*

ZOOM LINK FOR NOV 9TH

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85289809818?pwd=UjllelRQNmE5T3dlYVdPK3Q0V0lmdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 8980 9818      Passcode: 575836

## Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

*I'd like to begin our PAC meeting today by acknowledging that we are gathered on the ancestral, traditional and unceded indigenous territories of the Coast Salish Peoples - in particular the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations of Metro Vancouver.*

In attendance: Kathy T., Rose N., Joel Levine, Luzell DC, April D., Meagan C, Melissa B, Alexis F, Julia Lu, Julia Ko, Lisa W, Matthew Seftel, Cristina Bittante. Minutes by Shelley West.

1. WELCOME & Approve Minutes from last meeting (minutes are always posted on the LB vsb page under PAC)

Minutes approved

2. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Mr. Joel Levine

Overall things are going well.

Halloween - Mrs. Wallace and the grade 7's put on a safe & well-decorated celebration! There was a parade through the school and the classes went to the gym for games and activities. Big thanks to Mrs. Wallace and all the grade 7's for their hard work, it was a fun day.

Remembrance Day - outside of the pandemic, we'd normally gather as a large group. In light of ongoing safety protocols, the grade 7's have created a display in the front hall. Classes are talking about themes of Remembrance and will take turns visiting the display tomorrow.

VPD sponsored a Safe Walk Program and several primary classes signed up. Due to the weather we had 4 classes in the gym with the doors open.

COVID guidelines are shifting, we're now allowed to start having larger gatherings, as long as other safety protocols (space, masks etc) are adhered to. We aren't ready to have ALL 200 kids together but we're working on bringing together larger groups.

Voice amp sets were purchased and distributed - thank you.

Overall, things are going well. From a health perspective. Some kids are getting sick with colds and other ailments. We haven't heard of any/many COVID cases at Beaconsfield.

## DISCUSSION & CONCERNS:

### Traffic & Road Safety

Education of kids re: road safety is a good first step however, driver safety is also a concern at the school. Is the city/VPD aware, any actions being taken?

Joel - common concern. The officer suggested we could call and see if someone could come to assist, though this would be temporary. We do get people complaining about parking, I will go out to watch & cue people around parking rules.

Concerns:        Parking should be 6m from corners (parents do remind each other)  
Intersection of Nanaimo & 20th - cars speed down hill making crosswalk unsafe  
20th Ave. - no sidewalk on north side so students need to cut across  
Penticton - no designated crosswalks. Intersections at 20 and 21, congested before/after school.  
22nd at Penticton - also no crosswalk and traffic moves quickly

Actions:        Pilot - Crossing Guard Program? Who would organize/manage? PAC willing to provide funds.  
Follow-up with city/VPD re: crosswalks, road safety (Joel to report back)  
Marking corners of intersections to cue drivers re: parking distance  
Purchase of cut-out displays/green guys with flags to roll out before/after school?

### Student Safety/Bullying/Social-Emotional Support and Development

-Concern raised about a specific bullying incident. Teachers are aware & following up with discussions in class about leadership, safety, social responsibility. All staff are aware and are actively monitoring.  
-Questions/discussion re: resources, actions being taken, teacher skills/activities.  
-Acknowledgement that COVID has created challenges as families are not able to come inside the school and observe what is happening, talk to teaching staff etc.  
-Question about 'buddy system' - these programs have always been positive for building community, unfortunately not happening now due to ongoing COVID concerns/restrictions.  
-Teachers are incorporating principles from 'Powerful Understanding' by Adrienne Gear, finding ways to bridge learning with social emotional development

Suggestion        talk to your child's teacher about what is happening in their classroom!

Action            PAC to invite teaching staff to meetings to talk about activities, resources & for parents to 'get to know'. (New librarian, counsellor, youth & family worker)

### 3. BUDGET REPORT – Julia & Rose

- We are now able to receive (but can't send) e-transfers to our general account! Helpful for fundraising!
- Received gaming grant (\$4840.00) plus DPAC funding (about \$1300.00).
- Profits from Reflector Fundraiser (over \$1000!)

### 4. COMMUNICATION UPDATE - Julia K, Kathy

Parent Interest Survey was sent out - see results & discuss

48 responses. Concerns re: Mental health & academic performance. Lots of feedback re: vaccinations with children. Survey was anonymous. Parents showed support for changing the name of the school.

What do you want to see in the future?

- After-school activities, neighbourhood engagement. Sports. Fine Arts.
- Lots of support for music and technology programming.
- Walking school bus - 37% interested.

What do we do with this information?

Survey provides general direction in terms of what parents want to see.

In the past we've used this information to guide program and funding decisions. EX. Music (recorders, ukeleles).

In the past, if we identify a need (mental health education) we've sponsored programs for families.

COVID has been quite disruptive to many of our traditional initiatives. Now that practitioners (and the rest of us!) have adjusted to things being done/offered online, there are new opportunities available.

Parent Survey was distributed on the PAC email list - parents need to sign up so not all received it.

Action:

- December newsletter - include reminder for parents to join PAC email list by emailing PAC email.
- Survey to be distributed via the school email list?
- Ali & Meagan to explore options re: mental health support for kids & families and bring some suggestions to next meeting.

*The PAC welcomes any parents who want to take on any topics or initiatives. There are a number of people in the school (teachers, counsellors) who are doing some of this work... it takes time to get to know what's happening in the school over time.*

## 5. SCHOOL NAME CHANGE - Ali & Matthew

Guidelines to propose name change.

Lord Beaconsfield (Benjamin Disraeli) was a 19th century British conservative prime minister (and opposition leader) who was instrumental in making the Conservative party most identified with the "glory and power" of the British Empire. His principles of government supported Britain's imperialist & colonial policies. Of further concern was his support of Aryanism prior to the uprising of Nazi Germany. Lord Beaconsfield had few (if any ties) to Canada or education.

Canada's colonial legacy is something we have inherited and will need to address in order to build a more equitable & just society. Learning to move forward in representative, inclusive ways requires us to question, address & resolve places where this colonial legacy is represented. Should our school be named after someone who we don't hold up and celebrate as having the values & ideals we want our children to strive for?

A name change initiative requires first support from the PAC/Teachers/Parents. Our parent survey shows some support. We'll need to strike a committee to further explore how ready parents/teachers are for a name change. This can be done by objectively exploring and articulating who Beaconsfield was, and if/how his characteristics were objectionable. We will need to collectively determine what to do with this information and how we wish to move forward as a community.

Reference: <https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2021/09/07/Ten-Schools-VSB-Should-Rename/>

“School names, like statues, plaques and other historical commemorations, are manifestations of power. The powerful impose their narratives on the surrounding landscape by naming and renaming places and phenomena.”

“The majority of VSB schools are named after economically and politically powerful white male politicians, military personnel, explorers, royalty, businessmen and professionals. Eleven schools are named after women, six are named after an Indigenous person and only one school, [Sir James Douglas](#) Elementary, is named after a Black person. Not a single school is named after an Asian or South Asian person.”

Action: Matt S and Ali F to explore and report back.

#### 6. PAC PUBLICITY-ROLL UP BANNER - Melissa

Big thanks to Melissa for her work on designing the banner. Feedback and info has been shared on the Whatapp group.

?? Are we going to order or discuss at next meeting?

#### 7. SUPPORTING TEACHING ASSISTANTS - Julia Ko - *forward to next time.*

### FUNDRAISERS:

#### 8. Hot lunch with C'est Mon Cafe - Rose (5 min)

Started Thur Nov 4th and continues every 2 weeks. First week was well received by kids. Thanks to Rose for getting this organized!

#### 9. Reflector Fundraiser - Kathy (3min)

-Order deadline was extended with extra reminders sent out by email & written notice - this helped boost orders, thank you Ms Bell & Mr Levine

-google form / email / e-transfer method worked well for this fundraiser

-We received 48 customer orders - **\$1024.94 profit to PAC!**

-Finnex will deliver the bulk order sorted by division by Monday to Kathy's house for sorting into individual customer orders for handing out

Thanks Kathy for taking this on!

#### 10. ShopFunds Fundraiser - Rose

Coming up soon. Notice will be sent home. Will be paperless and we'll use e-transfers for payment. Orders due November 26, delivery week of December 13. Will need volunteers to help organize cards.

#### 11. Purdy's Fundraiser - April (3min)

Similar dates to shop funds. Families order directly from Purdy's site and we'll distribute outside the school. Will need volunteers to help sort orders.

12. EcoArt House Art Greeting Cards - Kathy

Not happening due to COVID - will try again next year.

13. GENERAL UPDATES FROM LAST MEETING:

- a. April - Veggie Program. Could you share a schedule so people can sign up to help.
- b. Shelley - buddy bench will be painted when time/weather permits.
- c. Saleema Noon Sexual Health Education - More teachers were interested. Shelley to follow up with Joel & Saleema Noon re: planning for after Christmas/Springtime
- d. Kathy - Walking School Bus --- Not interested at this time, will revisit next year.

TABLED/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Beaconsfield Community BBQ – June 2022?
- b. Gladstone & Van Tech Scholarships \*\* deadline end of April \*\*

**UPCOMING PAC MEETING DATES:**

\*\* Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 on Zoom  
Tuesday, January 11th, 2022 on Zoom