



# Beaconsfield PAC Minutes

Tuesday, December 14th, 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.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89989929315?pwd=WVlzdnlJrZHo1dElGRnVmaS91cEk1QT09>

Meeting ID: 899 8992 9315      Passcode: 481587

## 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.*

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

Minutes reviewed & approved.

2. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Mr. Joel Levine

Fun activities happening in the school right now. Today there were boxes that appeared all over the school. Ready for a break. Theme days. Lots of fun activities. Kids are excited and having fun in spite of other things happening elsewhere. Theme days this week and PJ day on Friday. We're all having fun. Mrs. Wallace & Ms. Joe plus grade 7's are decorating and leading the fun

COVID - things are looking so great as the situation is worsening. WE have had a couple of COVID cases this past month. I understand this is causing much anxiety. Please understand I need to follow the VSB and VCH guidelines. If a child tests positive, public health will ask questions about school, friends, contacts. Public health contacts the district which contacts me. I release contact information for teachers, families. It is very clear, public health relays information and makes decisions about that. As a principal, I'm not allowed to release information. This is frustrating and some people disagree, but these are the guidelines we need to follow.

We're mindful of safety and wearing masks, hand washing. Haven't heard of transmission happening in school but there have been cases. We know that what's happening in the community is reflected in the schools.

Many people are agreeable with vaccines and some people believe strongly that they don't believe in vaccines. I've had families across the spectrum contact me. Direction, if your child is sick please keep them home.

School plan - powerful understanding Adrienne Gear - series of lessons using social/emotional learning to guide learning. This is guiding our school plan. We are gathering data and tracking incidents where peer conflicts are being addressed. Nevertheless, conflicts always arise and we are working to help kids learn how to resolve conflict. In terms of student voice, when teachers are teaching lessons there are opportunities for kids to get involved and self-identify where they are learning new skills, etc.

Librarian Ms. Scott - worked at VSB for 5 years, as teacher, special education and librarian. Happy to be at Beaconsfield, closer to my neighbourhood.

Brenda M - youth and family worker, focus on social/emotional learning. Worked at Beaconsfield 30 years ago, happy to be back

Question - anti-vax rhetoric circulating in the school. it would be nice to see information directed by science and to provide fact-based information. Other provinces are talking about school closures... do you have any sense of timing, re: potential closures.

Joel - things are ramping up so rapidly, it's difficult to predict/know how it will go. I've heard nothing and think this will be the last resort.

Kathy - there has been some talk about rapid tests being distributed to families.

### 3. BUDGET REPORT - Rose & Julia

Over \$1000 earned by the reflectors. \$300 by shopfunds. Purdy's

Need to spend grant money. We receiving about \$5K in gaming grant. Last year used for garden & pink shirts. Saleema Noon is about \$1000. Need to think about how to spend the other \$4K. Orange shirt day? Tech needs.

Are you sure you can spend on tech? I thought no.... Julia Lu needs to weigh in... extracurricular, something not 'fixed' in the school.

Joel - recess sports equipment. At my last school, some outdoor recess/lunch equipment. That would be good to have.

Other ideas?

Hot lunch - ends this week and then a notice will be sent out for a new series in the New Year? Some changes are available.

### 4. CURRENT FUNDRAISERS:

- a. Purdy's - April - \$1000
- b. ShopFunds - Rose \$300
- c. C'est Mon Cafe - Rose will be paid out in a few months. 50 kids getting lunch every week (\$50/profit/week)
  - **HUGE THANKS TO APRIL AND ROSE FOR SPEARHEADING AND HANDLING THESE BIG FUNDRAISERS!**

### 5. SALEEMA NOON Sexual Health Education - Shelley & Joel

- a. dates booked Monday Feb 14th for Parent Zoom 6:30-8pm, Tuesday Feb 15th Kids in-person
- b. Cath has provided the information/zoom link/schedule needs/invoice
- c. \$971.25 Inv#2395(J) : Parents \$350 + In-person \$575 = \$925 + 5%GST (46.25) PAID Chq 274 gaming

Families invited to participate in parent sessions and then can opt out for their kids. Most Classes are participating in these workshops, with the exception of two. Further discussion may occur between parents and teacher should their child be in a class that is not participating and they want them to have the workshop.

6. SUPPORTING TEACHING ASSISTANTS - Julia Ko (tabled from last week) \*\* Julia away, tabled to next month

7. SCHOOL NEEDS?

- a. further input on tech needs?
- b. any holiday hamper/gift card needs for any families this year?

Paul (Youth and family worker - EXCEL district program for kids with bx/social/emotional concerns) gets donations. At this point we are ok, we get donations, gift cards, etc. Got some money for community school team. No outstanding needs right now. There may be needs arise later in the year.

There is hot breakfast/lunch program happening. Could PAC sponsor kids for hot lunch?

8. TRAFFIC SAFETY:

- a. Crossing Guard possibility? any news from Mr. Levine?
- b. Safety "Cones" or roll out signage to be purchased? PAC willing to provide funds?
- c. Have any parents put in city requests/recommendations on the 311 site for crosswalks?
- d. Any further implementation to increase safety - let's try to stay focussed on moving ahead with solutions.

Joel - update - safety patrol - asked around if there would be interest. There wasn't anyone who volunteered and was keen to take it on. I could assist, but I'm not always available. Teacher raised, that its kind of chaotic outside. Now we're putting young kids at the cross walk and there might not always be an adult to supervise. Point being, is this safe for kids? Might be too much for them to handle.

311 go on app and make complaints about the corner, this is something we can do...

Sandwich board signage - kids crossing. Would this be of any use? or pylons for the Penticton St. no stopping zone. Families still stopping in the no stopping zone... Could moms/families come out and remind people? Pylons for the front no-stopping zone. Large stacking cones?

April put forward a motion for \$500. Kathy seconded. Motion approved - up to \$500 for safety supplies for traffic/road safety — **can utilize GAMING GRANT FUNDS**

9. COMMUNICATION UPDATE - Bilyana - away this evening

- a. were we able to get the Parent Survey out again to the mass email? or new year?
- b. Ali & Meagan were to explore options re: mental health support for kids & families
- c.

Megan sent some info re: Kelty MH Resource info - podcast.

- also in the new year, let's put out more information to see if parents interested in the Walking School Bus program to reduce traffic in the area?

10. PAC PUBLICITY-ROLL UP BANNER - Melissa (away - table to next meeting)

11. SCHOOL NAME CHANGE - Ali & Matthew (away - table to next meeting)

- a. providing more detailed information on Lord Beaconsfield history and reasons for the interest in changing the name (see some of the notes that were inputted into last month's minutes)
- b. We will need to collectively determine what to do with this information and how we wish to move forward as a community.

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.

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."

#### TABLED/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

#### UPCOMING PAC MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 on Zoom  
 Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 on Zoom