

# General PAC Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2023

6:38pm Meeting In Session.

Meeting facilitated by Lucy Maloney (PAC Chair)

Attended by 16 members

Guests: Doug ? & Shannon Burton (Director of Instruction), VSB; Christopher Wee, Incoming VP; Paul An; Cathy Thomas; Morgan Geurin, Knowledge Keeper from the Musquem

## Agenda:

- Motions
- Guest Speaker: Morgan Geurin, Musquem Knowledge Keeper
- Update from Principal Cathy Thomas and Vice Principal Paul An
- Other Business

## Motions

- ***Motion: Donate \$2,000 out of general budget to the school for the purposes of supporting families in need.***
  - o Seconded: Ian Rowe
  - o Vote: Majority yes (carried)
- ***Motion: Allocate \$500 of DPAC's funds to Society running DPAC Choir Program***
  - o Seconded: Ian Rowe
  - o Vote: Majority yes (carried)

## Guest Speaker: Morgan Geurin, Musquem Knowledge Keeper

- Visited students last week and talked about sense of place for a Musqueum person
- Fundamental teaching -you come from the earth. Spirit comes from sky, body is borrowed from earth. When you name a place, it reflects that.
- It is alien to put a name of someone else's on land (i.e., hair on mom's head is hair, not Roger's Arena!)
- Names refer to land, and what that land was. Indigenous perspective- when you name a place, you give Mom her name back.
- Place names- one place might have 4 or 5 different place names. When people have been here for 50 millennia, when you name the place, you are speaking of what is there at that time. Describes place and time of that place -oral history.
- Long and short- everything we see is respected. How a place is named, describes Mom again.
- If you get a name and don't take care of it, it gets taken back.
- Indigenous naming takes time because a lot of schools are reaching out and asking for help
- Q: Is there any issue with a dual name? A: A dual name doesn't bother Morgan. Eg. Crossroads Elementary. It is an old narrative that one name is stronger than the other.
- Q: Morgan has no concerns with the name "West End Elementary". The only time a name is an issue is when it is not respectful.

- Q: Any concerns with the name “West End Elementary”. A: No, the only time a name is an issue is when it is not respectful.
- Q: How can PAC not put imposition on Indigenous leaders? A: That is a good problem to have – need to have a representative at each table for each school.
- Morgan is proud to see how much has changed in 10 years. We are generation zero with reconciliation. The more we have talks like this, the better. Great model to the students.

**Update from Principal Cathy Thomas:**

- Thanked PAC and expressed how it’s been a wonderful year.
- Enjoyed getting to know the children and staff.
- Contributions of PAC are not taken for granted.

**Update from Vice-Principal Paul An:**

- Paul expressed gratitude for his time at Roberts.
- Leaving at end of June as he will become Principal at another school

**Other Business:**

- Introduction from Christopher Wee:
  - Excited to be incoming Vice Principal at Roberts
  - Coming from Crosstown Elementary

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30pm