

Meeting Minutes-General Vanier PAC
Tuesday, March 21st 2017

**Attendees – Hugh Coburn, Allie Hassin, Bob Cowie, Tom, Shannon, Jen, Michelle,
Kara, Sloane, Carla, Patrick, Chris**

1. Welcome and welcome to LRSD Board Member Hugh Coburn

2. Motion to Accept Minutes from Last Meeting: Passed

3. Admin Report:

- There has been a lot of indoor recess time due to the extreme flooding then ice sheets covering the playground
- The new gym floor has been completed and looks great.
- Installation of air conditioning in the school should start soon.
- Grade 8 students continue to be part of the Division PLN group.
- General Vanier has been applying for various grants to go towards the outdoor learning space. Healthy Living, Take Pride Winnipeg and Environmental Living grants have come in. A classroom grant has also been received aimed at growing food, gardening and a butterfly garden has come in. Charlene Sacher has actively pursuing many grants to help this.
- The Howden Daycare will be leaving General Vanier at the end of the school year.
- Senior's Day is April 26th in the morning.
- Direction is shifting back towards writing projects in the schools and assessment of writing skills.
- Spirit Week was a huge success seeing the students so engaged and creating many memories and enjoying a variety of activities.

4. PAC Business:

- Congratulations to Patrick Allen, the new Vice President
- PAC Care Fund was enacted providing gift cards and well wishes for the Geller family. There is a Go Fund Me in place to fundraise for the substantial medical costs the family is facing due to the province not covering needed and crucial supplies used at home.
- Hot Dog Day will be Tuesday June 27th. Help and volunteers will be needed for this event starting at 8:30am. This event coincides with a planned outdoor event day for the school.

5. PEC Report:

- Reminder call going out regarding Plant Orders
- PEC will be applying for the SKIP School Improvement Grant through the LRSD. It is closed for the current school year but will be applied for in the following school year.
- Show and Save books are available for purchase. They are available in the office, by contacting the PAC (pac@generalvanier.com) and at the upcoming Rummage Sale.
- GV will be having a Rummage Sale May 5th and 6th.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- Proceeds from the Winter Concert Bake Sale will be allocated to the Music Program.
- Teacher Appreciation Week cost a total of \$181
- Due to busy spring/summer sports programs starting up, Movie Nights are done for the year.
- Availability and cost for a debit machine to be used by the school at events may be explored at a later date.

7. Q & A/Meet & Greet with LRSD Trustee Hugh Coburn:

- Hugh Coburn, retired from the Winnipeg Police Service after 26 dedicated years of service, is a passionate and long-standing member of the Board.
Hugh began his trusteeship in 1986 with the St. Boniface School Division and welcomed a return to that role after the amalgamation that created the Louis Riel School Division. He has chaired all board standing committees, has been chairman of the board in both St. Boniface and Louis Riel and has served two years as the elected Provincial President of the Manitoba School Board Association and two years as Past President
- Current Co-Chair of the Riel-evate Foundation within the Division. This initiative offers numerous supports to the community from free clothing drives, the Walking School Bus at Victor Mager (hiring adults to safely walk kids to school who are ineligible for riding the school bus), welcoming new Canadians to the Division and helping them get established and so much more. This initiative raises funds through the United Way as well as community fundraisers such as Bands That Make a Difference, The Monster Bash and more. The focus of the Foundation is anti-poverty initiatives and financial distribution.
- A question was asked if the Louis Riel School Division looked to the board for direction. The Division provides reports to the Board and there is information sharing from both parties that provides direction for the Division.
- The Board is comprised of Elected members and is the elected head of the School Division. The Board respects the role of the Division and tries not to micromanage it. The LRSD Board is in charge of hiring for the role of Superintendent for the Division.
- What steps need to be taken to bring attention to the condition of the playground at General Vanier? The pavement is severely cracked and in need of repair or repaving as it is not a safe surface for the students (especially those in the SLP program). The excessive amounts of water forming an annual lake on the playground not only is a challenge to keep kids out of it but due to the size and depth of it, it is a significant danger as well. The SLP program makes up a significant portion of General Vanier's student population. Those students are bussed into the school and have no safe options for play or for simply being outside due to the condition of the playground and paved areas of General Vanier. The PAC may be making big steps towards the building of the inclusive playground but the School Division needs to step up and help in any way whether they look into re paving options or cover some portion of the Playground Enhancement.
- The Playground Enhancement Committee will be invited to address and make a presentation to the School Board at an upcoming meeting.