**JO PAC Meeting** - **January 17, 2018**

**Attendance:** Sheril Gelmon, Ramandeep Kaurminhas - Co-Chairs, Lara Spence – Communications/ Social Media, Darnelle Moore (as Secretary), Sheri Wiwchar, Jennifer West – Co-Fundraising Coordinators, Suzanne Smythe – DPAC Liaison, Pedro da Silva – Principal, Nancy Paleiko (JO Staff PAC Liaison), and 13 parents.

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm.** Approval of minutes from November 22, 2017 meeting by Lara and seconded by Sheril. Passed.

**1**. **STEM = Science Technology Engineering Mathematics**

* Jeff Spence explained STEM program as it exists at JO
* Only 2 programs like it in VSB High Schools (other at Templeton)
* Primarily for Gr 9, 10 students (one class will exist for gr 11/12 combined). 24 spots for each grade (24 total in the combined STEM 11/12) allowed in "shop" class due to safety concerns.
* Students apply for program during *Experience Week* – there is a Student Open House during Experience Week (early Feb) where prospective students can find out more about the program and teachers can see if the students would be a good fit.
* Program is geared towards students who learn best through hands on experience. Different than learning in typical classroom with textbooks, etc.
* In Grade 9/10, it is a “Full” Day 1 program, meaning they do STEM all day (half with Mr. Spence, half with Mr. Silver) and then on Day 2, take English, PE, Language, Socials.
* Academic credit granted for typical classes – eg. students will get a mark for Math 9, Science 9, Engineering 9, Metalwork 9, or similar. Same for Grade 10. Grade 11/12 also get BC Curriculum course credits on report card/school record (eg. Math 11, whatever shop 11 is most appropriate, Physics 11) so there is no disadvantage in taking STEM for those applying to post secondary.
* STEM is a special opportunity, well suited to JO as not many schools have the shop resources.
* It is separate from Digital Immersion Mini; one cannot take STEM and Mini. It may be possible to take some grade 11/12 courses in the STEM format if a Mini student has room in schedule.
* Contact Jeff Spence [jspence@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jspence@vsb.bc.ca) with questions.

**2**. **Pedro da Silva (Principal’s Report)**

**JO received a VSB learning grant for $34,000**

* Allocated as follows (approx.)

$9,000         Music & Drama

            $2,510         Special Needs programs

            $5,900         Science programs

            $1,900         Home Economics

            $15,000    Mobile Laptop cart (30 laptops accessible to all students through teacher sign up

**New Curriculum Idea on Implementation**

* To encourage students to take more classes and get excited about their area of study (as it applies to career), JO staff are proposing a “Certificate Program” to inspire and direct students to take as wide a variety of courses as possible to keep options open for future and learn new things.
* For example certificate would include core academic subjects for graduation, plus 4 subjects geared towards student-specific interest, plus 1 subject from a selection of courses to balance the education.

**Upcoming Dates**

* Elementary visits (JO students out to feeder schools) Jan 15th - Jan 26th
* Pro D Jan 29th
* Mid Year Experience Week for all students Jan 30th - Feb 2nd
* School Dance Feb 8th
* Grade 7 visit to JO Feb 15th
* Pro D Feb 19th

**3. Request for Funds from Athletics**

**Pat Lee (Director of Athletics)**

* Requested $7,000 from the BC Lotteries funds
* Money will go towards uniforms, new equipment, BC School Athletics funds
* Athletics involves approximately 30% of the school population (athletes, managers, coaches, photographers)
* Athletics is not just about the sports itself, also about leadership, and experiences
* Other sources of money to Athletics program come from individual team fundraising (poinsettias, Jokers Classic (basketball tournament), student athlete fees of $50/yr for as many sports as like
* Trying to keep cost low for individual students so as many as possible can participate
* JO has lots of volunteer coaches to help keep quality programs running

**4. Nancy Paleiko (JO Staff/PAC Liaison)** Giving teacher perspective on District happenings

* New teacher Suzanne Hoffman
* Talked about issues of lack of teachers available to fill vacant rolls in BC.

**5. Suzanne Smythe (DPAC Liaison)**

* Tech committee being formed to address wireless access in all the schools, redesign of network needed
* How will tech integration at schools look in the future? Looks like gearing towards BYOD (bring your own device). Equity issues/concerns are raised with this model.
* Seismic Upgrading - Official DPAC position is SPEED is of the utmost importance, followed by FUNCTION and then FORM. Questions about usability arising from this position.
* Special Needs Services consultations going on now. Moberly/Van Tech Jan 25th, email [ddwong@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ddwong@vsb.bc.ca) if attending.
* DPAC discussed drug Issues in schools. Should all schools have Naloxone Kits and Training available? Bring questions and concerns to Suzanne Smythe so she can bring them forth to DPAC.

**6. Other PAC Reports**

**Tracey Santos (PAC Treasurer)**

* There is money to spend! $11K in the Gaming account after we pay for scholarships ($2,500) and Dry Grad ($3,000). The Gaming account can only be spent on certain things.
* There is $6,605 in the JO PAC Consultative Committee account. We will need some of that for annual Staff Appreciation lunch.
* Tracey moved to support Athletics the full $7,000 request. Motion passed.
* The JO PAC Legacy fund (for a project TBD in years coming) has balance of $15,942.14

**Sheri Wiwchar (PAC Fundraising co-Chair)**

* Our 1st Purdy’s chocolate fundraiser (Nov 2017) was successful, raising $250.
* Keep buying gift cards through the PAC / Mini Fundscrip gift card program, use the bank “online bill payment” rather than your cc to maximize the kick back to our PAC. Ask Lara for help if you need <lara@laraspence.com> or 604-828-4249.

**Lara Spence (PAC Communications)**

* Family Bingo night - community event for all **Thursday,** **March 1st** stay tuned for more info. Tracey Santos to apply for the Gaming permit for the night.
* *Screenagers* - excellent documentary, worth watching with your teen/tween – homework success tips, 'good family habits' especially if you're struggling with how/when screens are used (and max time) in your home, read: <http://bit.ly/2GeaDtz>. Thank you to Tupper PAC for bringing in this movie (it wasn’t free to show).

**Sheril Gelmon (PAC Co-Chair)**

* Contact Sheril if interested in having your teen attend The Quest Course for Teens as presented at the last PAC meeting <sherilgelmon@gmail.com>

Meeting Adjourned. Next PAC meeting **Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm** in the Library.