

GPACA AGM 2022 Director's Report

Directors (March 2021-March 2022): Peter Garcin (Chair), Paul Aucoin (Treasurer), Stacey Godsoe (Secretary), Thomas Sullivan, Tara Jaskowiak, Ebony Newell, Kristy Boutilier, Sadie Watson

Year in Review

2021 was another relatively quiet year for GPACA as we all struggled to adapt to the new realities of an ongoing global pandemic. We continued our regular virtual meeting cadence, meeting a total of 6 times in 2021. While the restrictions prevented us from engaging with the community on a wider level, there were still a number of initiatives that we were able to pursue throughout the year.

Support for PRES

The staff at PRES continue to excel in their ability to deliver incredible programming to students under the most challenging conditions. As always, their adaptability and dedication is inspiring.

With the incoming new government, we reached out to the new minister in order to help forge a new working relationship over the course of their tenure, and to continue to jointly (with the SAC) advocate for an Addition & Alteration investment for PRES. The A&A continues to be a priority for the school, and we have been assured that this remains part of the plan at the regional center.

Unfortunately, the recent release of the 22-23 capital plan did not contain any funding for an A&A at PRES, but the long term sustainability of the school remains our #1 priority.

Support for After-School Program

GPACA members Tara Jaskowiak, Sadie Watson and Kristy Boutilier have tirelessly advocated for the continued sustainability of the After School Care program. The program faced numerous staffing challenges in 2021 and was unable to be offered in this current school year.

The presence of after-school care is critical to the overall economic viability of our community in addition to providing a critical resource for families. GPACA remains committed to the sustainability of this program and will continue to advocate to ensure there is wage fairness and an offering that can support this as a long term addition to the programming.

Membership Fees

In 2021, we waived membership fees given the pandemic and the inability to meet in person. Despite the improving conditions, we will also waive membership fees again in 2022 but with the lifting of restrictions we are hoping to be able to meet in person at some point in 2022 and if so, will revisit the reinstatement of membership fees at the 2023 AGM.

Looking Ahead

As we see the lifting of restrictions and the possible end to the pandemic in 2022, there is a hope that we can return to some semblance of normalcy in our communities. GPACA has begun to look forward at other opportunities to engage within our communities including offering support for the creation of a green space that we will explore later during this meeting among other potential options. The long term sustainability of PRES remains our top priority, and we will continue to advocate for the funding and programming required to make that a reality.