

Cheryl Chang
Chair, Lord Byng PAC 2012-2014
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October 3, 2014

Dear 2014/15 Lord Byng Parents,

Re: Resignation as Chair of Lord Byng PAC, Effective Immediately

After serving on the PAC Executive for the past three years, the last two as Chair, and working hard to serve the school community, I am proud of what we accomplished together. In the past three years:

1. We brought in great speakers to encourage the parents in the difficult task of parenting and caring for their teens;
2. We increased engagement with many of the Chinese parents, some of whom had language barriers that prevented them from participating fully in the life of the school community;
3. We began a discussion on fund-raising, and prepared for a Direct Drive campaign and fund-raising activities;
4. The newly engaged Chinese parent PAC was instrumental to our fund-raising through the gift-card program, and to a separate targeted fund-raising project to purchase new equipment for the Science department. They also contributed their time and wonderful food for the annual Teachers' Appreciation lunch and the Byng Market; and
5. We launched the first Byng Market to raise funds and build the school community through working together for the benefit of Lord Byng.

Unfortunately, at the end of the last school year, the beneficial work of the PAC was over-shadowed by political issues that divided the community. At the May 2014 PAC meeting, we were unable to conduct any normal PAC business as most of the Agenda was tabled, and over 60 people signed up for the 2014/15 PAC Executive.

At the June Executive meeting, PAC business was again impeded and, what was previously a 15-minute meeting to hold elections for the coming year's Executive, turned into a 3-hour+ meeting. While we were able to hold elections, and I was re-elected as Chair, we were not able to vote on a motion to authorize signing officers for the PAC bank account. Because of the length of the meeting, we simply ran out of time. The venue we booked (due to the strike) was closing and we had to leave the premises.

I hoped that the decisive elections at the Executive meeting, and the passing of the new policy at the VSB meeting in June would have allowed the political controversy to settle down. However, over the summer, some parents began organizing under the banner of "ipac" or the "Inclusive PAC". Many of the Executive members and I were not invited to join this group, and it was made clear that we were not welcome. I believe that more parents, including some from this group, intend(ed) to join the Executive at the first PAC meeting of the year.

In addition, emails received since the resumption of school make it clear that the controversy is not over and some people wish to focus on politics rather than serving the school community.

As we have just emerged from a highly charged political environment with the Teacher's strike, there is a great need for healing to occur in the schools - for students, parents and teachers. Therefore, in the interest of reducing tensions and further politics in the school, I will be stepping down from the Lord Byng PAC, effective immediately. To date, 21 other Executive members have also resigned and there may be more, so the final number is to be confirmed soon.

John Puddifoot, who was elected as Co-Vice Chair at the June Executive meeting, will be the acting PAC Chair until the current Executive elects a new Chair. I will assist John to ensure a smooth transition and I know that he will be an excellent interim Chair. He can be reached by email at byngpacfeedback@gmail.com.

I feel the school will be best served by having a united PAC Executive and I, along with the other Executive members who have resigned, hope that our stepping aside will allow PAC business to resume, and people will work together for benefit of the school community.

We will continue to support the school and community and hope the 2014/15 Executive will be able to build on the good work of the past years' Lord Byng PAC Executives.

With best wishes for 2014/15,

Cheryl Chang
Immediate Past Chair