

# PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

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*Date | time* November 3, 2021 6:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Natalie Suffron

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## In Attendance

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Natalie Suffron | Leah Yallop | Tina Wang | Kailey Toth | Marti Longstaff | Allison Mounsey | Amber Orchard | Jen Rhyne | Karyn Audet | Courtney Daws | Catherine Allard | Tara Hall | Parveen Kullar | Krista Welters | Karen Catherwood | Carly Eirikson | Charmaine Holder Damonse | Amy Brunelle | Joanne Matson | Meagan Gagne | Stacey Cheverie | Melissa Arciaga

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## Call to Order

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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

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## Approval of Minutes and Agenda

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Approval of Agenda: Amber Orchard, Catherine Allard

Approval of October 6, 2021 Minutes: Allison Mounsey, Catherine Allard

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## Correspondence | Kailey Toth

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- No correspondence to report.
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## Principals Report | Ms. Catherwood

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### **Mme. Eirickson**

- Thank you to PAC for the Halloween event. Everyone really enjoyed it and it was nice to be able to have a schoolwide event.
- No Stone Left Alone event is tomorrow. The grade 5's are going to the graveyard with children from Mc Bride.
- Next Friday, November 12 is a professional development day.
- On Wednesday, November 10, the children will be doing a gallery walk through the school. Half of the children will do the walk at a time. They will be singing O Canada in English and French. Unfortunately, we cannot have a full school assembly due to Covid.
- November 17 and 18 are parent teacher conferences and a virtual and in person book fair. Entrance to the book fair will be staggered. Parent teacher conferences will also be a mix of in person and virtual.

### **Ms. Catherwood**

- The Halloween event was wonderful and it was so nice to see so many children and families.
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## Chair's Report | Natalie Suffron

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- **First Light**

First Light will be Thursday, December 2. Natalie will be meeting with Ms. Catherwood and Mme. Eirickson to discuss what will be possible. Natalie will put a request in the city to close Second Street. Suggestions: Any singing or speaking needs to have adequate sound so that everyone can hear. Ms. Catherwood will talk to Ms. Jeske about music, however all singing in the school still needs to be masked.

Can we have a Grinch again for photo opportunities? Ms. Catherwood has a Grinch costume that we can use.

Any focal point creates a crowd, so we need to think about spreading singers etc. out so that people don't all crowd in one area.

An email will be coming out soon to start planning this event.

- **Fruit & Vegetable Program Volunteer**

Two parents are doing their Food Safe right now so that they can take over, hopefully in December.

- **Parent Education Volunteer**

The PAC needs a volunteer to spearhead and organize parent education. Please contact Natalie at [herbertspencerpacchair@gmail.com](mailto:herbertspencerpacchair@gmail.com) if you would like volunteer.

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### Treasurer's Report | Tina Wang

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- Tina reported on the October financials.

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### CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

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- Parent Survival Night targets parents who are new to French immersion and also parents new to French immersion in New Westminster. It is for both early French immersion and late French immersion and there will be break out rooms for both. Anyone with a child in French immersion can attend. It will be Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 on Zoom.
- Bonjour Bon Nuit packages are due to come to the school by the end of the month to welcome new kids to French immersion.

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### DPAC Report | Marti Longstaff

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- Marti missed the last DPAC meeting because she did not get the Zoom link.
- There was a lot of discussion around the mask mandate. And the Provincial Health Officer's mask mandate was reinforced.
- Jen Rhyne shared that there was a survey from DPAC asking parents what they would like DPAC to be involved in. There is a lot of discussion around a vaccine mandate for teachers.

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### Members/Communication | Marti Longstaff Reports

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- There was no yearbook meeting last month but they will be meeting this month.
- Parents can submit their pictures from the pumpkin patch.

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### New Business

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- Courtney Daws

Courtney spoke on the new aquatic and leisure centre being built in New Westminster:

**How to pronounce: təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre**

- The City of New Westminster worked with local First Nations (Musqueam, Kwantlen & Qayqayt) to select an Indigenous name for the new Aquatic and Community Centre
  - Courtney Daws, who helped facilitate these discussions, provided a presentation on how to pronounce təməsewtxʷ
  - The name təməsewtxʷ is a hənqəminəm' word meaning "Sea Otter House"
  - hənqəminəm' is the downriver dialect of the Halkomelem language, which is the language of the Indigenous peoples whose homelands include New Westminster.
  - Some characteristics of hənqəminəm':
    - Does not use upper case letters
    - Written using the North American Phonetic Alphabet instead of the English Alphabet
    - hənqəminəm' contains 36 consonants, 22 of which are not found in English
  - təməsewtxʷ is a combination of two words:
    - təməs – meaning "sea otter"; and
    - ewtxʷ - meaning house
  - The "ə" is called a schwa and is pronounced like the "u" in "but"
  - The superscript "w" means that you make the sound with your lips rounded
  - Families practiced saying təməsewtxʷ out loud and were encouraged to keep practicing saying the name aloud and sharing it with family and friends. It is ok to not get it correct right away – it just takes some practice.
  - More information on how to say təməsewtxʷ can be found at: <https://youractivenw.ca/the-project/about-our-name/#pronunciation>
- More information on hənqəminəm' can be found at:  
<https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/departments/community-services/language/>

- Leah Yallop

Neufeld Farms fundraiser went well. We raised \$1769 total profit from over 300 orders.

We received \$453 donations from the Halloween event

Growing Smiles fundraiser will be coming out soon. Crystal has offered to run the gift card fundraiser again and she is asking for a volunteer to help her. A number of a parents volunteered to help with this.

We have hot lunch again this Friday.

- Ms. Catherwood

Follow up on the outdoor education centre. It was over \$300,000 unfortunately that it is well over our budget. The PAC will look into other ideas.

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## Questions

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- Will there be a craft fair? It doesn't seem like it will be possible because it would have to be outside.

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## Next Meeting

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January 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.