

PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

February 1, 2023 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Marti Longstaff

In Attendance

Kailey Toth | Wendy Rafuse | Christina Service | Amanda Renyard | Amandeep Duhra | Mandhu Gill | Courtney Daws | Jennifer Rhyne | Karyn Audet | Erin Shaw | Marti Longstaff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:36PM.

Land Acknowledgment

The Herbert Spencer PAC recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on who's traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Approval of Agenda: Karyn Audet & Jen Rhyne

Approval of January 2023 Minutes: Christina Service and Courtney Daws

Correspondence | Erin Shaw

- BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils) Parent Volunteers Needed. The Ministry of Education and Childcare is asking for parent volunteers to participate in a targeted consultation via Zoom on Wednesday February 15th from 6:30-7:30. Please email erinsemancik@gmail if you would like the link.

Principal's Report | Ms. Catherwood

- February is Black History Month. To celebrate the school will be playing music by black artists throughout the month.
- February is also Kindness Month - Pink Shirt Day is on the 22nd
- BC Lions assembly next week for all students
- Feb 14 - pink/red and white day
- Feb 15 - NW District Vice Principal Kenneth Hedley will be speaking to staff about black history month, equity and diversity.
- There will be an assembly of black history for Grade 4 and 5's, along with a steel pan drum history and performance.
- Feb 16 - EFI Maple Man will be coming in.
- Feb 22 - Pink Shirt Day - there will be full school assembly.
- Early Dismissal March 1/2nd for conferences

- Literacy Week March 6-10. We will work to link this up with the Readathon.
- The Affordability Fund has been distributed.
- Some of the funds went to the drumming in December
- The K-1's will have a visit from Mike Kritters Feb 16/17th
- The Grade 2-5's will be going to the Anvil Center on a walking field trip
- Chess Club for grade 4 and 5s has been very popular.
- There is also a Drawing Club for Grade 3 and up.
- Environmental Club - Grade 3 and up
- Knitting Club to come - if you have any extra supplies, please bring them to the school
- Grade 2's will be going to the VSO in April for the Education series.
- End of the year trips were discussed. The climbing center was researched but the cost came out quite high and was just not feasible. Bus costs are very high these days. It makes sense to stay local ie. Fraser River Discovery Centre, Gymnastics, Skating Lessons, etc.
- Green Thumb Theater was researched, and the performers are within budget and have April availability
- The Shrek performance unfortunately is on an early dismissal day - there is a show on a Saturday if parents would like to go
- Parent Education – "The Sexplainer" 6:30 on May 10th
- PAC meeting will be May 3

Chair's Report | Marti Longstaff

- Parent Education update booked "The Sexplainer" May 10th.
- Grade 2's VSO bus will be covered by PAC fundraising.
- Grade 2's admission to VSO to be covered by PAC fundraising as well for this year
- Motion to approve the expenditure of \$920 to the VSO tickets for grade 2 - 1 Karyn Audet and 2 Amanda Renyard - Motion Passes
- In future PAC will just cover the cost of transportation
- April 19th opportunity to hear a gaming and cyber safety talk with Children of the Street Society. We will find a new date for this, as this 19th conflicts with our Trivia Family Night

Vice Chair's Report | Courtney Daws

- Grade 5 Hoodie's - November orders arrived in January - Some parents have reached out to see if there is another opportunity to order. Unfortunately, additional hoodies will cost a lot more, and there is a minimum of 15 to order. There will be no reorder.
- Next year between the PAC and Ms. Catherwood are to make a note of the number of Grade 5 students and ensure there are enough orders for every student. If not, PAC to cover the cost of additional sweaters, if minimal.

Treasurer's Report | Christina Service

- Craft Fair report TBD
- Teacher discretionary cheques are coming in.

CPF Report | Erin Shaw on behalf of Allison Mounsey

- CPF participated in a focus group with the consultant who is reviewing the Programs of Choice
- There will be surveys available on the school board website in the next month or so for parents to complete.

DPAC Report | Erin Shaw on behalf of Lara Jansen

- Treasurer's Report – Reminder to PACs that they have a fund to cover Parent Ed speakers.
- No Minister of Education for Q&A – they are working on rescheduling.
- Superintendent Hachlaf Report – Discover NW Schools saw well over 1,000 attendees.
 - Safety concerns at high school – Camera equipment has been purchased and ordered, moving forward quickly.
 - Transportation for West End and Queensborough students – TransLink and Coast Mountain have added Route 128, and will be in service before Sept. school year. More routes in the works
 - Looking at extending school zone times to align with Burnaby, 7am to 10pm
 - Proposal out for childcare spaces at the new school at the Fraser River Middle site.
- Ileana Neilson – Manger of Early Learning and Childcare at the District Partnered with WCASS and Purpose Society
 - “Queensborough Just Before” play based program just launched.
 - Strong Start @ Connaught, Queensborough and Skwoweck
- School Updates – succession planning for a foundation of volunteers – volunteer roles are being defined better so parents know the commitment of each role.
- Transportation - DPAC continue to advocate – MLA Singh is said to be at the Feb DPAC meeting.

Committee Reports

- Events Committee: Courtney
 - Family Games/Trivia Night - April 19th - IQ Trivia 2000 to host + board games in school
 - Families can donate games - clear out for \$2 - more details to come
 - Parents Night Out - Starlight Casino? Rivers Reach? Georgies? Taverna Greka?
- Fundraising Committee: Kailey
 - Purdy's - second week of Feb will go out to parents - March 9th is the order deadline - pick up will be April 4th - need some volunteers to give out.
 - Neufeld Farms order to come in May.
 - Readathon to link up with Literacy week in March.
 - Freezy Friday for May/June
 - Recycling Depot - direct deposit to PAC and Environment Club more information to come.
 - Greenery - connect with the Howay PAC to link our parents to their fundraiser.

- Members Communication/Yearbook: Jen
 - Yearbooks are on sale until March 31st - early orders get the best price.
 - Send in your pictures to yearbook.herbertspencer@gmail.com - high res images are best

- Governance: Karyn
 - What is our purpose? What is our long-term goal? Something parents can be aware of.
 - What if we have an established event/field trip for EACH year - K to 5 - we can build a budget on this
 - Mike's Critters - for K-1's every year
 - Symphony for Grade 2's every year
 - Swimming/Skating Lessons? For Grade 3's. Other ideas?
 - Fundraising Priorities - Field Trips outside of NW
 - "Contact Us" button is not connected to an email. Jen to look into this - parents would rather send an email to a specific person instead of an open-ended email, unsure who would be reading this.
 - Add PAC emails to the website - chair, vice chair and yearbook.
 - Do we need a communications person to collect these emails and distribute?
 - Add Marti and Courtney to the newsletter - so parents can find the connection.
 - Website needs to be redone - hire a professional - update photo, and add land acknowledgment
 - The ministry's bandwidth is minimal - maybe something the PAC can advocate for
 - Karen and Simran to talk to Tech - what do they need?
 - More discussion to be had in the coming meetings.

New Business

- No new business.

Questions and Comments

- No questions or comments.

Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:13PM - Jen 1st and Karyn 2nd

Next Meeting: March 8, 2023