

# PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

January 10, 2024 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Marti Longstaff

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## In Attendance

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Renee Nixdorf | Jen Rhyne | Patrick Service | Mandu Gill | Anna Carmichael | Karyn Audet | Sonia Mior | Anna Carmichael | Nina Priddle | Caroline Marklund | Amandeep Duhra | Miyuki Davidson | Erin Shaw | Natalie Taha | Courtney Daws | Kait Dewolff

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## Call to Order

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The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM.

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## Land Acknowledgment

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

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## Approval of Minutes and Agenda

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Approval of Agenda: Karyn Audet moved, Jen Rhyne seconded, approved.

Approval of November 2023 Minutes: Approval moved to February meeting

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## School Trustee | Marc Andres

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- Review to simplify IEP's. Movement to shift the core competency language to be more specific, and include more data.
- A 3 year budget plan for school librarians is in the works. This will help to balance funds across the district.
- Programs of Choice Consolidation - there will be no change until Fraser River opens, and when Queen Elizabeth expansion completes. This should be in 2027
- Kindergarten gradual entry survey to be distributed to a broader range of folks and in multiple languages. Once more data is collected a decision should be made. It is unlikely any changes will be made before the coming school year 2024/2025.
- Athletics audit across district - It has been noted that there is less girl programming in highschool. Looking to redistribute funds in this area. Make the programs more equitable and balanced.
- A lot of changes and movement within the School Board. Superintendent Hachlaf will be leaving New Westminster as of April 1st for the Burnaby School Board. Julie Pearce is the Interim Associate Superintendent. As of this meeting no Interim Superintendent has been announced.
- A new strategic plan will be in the works for the year 2025
- There is a PAC fundraising audit underway - discussions have not yet been brought to a meeting at the School Board.

- The old NWSS site to become a memorial site.
- By Election will be held on February 3rd

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### Principal's Report | Karen Catherwood & Simran Hare

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- Another successful December drumming session and show. There was great parent feedback and seating changes were made for the second show. Daniel and Rhythm Resource will be returning again next year
- Two new teachers have joined the team this week. Mrs York left the school and Emily Lafond is now teaching in Kindergarten. It has been a successful transition.
- Emily Lafond left her Grade 2 class and Sydney Arsay has replaced her, Sydney was the student teacher in this class.
- Staff collaboration afternoon will be held next Thursday January 18th. Students will be dismissed at 12:05.
- What happens during these collaboration days? The whole staff meets to discuss goals. Specifically this session they will be discussing; de-escalation strategies, Phys Ed, online resources for teachers, and assessment strategies.
- Student Family Ocean teams will meet again next Friday afternoon
- The grade 2's will be attending the VSO in May. The PAC will be covering the cost of transportation.
- The annual card fundraiser is returning February 7th. On Feb 15th artworks will be sent home to caregivers. Orders should be ready for pickup the first week of April. The artworks will be Spring or Ocean Family themed.

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### Vice Chair's Report | Courtney Daws

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- Call out to join the Grade 5 Committee for this school year. The committee puts together the goodbye lunch that follows the leaving ceremony.
- Lunch planning should get started in March - Karyn Audet and Marti Longstaff have volunteered.
- Karyn will send out a message to all Grade 5 parents so everyone is aware of the committee and can volunteer as well.
- June 14th will be the leaving ceremony date.
- Upcoming PAC meetings - there will be no meeting in March. April 10th will be the April meeting date.
- Our PAC website needs an overhaul. Jen Rhyne is putting together an RFP for potential web designers. This would be a paid job.
- Will we be holding a parents night out this year? Further discussion at the next meeting.
- Will we hold another trivia/games night for families? Further discussion at the next meeting.
- What are we fundraising for? PAC member to brainstorm and bring some ideas to the next meeting.

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### Treasurer's Report | Christina & Patrick Service

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- The Gaming grant was submitted at the end December.

- The Craft Fair had two gaming licenses, both will be submitted this month.
- Craft Fair financial summary - we made \$5,465.72. Some funds were donated to top up this year's Christmas hampers.
- Just a note - 50/50 raffle funds must be used towards the items under the gaming revenue line

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### CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

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- BC Family French Camp registration will be open at the end of February
- More information is available at <https://bcffc.com/>
- This is a one week long family French camp with day programming for kids, all in French, that is run in three locations over 4 different weeks of the summer.
- Allison would be happy to answer anyone's questions. Please reach out for her contact info.

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### DPAC Report | Natalie Taha

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- Superintendent Hachlaf leaving the New West School Board for Burnaby
- There was discussion about DPAC and how it connects the School Board to the other PAC's throughout the city who connect with the parents in their communities.
- January 18th will be the next DPAC meeting.
- DPAC will be hosting an all candidate debate on Jan 22nd
- Discussion of how fundraising money is being distributed. There has been an incident at NWSS, where fundraising efforts from parents did not get allocated to what they believed they were fundraising for.
- Please reach out to Natalie if you have any comments or questions she can bring to the table at the next DPAC meeting

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### Committee Reports

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- Events Committee:
  - First Light - great turn out even though it was a very wet night! It is so beautiful to see the community come together, the neighborhood, students and families.
  - The leftover hot chocolate was donated to the downtown New West shelters
  - Thank you to all who volunteered and participated
  - PAC will be putting on the Carnival this year. The date will be Friday May 31st. This will be Amber Orchard's last year chairing this committee. If anyone is interested in taking this over in the coming years please reach out.
  - A planning committee will be coming together in the next few weeks. Everyone will need to volunteer as this is a huge event
- Fundraising Committee:
  - Fun Lunch dates to come
  - There were some volunteer and staff complaints about the order from White Spot last session. Perhaps we can ask White Spot to add labels to packaging or offer less options
  - Purdys Easter fundraiser to come - Renee Noxdorf has volunteered to run this fundraiser.

- Next Neufeld order to come mid April for a May delivery.
- Members Communication/Yearbook
  - Yearbook cover has been approved
  - Please submit photos!!
  - Grade 5 committee to connect with Jen. Survey students to share their favourite memories of the school, favourite school events, etc.

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### New Business

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- No new business to report

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### Questions and Comments

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- No questions or comments to report

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### Next Meeting

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February 7, 2024, at 6:30PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM, Natalie moved, Caroline seconded, approved.