

PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

October 4, 2023 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Marti Longstaff

In Attendance

Renee Nixdorf | Rusty Rhyne | Christina Di Fabio | Mavis Lui | Gurleen Bhatia | Karyn Audet | Stefanie Vulkovic | Anna Carmichael | Hayley Watkins | Christina Service | Shawna McCardell | Robyn Faustman | Mavra Giatras | Caroline Marklund | Amandeep Duhra | Rachel Abercrombie | Erin Shaw | Marti Longstaff | Courtney Daws | Amber Orchard

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37PM.

Land Acknowledgment

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.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Approval of Agenda: Amber Orchard moved, Renee Nixdorf second, approved.

Approval of September 2023 Minutes: Courtney Daws moved, Karyn Audet second, approved.

School Trustee | Marc Andres

- Long Range Facility Plan update:
 - New West schools are over capacity by 120%. We grow 5% per year. The board will be meeting tomorrow, Thursday October 5th. This will be the main point of discussion for this meeting
 - There is concern of loss of space due to all the additional portables, will the children have space to play?
 - Simcoe Elementary is due to be completed 2026/2027. This will be a 500 seat elementary school
 - New West is in need of another middle school. One with at least 575 seats, possibly in Queensborough.
 - Currently there is a plan for a new wing to be added to NWSS in 2032
 - Alterations can be made to the current building that would add 8 more classrooms
 - Bell schedules can alternate and there is the option of extending the school day
- Programs of Choice Review, initial reporting results:
 - Better communication of program expectations
 - Loss of students in programs/how to retain kids
 - Less site options, instead of 3 sites, retain two sites, or one large or full french school

- Collaboration between french teachers
- More bilingual signage/administration to advertise which schools are in fact french immersion
- Progress in anti racism. A parent tool kit is being developed after feedback from the community. It is hard to report incidents. A committee is developing a tool kit.
- Report card for years strategic plan: There are still 8 items are missing that have not been addressed, this will be the focus for the end of the year.
- The heat pumps have been upgraded at Herbert Spencer over the summer. This brings our school community closer to being carbon neutral.
- The HVAC system was also upgraded over the summer.
- Gradual entry into kindergarten was discussed:
 - Critical feedback: It is too long, the length puts pressure on families to take leaves from work, pay more in childcare, perhaps a childcare option can be added to the gradual entry plan
 - Positive feedback: the teachers gradually get to know the kids, children can be moved around during this time, gives the children gradual exposure to the school, length of day and expectations.

Principal's Report | Karen Catherwood & Simran Hare

- Teacher appreciation day is tomorrow, cinnamon buns will be given out to all staff
- Picture day is October 12th - Retakes on Nov 3rd
- Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place October 18/19, the children will be dismissed at 12:05 on those days
- October 20th is a Pro D Day.
- Teacher Collaboration Day on Oct 26, early dismissal for students at 12:05.
- PAC card fundraiser will be in the spring this year
- The PAC has purchased 5 new document cameras for the school
- Orange shirt day assembly was beautiful. The grade 5 students presented and led the assembly. There was a schoolwide walk around the school that really showed our community togetherness.
- Family teams began on Friday. These are multi-age groupings that meet for 1 hour in a new classroom. There is a community building activity run by a new teacher. The theme this year is ocean.
- Sports day to be discussed with staff.
- Rhythm Resource will return again in December. We are still working out the details as to how to bring the parents in to see the presentations.

Chair's Report | Marti Longstaff

- There will be a BCCPAC conference about equity and diversity. Please reach out to Marti if you want more info.
- Visit the New West DPAC website for meeting minutes and more information
- Long range facilities meeting will be held tomorrow on zoom

- Our gaming grant came in
- There will be no meeting in December. We will be having a social gathering instead. More info to come

Vice Chair's Report | Courtney Daws

- No report.

Treasurer's Report | Christina & Patrick Service

- Christina presented the current budget
- The gaming grant came in. We received \$9,840
- We must submit a report for how we spend the grant. Christina has started this process.
- The events teams need to connect with Christina for licenses if they want to run a raffle or 50/50 fundraisers during events.
- Resource teacher fund will be above what was budgeted for this year.

CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

- No report.

DPAC Report | Natalie Taha

- The byelection will be occurring this month

Committee Reports

- Events Committee:
 - Halloween Howl – Thursday October 26th from 6-8pm
 - Similar games will be played from last year
 - We still need volunteers
 - committee to meet following this meeting
 - First Light will be held on Thursday Nov 30th
 - Craft Fair - Candy Cane Lane meeting will be on Oct 17th for the grade 4 and 5's.
 - We will be running a few ads in: the coffee news, the anchor newsletter, the royal record and will reach out to the city to add it to their calendar.
 - 60 vendors will be set up in the gym
- Fundraising Committee:
 - Neufeld Farm underway, orders will be picked up November 3rd
 - Winter Greenery is coming, pick up will be in early December
 - Created by Kids will be coming up in the new year, possibly for family day?
 - Fun Lunch is live on Munchalunch - White Spot was added this year!
- Members Communication/Yearbook
 - Meeting minutes and agendas to be uploaded to the PAC site every month
 - Instagram linktree to be updated as new fundraisers are added
 - Add Munchalunch dates and events to the PAC calendar

New Business

- No new business

Questions and Comments

- No questions or comments

Next Meeting

November 1, 2023, at 6:30PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM, Amber Orchard moved, Anna seconded, approved.