

PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

September 13, 2023 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Marti Longstaff

In Attendance

Marti Longstaff | Courtney Daws | Karyn Audet | Robyn Faustman | Madhu Gill | Rene Nixdorf | Megan Ahuja | Rachel Abercrombiie | Shoon Le Min | Amandeep Duhra | Mavra Giatras | Manishe Rajora | Sunny Hiu | Sonia Mior | Ali Smith-Cairns | Christina Di Fabio | Miyuki Davidson | Hayley Watkins | Lena Terbekeh | Caroline Marklund | Jennifer Rhyne | Natalie Taha | Shaunacey Taylor | Allison Mounsey | Amber Orchard | Christina Service |

Call to Order

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

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, Mavra Pappas second, approved.

Approval of September 2022 Minutes: Christina Service moved. Karyn Audet second, approved.

Principal's Report | Karen Catherwood & Simran Hare

- Karen showed the school organization chart.
 - 23 Divisions (close to being full – 492 kids)
- Dot Day on Friday (Sept 15)
 - International Dot Day (20th year)
- Terry Fox run next week
 - Trying to figure out whether 4s and 5s will run through Queen's Park
 - K-3 will stay at the school and run around the school
- Open House on September 21st
 - 5:30 – 6:30
 - Not an interview. If you want to have a discussion with teacher beyond a hello, please feel free to set up a separate time to meet
- Opening up our Performing Arts Room (formerly Music Room)
 - Doing Dance, Drama and Music
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day
 - September 29 (Friday)
 - Cassidy Ranford and Kim Thomas are putting together an assembly that day
 - Doing a walk around the school as part of the assembly
- Pro-D Day on Monday
 - Adrienne Gear – reading and writing

- Will be coming in to work with the staff for the day on how to improve children's reading and writing
- Grade 4 - FSA – Foundational Skills Assessment
 - Letter will be going home to parents about when that will be taking place
 - The School District is holding an information night (information in the letter)
- Will be having Assemblies throughout the year
 - Unfortunately, cannot invite parents because any more than students and teachers would exceed what is allowed under fire code in gym
- Are doing drumming again – more will come about that
- Will be sending home Volunteer Forms this week in the newsletter – they are online this year
 - One form per child
- Over the summer:
 - New elevator
 - New PA system in the gym
 - Courtesy of the PAC
 - New PA system in the school
- Christmas/Winter Concert?
 - Cannot ask teachers to do evenings (not in their contract)
 - One reason why we went with the drumming (performance near holiday time)
 - Also an inclusivity piece
- Sports Day
 - Have a lot of kids with sensory issues – trying to be inclusive
 - Have been doing a week-long sports events where kids do sports and activities and competitions during the day in their class
 - Biggest piece is the inclusive piece
 - Have not set up anything yet
- Field trips
 - Field trips need to be inclusive
- School theme this year is “Ocean”
 - Activities multi-day once per month (Fridays)
 - Mixing up French and English kids
 - Trying to do a school-wide activity (possible field trip) – updates to come

Chair's Report | Marti Longstaff

- PAC
 - Every parent and caregiver are a member of PAC
 - Advocacy
 - Fund field trips
 - Fund education materials and special events
 - Community building
- DPAC
 - District PAC
 - Natalie Taha is our DPAC Rep

Vacant Positions

- Parent Ed Coordinator
 - o Organize parent ed events
 - o One already organized
- Craft Fair Bistro Coordinators
 - o Two people
 - o Costco / Superstore run
 - o Point person for local restaurants who donate goods
 - o All of the information is there from those who did it last year
 - o Email PAC if want to volunteer to take this on
- Grade 5 Committee
 - o Mostly around June Grade 5 Leaving Ceremony

Open House

- Looking for a PAC volunteer
 - o Will send it out in an email
- Christina Service
- Natalie Taha
- Mavra Pappas
- Jen Rhyne

Vice Chair's Report | Courtney Daws

- Committees:
 - o Events:
 - Amber Orchard
 - Courtney Daws
 - Kayrn Audet
 - Rachel Abercrombie
 - Hayley Watkins
 - Natalie Taha
 - Miyki Davidson
 - o Fundraising:
 - Amandeep Duhra
 - Marti Longstff
 - Mavra Giatras
 - Amy Parr
 - Robyn Faustman
 - Caroline Marklund
 - Renee Nixdorf
- Karyn Audet took us through a power point overview of the responses to the 2023 PAC End-of-Year Survey
- Had 76 responses.

Treasurer's Report | Christina & Patrick Service

- Went through Treasurer's Report

- Gaming License – if Halloween event is doing 50/50 let Treasurers know ASAP
- Suggestion for a new sign at the Front of the Building

CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

- Opportunities at CPF this year
 - Bonjour, Bon Nuit
 - Parent Survival Night
 - Quebec Trip
 - Family French Summer Camp

DPAC Report | Natalie Taha

- No report this month

Committee Reports

- Events Committee
 - Christmas Craft Fair – looking for Bistro Coordinators
 - Halloween – October 26th
 - Events committee will need to get together soon if they want to move forward a plan for the Halloween event
- Fundraising
 - Fun lunch to start early October
- Members Communication/Yearbook
 - We sold 295 yearbooks last year
 - Coordinator will be sending out communication

New Business

- School supplies – Karyn Audet
 - Wondering if supplies can be reused? Could they be kept at the school at the end of the year?
 - Karen Catherwood – we can donate them back to the school and distribute to families who want/need the supplies, but it will not lower the cost for next year
 - Maybe PAC could look at a group donate? Bring forward in April/May

Questions and Comments

- No questions or comments

Next Meeting

October 4, 2023, at 6:30PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:29PM