

PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

January 8, 2025 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Courtney Daws

In Attendance

Courtney Daws | Karyn Audet | Stephanie Mercier | Natalie Taha | Renee Nixdorf | Patrick Service | Kimberly Thompson | Anna Scherrelies | Anna Carmichael | Rachel Abercrombie | Amandeep Durha | Kelsey Chow | Nina Priddle | Jennifer Rhyne | Tamara Nemeth | Danielle Connelly | Paul Manville | Simran Hare

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM.

Land Acknowledgment

We recognise and respect that Herbert Spencer Elementary School is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to move the Treasurer's report up to after the Principal's report. Approval of Agenda as amended: Renee Nixdorf moved, Patrick Service seconded, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.

School Trustee Report | Danielle Connelly

- Last board meeting Dec 17th
- Motion on improving Transportation in School Zones & on Routes to School
 - Recommendation: Safe Routes to School Update Whereas the Safe Walk to School Routes program provides a framework for ensuring safe, accessible routes to school for students and families and encourages active transportation to and from school; Be it resolved that the Board of Education No. 40 (New Westminster): Direct the Superintendent to collaborate with City officials and relevant advocacy groups to align efforts to ensure the program meets the needs of school communities.
 - 1. 2. Write a letter to the City of New Westminster to advocate for: an updated review of the Safe Walk to School Routes to assess current conditions and identify areas for improvement.
 - a. The inclusion of the update to the Safe Walk to School Routes to be included in the 2025 work plan.
 - b. Recommendation: Advocate for City Funding of the Walking School Bus as Part of Vision Zero Whereas the Walking School Bus is a proven, cost-effective strategy that supports the City of New Westminster's Vision Zero goal of eliminating all traffic related fatalities and serious injuries And whereas ongoing and sustainable funding is required to expand and maintain the Walking School Bus program district-wide:

- Be it resolved that the Board of Education No. 40 (New Westminster): Write a letter to the City of New Westminster advocating for: An acknowledgement that the Walking School Bus program is a key component of the Vision Zero initiative.
 - 1. A partnership to ensure continued and ongoing financial and logistical support for the Walking School Bus Program.
 - 2. Recommendation: Intersection Safety and Road Safety Around Schools Whereas the City of New Westminster has passed a motion directing staff to undertake a secondary review of intersection safety at 2nd Street and 6th Avenue, including near miss analysis, with the goal of implementing pedestrian safety upgrade, where warranted, by 2026;
- Be it resolved that the Board of Education No. 40 (New Westminster): Write a letter to the City of New Westminster to: Endorse the City's review of intersection safety at 2nd Street and 6th Avenue and advocate for its inclusion in the 2025 budget.
 - 1. Request the above review serve as a starting point for the City to conduct a broad review of all school zone intersections to prioritize identified improvements including, but not limited to crosswalks, intersections that directly impact students and family travel routes, pedestrian-controlled lights, visibility enhancements, and pickups and drop offs in school zones.
 - 2. Recommendation: SD40 to Join New Westminster City's Vision Zero Whereas the City of New Westminster has adopted a Vision Zero strategy and Page 3 of 42 student participation, and advocacy are essential for ensuring school community needs are represented in this initiative;
- Be it resolved that the Board of Education No. 40 (New Westminster): Write a letter to the City of New Westminster to: Offer its support for participation in the City of New Westminster's Vision Zero Task Force who will bring forward strategic priorities, mentorship to students and identify both pressing and long-term issues
 - 1. Encourage student representatives from elementary, middle, and high schools to participate in the Vision Zero Task Force
- Thank you to the parents for advocating

Approval of Minutes

Approval of November 2024 Minutes: Renee Nixdorf moved, Karyn Audet seconded , no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.

Correspondence

- Purdy's fundraiser cheque
- Yearbook fundraising flyers - donated to school
- NWSS grant application packages are arriving soon

Principal's Report | Paul Manville & Simran Hare

- Thank you for all the PAC support the past term
- 5 days of giving was a huge success, over \$2000 raised plus mounds and mounds of donations

- Appreciate the patience on the report card delay, technical issue
- Student satisfaction surveys in grade 4 (data will be available to view late third term)
- Learning plan for the school - would like to share at upcoming meeting
- Hockey program is a huge success, using three boxes creating a safe space for lots of different ability levels
- Rhythm resource went very well but likely will do a change for next year
- National indigenous people day plan - assembly
- Tamara Nemeth
 - The stage doesn't work but the school district has one we can bring in
 - Music play online
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays musical "High seas adventure" coming in May (grade 4/5)
 - Volunteer tea "Bugs: the musical" (K -3)
 - Looking for support from the PAC for a class set of mallets and supplies for the theatre productions

Motion to approve the expenditures for up to \$600 to purchase musical instruments and supplies for the theatre productions. Natalie Taha moved, Am Durha seconded, all in favour, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.

Treasurer's Report | Christina & Patrick Service

- Bank balance healthy
- Fundraising well above budgeted values to date
- Craft Fair Gaming License reports to be completed
- Craft Fair was successful, over \$6000 raised
- Does a PAC square account make sense for the future
 - Anna Carmichael may be able to assist with looking into this for us

Chair's Report | Courtney Daws

- Update on 6th Ave and 2nd Street from Adam and Manisha
- Dec 17th presentation to the school board requesting support. Motion passed (viewable through New West Schools website)
- Temporary calming measures in interim suggested
- Connected with Glenbrook Middle School to garner feedback
- Media review on CKNW
- Six accidents in the past nine weeks plus numerous near misses
- Call to action: community to send letters to city council to keep the pressure on
 - template available
- Saleema Noon (sexual health educator) proposed budget item for 2025/2026 school year

Vice Chair's Report | Karyn Audet

CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

DPAC Report | Natalie Taha

- SD40 DPAC has been invited to participate in strategic plan development which is being run by Roots & Rivers
- School construction now falls under the Ministry of Infrastructure (no longer Ministry of Education)
- Herbert Spencer Trustee School Liaison for 2024-2025 is Danielle Connelly
- Our PAC BCCPAC membership stands, however there have been some questions about transparency, accountability, and leadership within this group
- A separate group 'DPAC Coalition' has since formed and is trying to move agenda items forward
- Discord server is being used to improve communication between different PACs and committees across the district

Committee Reports | Courtney Daws and Karyn Audet

Fundraising Committee (Renee Nixdorf):

- New proposals for fundraising
 - Coffee Cart - Little Miss Coffee Company, 10% of sales to PAC
 - Elementary school spirit program by Abbotsford Canucks
 - School photoshoot \$40 per family (Feb 25th)
 - Neufeld farms for spring - May
- Created by Kids fundraiser coming up

Events Committee:

- Parents night out: looking for a volunteer coordinator
- Feb 25 and May 13 the school is booked and open for events (game, movie night, etc)

Members Communication/Yearbook Committee (Jen Rhyne):

- Very low on photos for the yearbook
- Grade 5 group photo before spring break
 - quotes from kids

Grade 5 Committee:

- Seven grade 5 hoodies leftover, Paul will handle

New Business

- February meeting:
 - PAC 101 Presentation - Natalie Taha

- School Learning Plan - Paul Manville and Simran Hare
- April meeting:
 - Review school facilities booking dates for 2025/2026 school year

Questions and Comments

Next Meeting: February 5, 2025

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:40PM, Karyn Audet moved, Kelsey Chow seconded , no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.