

# PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

October 2, 2024 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Courtney Daws

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## In Attendance

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Courtney Daws | Karyn Audet | Amy Parr | Kailey Toth | Natalie Taha | Renee Nixdorf | Christina Service | Patrick Service | Manisha Rajora | Kimberly Thompson | Hayley Watkins | Anna Carmichael | Rachel Abercrombie | Kelsey Chow | Amandeep Durha | Adam Cotterall | Randy Dalit | Hasina Shams | Sanim Shans | Jennifer Rhyne | Nina Priddle | Marc Andres | Paul Manville | Simran Hare

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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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*Herbert Spencer Elementary School is located on the unceded, shared homelands of the Halkomelem speaking peoples.*

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## Approval of Minutes

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Approval of Agenda: amended - moved 'School Trustee Report' up to after 'Approval of Agenda' and 'Committee Reports' to the last item on agenda. Moved Christina Service, seconded Renee Nixdorf, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.

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## School Trustee Report | Marc Andres

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- District is committed to SOGI and ensuring students and staff feel safe and included in their school communities, please bring any concerns forward.
- Queensborough bus pilot funded through June 2026
- NWSS cooling project has commenced, should be installed by May/ June 2025
  - 1350 students taking summer school this year, continuing to grow
- Facilities requests to the Ministry of Education
  - upgrade HVAC at multiple sites
  - cooling in portables, upgrading electrical
  - carbon neutral heating/ cooling program (5 sites including Herbert Spencer)
  - \$195,000 upgrade to playgrounds at 3 sites
- Looking forward to the approach our new superintendent is bringing to the district
- Kindergarten gradual entry was adjusted this year, board is reviewing the success rate
- Motions brought forward to the Ministry of Education
  - district is advocating to reimburse school districts for planning for major capital projects
  - fully fund portable installation to accommodate enrollment growth
  - review of 22nd St planned community not allocating a site for school needs due to population growth

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## Approval of Minutes and Agenda

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Approval of September 2024 Minutes: moved Christina Service , seconded Am Durha, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.

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## Principal's Report | Paul Manville & Simran Hare

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- Terry Fox run went very well
- Truth and Reconciliation assembly went exceptionally well, thank you to the assembly team
- Forest Theme this year, first meet is October 9th, theme information will be forthcoming from teachers
- Conferences are coming up October 23/24
- Picture Day coming up on October 10th
- Parent portal information was sent out, please complete trouble shooting in advance of report cards and ensure you have access
- Planning for a pumpkin run this month
  - looking for support from PAC for pumpkins (24 pumpkins)
- Creative for Kids will be upcoming in springtime
- FSA starts this week, assessment for math and language
- Thank you to the grade 5 hoodie organizer, they are all set and for sale now
- Parent concern about vehicles driving past the kids running Terry Fox if the same route is used for the Pumpkin Run
  - possible route adjustment through trial
  - possible police presence
- Hannah Beach (anxiety/ mental health) is coming in November for a professional development day
  - available to be booked for parent-ed at \$1,000, discussion decided against
- Jeff Chiba Stearns: animation workshop
  - \$3600 cost for the whole school, looking to split the cost from the PAC

**Motion brought forward to spend \$1800 to bring Jeff Chiba Stearns into the school to run an art program for all the children. Moved Am Durha, seconded Amy Parr, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.**

- Activities proposed by grade: Mikes Critters (K/1), VSO (2), Skating (3), Curling (5)
  - MAD Science
- Drumming is booked

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## Chair's Report | Courtney Daws

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- Open House, thank you to all who helped out was a great event and we received a lot of new volunteer interest
- Update on Vacant PAC Positions: looking for Parent Education Coordinator
  - Natalie Taha expressed interest
- Personal Device Feedback Form: DPAC is looking to gather information on the new policy in the district

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## Vice Chair's Report | Karyn Audet

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- PAC Survey, looking for feedback on timing and content
  - Late spring to allow for changes to be implemented in the next school year

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## Treasurer's Report | Christina & Patrick Service

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- Bank Balance Update, looking healthy, very little movement at this time of year
- 2024/2025 Gaming Grant Approved, \$9,820
- 2023/2024 Gaming Grant Account Summary
- Gaming License
  - Halloween - decided against
  - Craft Fair
  - Additional events, parents night

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## CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

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No report

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## DPAC Report | Natalie Taha

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- MLA candidates attended the last DPAC meeting, key topics
  - overcrowding, delay in buildings
  - large housing developments with lack of school planning
  - funding allocations intended for learning moving to portables
  - shortage of mental health services
  - gaps in education with students with disabilities
  - SOGI
  - shortage of teaching and support staff
  - climate change

Candidate responses can be viewed here:

<https://nwdpac.ca/2024/09/25/questions-from-dpac-for-mla-candidates/>

- Request for feedback on digital devices policy in schools
- Walking school bus concerns, looking for support for program from individual PAC
  - PAC agrees to add their support
- Families of neurodivergent families, looking for feedback on spaces and resources in schools
  - link to be shared

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## Committee Reports | Courtney Daws and Karyn Audet

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Events Committee:

- Officially sold out for our Vendor Tables
- Found a group of parents that are willing to take on the Bistro and will shadow Lena this year :)

- Coming into the school on Wednesday October 16th at lunch hour to speak with the Grade 4 and students about applying for Candy Cane lane
  - This will only be open to grade 4 and 5 students only
- Halloween Howl Update
  - October 22nd
  - poster is ready to be circulated
  - signup for volunteers is coming out
  - DJ mom booked
  - halloween lighting decor is low and needs to be bought
- Parents' Night Out
  - looking for input on timing and suggestions
- Fall PAC Event Calendar
  - October 22 - Halloween Howl
  - November 23 - Christmas Craft Fair
  - November 28 - First Light
- Fundraising Committee:
  - new chair: Renee Nixdorf
    - Creative by Kids around April
    - Purdy's at Christmas
    - Winter Greenery (Tanya)
  - Fun Lunch update
    - orders close 7 days before the lunch (\$5,500 up almost double from previous years)
    - hotdog lunch will be outsourced by Kamini, almost breakeven with the shift
    - day of volunteers are running off a chat group, working well (11am -1pm)
- Members Communication/Yearbook
  - website - connected with a parent volunteer who is working on it
  - yearbook, training for next year in place
    - looking for cover feedback
- Grade 5 Committee
  - hoody sizing samples should have arrived
  - leaving ceremony is June 13th

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## New Business

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## Questions and Comments

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## Next Meeting

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Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:20PM, moved Karyn Audet, second Renee Nixdorf, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.