

PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

September 11, 2024 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Courtney Daws

In Attendance

Courtney Daws | Karyn Audet | Erin Shaw | Simran Hare | Paul Manville | Patrick Service | Nina Priddle | Amy Parr | Renee Nixdorf | Kimberly Thompson | Meaghan Rooney | Sonia Mior | Allison Mounsey | Adam Cotterall | Stephanie Mercier | Hayley Watkins | Anna Carmichael | Mandeep Purewal-Sehhon | Kelsey Chow | Rachel Abercrombie | Anna Scherrelies | Jen Rhyne | Sonia Cyall | Natalie Taha | Mavra Pappas | Robyn Faustman | Shawna McCardell | Am Durha | Manisha Rajora | Kailey Toth |

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM.

Land Acknowledgment

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

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Approval of Agenda: moved Mavra Pappas, seconded Patrick Service, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.

Approval of June 2024 Minutes: moved Renee Nixdorf, seconded Natalie Taha, no abstentions, no oppositions, approved.

- Secretary read out correspondence from 23/24 bursary winner moving into postsecondary school at UBC.

Principal's Report | Paul Manville & Simran Hare

- Thank you to all the parents for their patience at the start of the year.
- Still missing a K/1 teacher.
- Back up to 23 divisions, same as last year, 486 students. (17 English 6 French)
- Fun lunch is a go for every other week, starting in October.
- Grade 5 hoodies are in progress.
- After school programs are up and running now.
- Grade 5 active pass is free through the City of New Westminster.
- Dot day this Friday, focusing on confidence and courage.
- Open House is September 26th from 5:30pm - 6:30pm.
- Orange shirt week last week of September, orange shirt day on September 26th.
- Terry Fox day run is September 20th, looking for some parent volunteers to support safety.
- Professional Development day is September 27th.

- Individual picture day is October 10th.
- Thank you to the PAC for the new kindergarten storage boxes.
- School clubs are starting up, chess club, knitting/ crochet, environmental, grade 5 leadership, and new proposals coming from the students.

Chair's Report | Courtney Daws

- PAC is running an information table during the open house on September 26th from 5:30pm - 6:30pm.
- Looking for a parent education coordinator to join the PAC. \$500 fund for speakers.
- We have a new fish caretaker, the Cotterall family, thank you!

Vice Chair's Report | Karyn Audet

- Looking for volunteers for committees throughout the year.
 - Events committee, 6-8 volunteers (Halloween howl, parent night, game night, first light)
 - Fundraising committee, 4-8 volunteers (Hot lunch, Neufelds, Purdys chocolates, Freezie Friday)
 - Communications committee, 5-6 volunteers COMPLETE
 - Grade 5 committee COMPLETE
- PAC survey to go out soon to the school population.

Events Committee | Shawna McCardell

- Halloween Howl, looking for volunteers to get started on planning.
 - City of New Westminster youth DJ has been contacted.
- Christmas Craft Fair: November 23rd
 - 60 tables booked, sold out.
 - Bistro is being run by Lina, looking for a couple of volunteers to help her.
 - More signage/ social media blasts were discussed.
 - Discussion over attendance in the afternoon, fresh cookies, performances, Mrs. Claus.
 - Looking for connections or ideas to populate the Raffle Draw:
 - herbertspencercraftfair@gmail.com
 - funds from the raffle are returned to the community Christmas Hamper donation.

Treasurer's Report | Christina & Patrick Service

- Bank Balance Update
 - healthy balance, stable in comparison to the last few years.
- 23/24 Year in review
- 24/25 Budget review
- 24/25 Gaming Grant Application submitted
- Gaming grant questionnaire and recommendation received

- Reminder to submit applications for Gaming Grants for events with enough lead time, one month is recommended.

CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

- Canadian Parents for French
 - Summer camp, information available.
 - Committee meets monthly, looking for additional members, no membership fees.
 - Membership offers information and connection building events throughout the year.
- Welcome to kindergarten event planning is underway.

DPAC Report | Natalie Taha

June updates:

- Lunch lady concerns addressed, decreasing waste and adding more flavor. Comments or concerns can be passed to Natalie Taha.
- Anti-racism committee is coming out soon, and will be updating with information.
- Correspondence between DPAC and MLA's surrounding the Columbia Square Development concerning the growth and funding of schools in New Westminster.
- DPAC taking questions and comments from parents for the upcoming MLA candidates meeting.
- DPAC will be issuing a letter to the PACs about the temperature and conditions in the portables.
- Funding is available from the DPAC for parent education for individual PAC use.

Committee Reports

- Fundraising Committee:
 - Fun Lunch starts up in October.
 - Neufeld Farms fundraiser will be going out on October 25th before the holiday season.
 - Discussion about Purdys for Christmas and Easter this year.
 - Kernels Popcorn was suggested as a fundraiser in coordination with Movie Night.
 - Little Miss Coffee Company cart suggested as a future fundraiser.
- Members Communication/Yearbook
 - Yearbook sales are open for order on the Jostens website.
 - Need one volunteer to shadow the yearbook committee and learn the ropes.
 - Send in pictures of students involved in school activities (on school grounds).
 - Forest theme this year.

New Business

- Advocon by the BCed Access Society, learning and connecting opportunities in the pursuit of inclusive education. November 1st and 2nd. Open to all parents.

Questions and Comments

- No questions or comments to report

Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.