

# PAC General Meeting minutes

Herbert Spencer Parent Advisory Council

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*Date | time* September 15, 2021 7:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Natalie Suffron

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## In Attendance

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Natalie Suffron | Leah Yallop | Tina Wang | Kailey Toth | Allison Mounsey | Amber Orchard | Jen Rhyne | Diana Martins-Garbutt | Karyn Audet | Courtney Daws | Ivana Ilic | Catherine Allard | Parveen Kullar | Keri Minty | Krista Welters | Karen Catherwood | Carly Eirikson

In addition to the PAC executive there was a total of 44 parents and guardians in attendance.

## Call to Order

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The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

## Approval of Minutes and Agenda

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Approval of Agenda: Amber Orchard, Diana Martins-Garbutt

Approval of June 2, 2021 Minutes: Karyn Audet, Jen Rhyne

## Correspondence | Kailey Toth

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- Not reported on in the general meeting.

## Chair's Report | Natalie Suffron

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- Introductions – the PAC executive did a round of introductions and spoke about our roles on the executive. Parents then got up and introduced themselves to another parent at the meeting.
- Explanation of committee structure – PAC has various committees that people can sign up for Fundraising, Events, Yearbook. PAC welcomes everyone get involved and volunteer to be a part of these committees.
- Diversity of books in the library – a parent raised a question about the diversity of the books in our library at the end of last year. Natalie will be connecting with Ms. Thomas about this and working with the PAC to fill any gaps. Our library generally has a very rich assortment of books. A stack of books was brought to the meeting to demonstrate this.
- Hot lunch – hot lunch is on for this year.
- Upcoming events – we are going to have as many events as we can but we will be limited by the numbers that can come together in the school. A virtual event is in the works for Halloween. First Light, an outdoor event, is on. The hope is to have any many events as possible.
- Fish tank – the teacher who looked after the school fish tank has retired and a new caretaker is needed. The commitment is to clean the tank once a month. Please contact the school if you are interested.
- Fruit and Vegetable program – 2 parent volunteers are needed. Once a month fruit and milk arrives at the school at it needs to be distributed. The volunteers must have Food Safe.

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## Principals Report | Ms. Catherwood

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- Ms. Catherwood introduced herself and is pleased to be joining Herbert Spencer this year.
- Updates: Ms. Catherwood sent out a newsletter tonight. This will be the longest newsletter you will receive. Her goal is to send a newsletter to families every week.
- Herbert Spencer has 23 divisions, there are just about 500 students at the school this year. We have added a new portable.
- The new playground opened today and the children were very excited to be able to try it out after school today. There will be a schedule to use the new playground for a while to space the children out better while using it.
- Our school is a polling station for the election on Monday. Measures have been put in place so that there will be no access to the school. Voters will enter and exit via the gym
- COVID: masks are mandated for grade 4 and up, however, children can choose not to wear a mask and they still have a right to come to school. We still have custodians during the day. Recesses and lunch will remain staggered. Lining up in classes outside will remain. There are no cohorts so classes can mingle. Classes will be able to have big buddies and little buddies. The language of “social distancing” has been changed to “respecting space”. Assemblies are allowed at limited numbers, however, the school will not be having them right now. Field trips are allowed this year. “We want you to know that we are doing our best to keep your kids safe while they are here.”
- Ms. Catherwood and Ms. Eirikson presented on the Grade 4 Foundational Skills Assessments (FSA). The goal of the FSA is to give a snapshot of October of Grade 4. FSAs collect data to assess how our students are doing compared to students in other areas of the province. The FSAs look at reading, writing and numeracy.
- Questions:
  - Can parents receive their child’s results? Yes, the school will provide the results to families. It was reported that grade 4 parents did not receive them last year. The school will look in to this.
  - Do French immersion students write the FSA’s in French? No, they write the exams in English.
  - Are the results kept private? Yes, only students and their families know the results. Only general results are shared.

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## Treasurer’s Report | Tina Wang

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- Tina presented the current financial report and the proposed budget for the coming school year.
- Highlights from last year: Fun Lunch and Fundraising through Munchalunch raised over \$11,000. The Created by Cards and Yearbook also did well last year. Last year because we could only have virtual field trips, \$6,000 was budgeted and only \$800 was used. Teacher Funds was budgeted for \$5,000 and \$3,000 was paid out.
- Some items in this year’s budget will continue to be impacted by COVID due to restrictions within the school.

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## CPF Report | Allison Mounsey

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- Canadian Parent’s for French put on events in the community and creates opportunities for students to speak French outside of school.
- CPF has their membership drive on right now. %90 of funds paid through membership go back to events and opportunities for students.
- CPF’s AGM is September 27.

- Parents Survival Night will likely be online. This is for all French immersion parents.
- There will be an event for Bonjour Bon Nuit. CPF is still planning this and are not sure what will be possible this year.
- CPF are hopeful that the middle trip to Quebec can move forward in 2023.

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## DPAC Report | Kailey Toth for Marti Longstaff

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- During the June meeting the DPAC conducted their election, Kathleen Carlsen remains the DPAC chair.
- The Family Smart Group attended the meeting; they are a parent advocacy group able to offer support to parents experiencing challenges with the mental health system for their children/ youth. Graeme is the New West rep and can be reached at [graeme.partridge-david@familysmart.ca](mailto:graeme.partridge-david@familysmart.ca).
- Qayqat PAC expressed frustration about changes to their parking lot and impacts child safety and safe walking routes. The Superintendent was meant to be present for their presentation however, he was not present nor were any board members.
- The DPAC's Parent Night Out group are planning parent education about Healthy Eating and Sleeping in September and Emotional Recovery is set for October 19, 2021.
- DPAC's next meeting is Sept. 23 over zoom and Marti plans on attending. DPAC meetings are to be over zoom this year.

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## New Business

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- There was no new business.

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## Questions

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- Will there be spirit wear? Yes, the school will be bringing this back.
- Will the Christmas craft fair be on? We are hopeful it will be on in some form either indoor or outdoor.
- Will there be clubs in school this year? That will depend if the teachers want to run them. If the teachers so want to run them, they will be on.
- Could there be a crossing guard at Sixth Ave and First Street? That hasn't been discussed but Ms. Catherwood and Ms. Eirikson will look into it.

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## Next Meeting

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Next Meeting Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.