



Semiahmoo Trail Parent Advisory Council

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PAC General Meeting Minutes Thursday February 15, 2024

Attendees: Sara Block, Rachael Marples, Vagmi Dholakia-Baxi, Fiona Fu, Sheri Hardcastle, Heather Neilson, Nina Hemmes, Karen Fadum, Jamie Lyn Hugh, Tara Sheldrake, Hye Seon Chang

Meeting called to order at 9:03am

Motion to Approve Agenda

- 🌱 Motion Approved by 2: Rachael Marples, Vagmi Baxi

Motion to Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

- 🌱 Motion Approved by 2: Rachael Marples, Vagmi Baxi

Principal's Report and Updates - Karen Fadum

🌱 **Enrolment & Staffing**

- Currently 456 Students

🌱 **Outdoor Equipment**

- Art Card Funds used to purchase a locking cart that contains outdoor play equipment, looking for Grade 7's who would like to sign out equipment at recess

🌱 **Pink Shirt Day Assembly**

- Wednesday February 28th, Two student-led assemblies will be held in recognition of Anti-Bullying and Pink Shirt Day. Approx. 30 min each, Parents are welcome to attend
 - Primary (including 3's from Div.10) at 9:15am
 - Intermediate (including 4's from Div. 10) at 11:00am
- T-Shirts will be handed out on Monday Feb. 26 to those who ordered

🌱 **Project Lavender Parent Presentation - Feb. 21**

- Parents should consider attending. Valuable information will be shared about staying connected/knowing what kids are dealing with/understanding common language/dealing with issues such as peer pressure, social media, particularly with grades 6 & 7
- See Community Update email to register - need more people to register to have this meeting




Construction - Coming Up

- Structural steel installation
- Metal decking install for second floor
- Glulam install
- Slab on grade prep and pour
- Feb. 23 (Pro D) and Feb. 27 - both busy days with trucks, safety reminders will be added to announcements and extra flaggers will be onsite

Sports & Clubs

- Play-day for Boys Basketball Feb. 28 - looking for location
- Play-day for Girls Basketball Feb. 29 - location has been determined

Treasurer's Report - Nina Hemmes

-  **General Assets: \$58,061.38**
-  **Gaming: \$19,071.42**
-  **Total Assets: \$27,189.54**

DPAC Report - Sheri Hardcastle

Inclusion Committee

- Working on brochure for students to navigate for support. Website needs updating (current links don't work)
- Accessible playgrounds - Asking schools to participate in sharing best practices for committees looking to have these installed
- Student Support Funding - Where is this money going? Is it being used for student support? DPAC looking into this
- Looking into new IESW position, is it working? Looking for feedback. Are students getting support they need? Should there be better policies/guidelines in place?

Old Business

Confirm Jog-a-thon Date

- Monday April 29th (rainout option day Monday, May 6th)
- Sara and Rachael will measure students for t-shirts next week
- Email will go out to ask for sponsors soon

Lunar New Year

- Huge success - Students had so much fun
- Special thank you to all volunteers and Zita for organizing this event

🌱 Fundraisers

- Purdys and Neufeld Farms coming up - order forms will go out soon. Will both wrap up before spring break
- Looking to plan another Movie Night, Karen will look into potential dates
- Registered for Spring Plant fundraiser - they will send info this week (Heather and Rachael)

🌱 Gaming Grant Spends

- Moved some expenses from Gaming Account to Operating Account as they met Gaming Fund expense criteria (Diwali expenses, LST Funds and Class funds)

🌱 Pink Shirt Day

- Shirts will be delivered to classes February 26, before Assembly Day

New Business

🌱 Nina Hemmes has become Interim Treasurer

- Vagmi Baxi-Dholakia has made the decision to step down as treasurer and position into a Member at Large role on our PAC Executive. We are currently looking for someone to take on the Treasurer position in May. Nina will act as our Interim Treasurer.
- An email has gone out to parent community to advertise the open position

🌱 Bylaw Amendment Vote

- PAC Executives have been working hard at updating our Constitution and Bylaws in an effort to stay current under the guidelines of the BCCPAC
- A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws with proposed changes was emailed out to the parent community for everyone to read through on Jan. 31/24. Sections 2, 3 and 4 were voted on and **APPROVED** at today's meeting. Sections 5 - 7 will be voted on at the next PAC meeting.

CONSTITUTION

Section 1: NAME

Name The name of this organization shall be Semiahmoo Trail Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Section 2: PURPOSE

~~1)To operate as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit.~~

1. Advancing Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice- PAC is dedicated to advocate for and support policies, candidates, and initiatives that promote equality, inclusivity, social justice, and the well-being of all individuals and students, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, family status, physical or mental ability, or political beliefs. All PAC decisions shall adhere to a democratic and inclusive process that actively encourages diverse voices and perspectives

~~Original nr.2 to be removed and embedded into the new nr.1~~

~~2)To ensure the business of the Council is unbiased towards race, religion, gender or politics.~~

Nr.2 is a suggested addition

2.Non-Profit Commitment for student and Community Benefit- PAC operates strictly as a non-profit organization, with an explicit mandate against personal financial gain. All efforts and resources are directed towards advancing our mission, benefiting our student body and the greater school community.

~~Original nr.3 & nr.4 to be combined into new nr.3~~

~~3)To communicate with parents, and to promote co-operation between the home and the school in providing for the education of children~~

~~4)To encourage parent involvement in the school, and to support programs that promote parent involvement.~~

3. Student-Centric Governance, Parental and community Engagement- ST-PAC is dedicated to responsive and student-centric governance, recognizing that our primary duty is to address the needs of both students and their parents. We commit to actively fostering transparent communication and collaboration between the school and students' homes, aiming to build a bridge of understanding and engagement that enhances the educational experience. Through open dialogue, we seek to empower students and parents, ensuring their voices are heard and their concerns addressed, ultimately enriching the learning environment and nurturing a stronger sense of community within our school. We prioritize initiatives and programs that encourage parents to actively participate and collaborate with the school, furthering the well-being and educational experiences of our students.

~~7) To assist parents in accessing the school system, and to advocate on behalf of parents and students~~

4. Advocacy for Access and Student Welfare- PAC is dedicated to aiding parents in navigating the school system and advocating for the interests of both parents and students. This includes promoting the welfare and educational interests of Semiahmoo Trail Elementary and its student body within the broader context of public education.

Original nr.8 & nr.9 to be combined into new nr.5

~~8)To advise the principal and staff on any matter relating to the school, other than matters assigned to the school planning council.~~

~~9)To advise and participate in the activities of School District 36, District Parent Advisory Council and the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils.~~

5. Advisory Role and Participation- PAC shall actively engage in advising the principal and staff on all matters concerning Semiahmoo Trail Elementary. Furthermore, we will provide guidance and participate in the activities of School District 36, District Parent Advisory Council, and the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, ensuring our collective voice is heard and advocating for the best interests of our school and the broader educational community.

Original nr.10 & nr.11 to be combined into new nr.6

~~10)To provide leadership and contribute to a sense of community within the school and between the school, home, and neighbourhood.~~

~~11)To organize PAC activities and events.~~

6. Community Engagement and Events- PAC is committed to fostering a vibrant and connected school community. We shall actively organize, support, and engage in community events and activities that promote unity, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging among students, parents, teachers, and all members.

SECTION 3: MEMBERSHIP

Original nr.1, nr.2 & nr.3 to be combined into new nr.1, a,b,c

~~1. All parents and guardians of students registered at Semiahmoo Trail Elementary School may be voting members of the group, including a staff member who may also be a parent.~~

~~2. Administration and staff (teaching and non-teaching) of Semiahmoo Trail Elementary School may be non-voting members of the group.~~

~~3. Members of the school community who are not parents of students currently in the system may also be non-voting members of the group.~~

1. All parents and legal guardians of students currently enrolled at STE are voting members of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC).

A) Additionally, a staff member of STE who is also a parent or legal guardian of a student may be a voting member of the PAC.

B) In the event of a staff member being a parent or legal guardian, they shall exercise their voting rights independently and without influence from their staff position.

C) Members of the school community who are not parents of students currently in the system may also hold non-voting membership within the PAC.

Original nr.4 to be replaced with new nr.2

~~2. At no time shall the PAC have more non-voting than voting members.~~

Every member, voting and non-voting members of PAC shall uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws in their entirety.

SECTION 4. MEETINGS

~~1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting for the purpose of election of officers held in MAY of each year and additional general meetings shall be held at least once a month during the school year to conduct current business.~~

1. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be conducted in May of each year for the purpose of electing PAC executives, adopting an annual budget for the upcoming school year and establishing PAC goals and priorities for the upcoming year. A minimum of an additional 7 general meetings shall be held during the school year to address current business matters.

2. The executive meetings and additional general meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executives.

~~3. Meetings will be conducted efficiently and with fairness to the members present.~~

3. Meetings shall be organized, follow a meeting agenda and conducted efficiently, ensuring fairness to all members present.

Nr.4 is a proposed addition

4. Members are prohibited from discussing individual students, parents, school personnel, or community members in a personal capacity during general meetings

~~4. 5. Every member will uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws.~~

~~5-6. If procedural problems should arise, Robert's Rules of Order will be used to resolve the situation, unless they conflict with the guidelines in this Constitution.~~

Open Forum

- Can we look into more garbage cans for school grounds, particularly around the back of the school? Kids have nowhere to put garbage and it ends up all over the ground. Karen will look into this.
- Accessible Playground Committee - tabled while Nina is needed as Interim Treasurer - good idea to wait for Inclusion Committee ideas, someone else can eventually take on this role as well
- Ms. Elston will enter us into concession lottery for Track and Field day. A great opportunity to raise funds, our school hasn't done this in years
- After school Freezie Fundraiser (May or June)? Pre-order or bring Square for payment? Ask parents to send toonies?
- Value Village fundraiser - FUNdrive - Is it worth the time/work for the amount raised?
- Set up Account with Bottle Depot - Register PAC - Bottle donations easy ongoing fundraiser

Meeting Adjourned at 10:07am

**Next Meeting
March 14, 2024**

Respectfully submitted by Heather Neilson