



Semiahmoo Trail Parent Advisory Council

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PAC General Meeting Minutes Thursday October 19, 2023

Attendees: Sara Block, Rachael Marples, Vagmi Dholakia-Baxi, Fiona Fu, Sheri Hardcastle, Heather Neilson, Nina Hemmes, Karen Fadum, Katie Clark, Zita Wang, Parveen Sangha, Natasha Gossen, Vicky Zhang, Lily Cui

Meeting called to order at 9:07am

Motion to Approve Agenda

- 🌱 Motion Approved by: Vagmi Baxi

Motion to Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

- 🌱 Motion Approved by 3: Nina Hemmes, Fiona Fu, Rachael Marples

Principal's Report and Updates - Karen Fadum

🌱 **Staffing**

- Currently seeking primary music teacher and intermediate prep teacher (French, one other day)
- Supervision Aide shortage - Any interested parents can apply for this paid role. Application process is long, background checks required

🌱 **Construction**

- Safety update emailed on Oct.16.
- Full time safety officer now on site
- Any safety Questions/Concerns/Feedback welcome and should be directed to Karen Fadum so she can address/connect with appropriate channel.
- More direct path to portables expected this fall, but disruptions are expected. Paths to school from portables must be visible and will be clearly marked with flaggers. Student safety is of highest importance.
- Trucks should not be entering or exiting during pick-up/drop-off , lunch or recess.

🌱 Washrooms

- Increased spot checks, implemented tracking system for issues. No complaints of being unclean so far this year.
- Kids should notify front office or teacher if washroom needs cleaning in order to log call for documentation purposes.
- Working on getting a daytime custodian, but documentation of need is required, therefore notification of any issues is necessary from students/parents.
- Mobile washrooms considered, but many safety concerns regarding enclosed spaces (cleanliness/back ups/water tight/dangerous)
- Social Media is a great place for parents to communicate, but it is imperative for Principal to be notified if issues arise.

🌱 Classroom Funds

- Thank you to PAC for the classroom funds.
- Parents can ask about what these funds go towards

🌱 Wishlist/Fundraising

- Art Cards going home late November (1 of possible 2 Fundraisers)
- Consider Funds for LST, IST, Music, Library & CYCW/Counsellor
- Chair Dolly Purchased - \$300
- Written notice should go home to parents about Jog-a-thon technology spend (Sara)
- Communication with parents on what we are fundraising for will motivate parents to be more involved. We should use the money asap
- 3 Year plan for technology update.
 - Y1 - 10 laptops (\$13,000 - \$15,000) + 15 iPad keyboard cases (\$3000)
 - Y2 - 8 laptops (\$10,000 - \$12,000) + 10 iPad keyboard cases (\$3000)
 - Y3 - 8 laptops (\$10,000 - 12,000) + 10 iPads (\$6000)
- ADST supplies needed (micro:bits, alligator clips, dc motors, servo motors, wheels & gearbox motors)
- PAC needs brands/models and pricing to move forward and info meeting will be scheduled for vote on spend (Sara)
- All technology products requiring support must be purchased through LRS Catalogue through IMS department.
- Donated devices do not receive school tech support service.

- MacBooks worth added cost over Dell product as they last longer/better quality
- Tech generations better to be split up so they are not all requiring updating at the same time.
- Old tech is distributed to individual classes to keep and use when needed
- Technology Carts can be booked by IST/LST/Teachers
 - 2 Dell Carts, 2 iPad Carts, 1 MacBook Cart available
 - Extra laptops/iPads kept in office if required (this should made more clear to staff that these are available)

FSA's

- Only certain students will be exempted - Ministry of Education
- The BC curriculum cannot be mandated by parents
- Tests must be distributed to students not exempted, however no student will be forced to write them, they may be left blank
- Parents are encouraged to explain that these exams help the Ministry to evaluate and improve curriculums
- Parents encouraged to speak to their child's teacher or Karen if they have any concerns
- Parents will be notified by when it is being written

Parking

- Accessible parking is currently along bus lane. Please do not block this lane. Extra signage needed to make sure lanes are clear for accessible parking
- Many people still parking in no stopping/parking areas.
- Some daycares do not have signage on cars, this can cause confusion

Terry Fox

- Raised over \$900 - Thank you for donations!

Halloween

- Grade 7 students will hold school-wide event in gym on Oct. 31
- No scary/inappropriate costumes or replica weapons
- Be thoughtful about culture and disability when choosing costumes
- Small costume pieces should be left at home

🌿 Sports

- Thank you to Ms. Elston, Ms. Plumb, Ms. Singer, Ms. Chahal and Ms. Sawatzky for coaching Soccer and Cross Country.
- Ms. Singer organizing and coaching volleyball with secondary student and parent volunteer. Plan for Gr.7 boys and girls teams with co-ed practices.

🌿 Reporting

- Update sent out Oct.14 regarding new BC Reporting Order
- Parents will receive 2 Informal Learning Updates and 3 Formal Learning Updates.
- Informal learning updates target specific learning areas and are a place for feedback and creating goals.

Treasurer's Report - Vagmi Dholakia-Baxi

- 🌿 **General Assets: \$74,801.36**
- 🌿 **Gaming: \$17,794.95**
- 🌿 **Total Assets: \$43,085.78**

DPAC Report - Sheri Hardcastle

🌿 Student Assessments and Reporting

- Slide Presentation on reporting available. What is descriptive feedback?
[Shifts in Student Reporting Slide Presentation](#)
- New to Secondary Schools. Elementary Schools have been using this since 2019
- Grades 10-12 students to receive a graduation status on report cards showing child's progress
- K - 9 will use Proficiency Scale/ 10-12 will use Letter Grades and Percentages
- Parents encouraged to discuss with teachers or principal if unsure

🌿 Portables (Hot Topic)

- All schools in SD36 dealing with portables and overcrowding
- Walnut Grove school using gymnasium for multiple classrooms. Parent representatives have started petitioning due to space and resource shortages.

[Petition to Expedite Portable Delivery & Find Long Term Expansion Solution for Surrey Schools](#)

- DPAC looking for volunteers to sign petitions and help cause by voicing concerns.
- Portable expenses take away from student and teacher support.
- Every moved portable costs the Surrey School District \$100,000+. This expense comes from the Operating Budget (The same budget that pays teachers and extra classroom support).
- DPAC writing a Proposal to Petition Ministry to make portables a Capital Expense (paid by the Ministry to build new schools)
- Other options for buildings being looked at. District has reached a state of crisis with too many portables taking over school grounds

New Business

Fall/Winter Fundraisers

- Reminder email going out from Samosas/Meridian Meats
- Purdy's email going out soon
- Spirit Wear email going out in November (Sara)
- Looking into Family Photo day - Sara emailing Karen
- Pub Night - looking into whether or not we can have one (Sheri will check with DPAC at next meeting)

Diwali Celebration

- PAC will purchase and distribute Samosas to all students (\$2 per student)
- Email will go out from Karen

Teacher/PAC Liaison

- Thank you to Nina for taking on this role, it has been well received
- Role used to be done by a teacher
- Division 2 still needs a class parent
- Grade 7 teachers asking about PAC participation for Grad Hoodies this year

Hot Lunch

- Tara off to a great start
- More culturally diverse food options being requested by parents, working on different options (Nina, Fiona and Tara are working together on this)

- Possibly different Asian/Indian/Sushi choices for April/June 2024
- Culturally diverse foods can create conversations around the table with kids
- What cultures are represented in our classrooms? Keeping those in mind for future hot lunch possibilities

Lunar New Year

- Adding Hot Lunch celebration for Lunar New Year. Traditional Chinese Food only on the menu
- Lunar New Year Committee - Zita
- PAC members willing to volunteer for celebrations
- \$2 per student will be provided by PAC
- Korean students/parents share in Lunar New Year as well

New Constitution and Bylaws update

- Working on creating New Constitution and Bylaws
- Haven't been updated since 2017
- Changes will be sent out via email and voted on at next meeting

Run Club

- PAC looking into options for Run Club
- Potential New Software Options (Nina)

Open Forum Discussions

Parents concerned about SOGI - looking for more information

- Read Letter from Superintendent
- Many places online to find more information - School District and BC Government Websites
- SOGI not a teaching curriculum, it is an inclusive attitude
- It is not something parents can opt out of
- Contains curated resources for teachers to use

Meeting Adjourned at 10:40am

**Next Meeting
November 23, 2023**