



Semiahmoo Trail Parent Advisory Council

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PAC General Meeting Minutes Thursday November 23, 2023

Attendees: Sara Block, Rachael Marples, Vagmi Dholakia-Baxi, Fiona Fu, Sheri Hardcastle, Heather Neilson, Nina Hemmes, Karen Fadum, Tara Sheldrake, Zita Wang, Natasha Gossen, Parveen Sangha, Hye Seon Chang, Cindy Liefke

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am

Motion to Approve Agenda

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

Motion to Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

- 🌱 Motion Approved by 2: Nina Hemmes, Rachael Marples

Principal's Report and Updates - Karen Fadum

🌱 **Enrolment & Staffing**

- 457 Students
- Still seeking primary music teacher
- Intermediate prep teacher position filled by Ms. Sandhu on Tuesdays/
Wednesdays

🌱 **LRS (Learning Resource) Funds**

- More math manipulatives/Home Reading books for younger students- buying this year
- Purchasing Digital Licence for [Second Step](#) - Social emotional learning resource, conflict resolution, talking about feelings

🌱 **Art Cards**

- Deadline tonight
- Student focused art project for fundraising. Students will be surveyed about what the funds go towards. Approx. \$1800 raised last year

🌱 **Thank You**

- Art Starts booking requests made
- Appreciate funds for non-enrolling positions

- Lacrosse booked for January (one more year, tennis or dance next year)
- MacBook purchase/Tech purchase - Jog-a-thon spend

🌱 **Poppy Campaign**

- Local Legion very grateful for generous online donations \$660

🌱 **Community Events/Assemblies**

- No Winter production happening this year - absence of music teacher. Maybe band performance/sing-a-long
- Expect a Spring Fine Arts Presentation (dance/music) - Split performance so parents can attend
- Pink Shirt Day Assembly (Feb 28th) held separately for primary/intermediate students to allow for parent attendance

🌱 **Sports & Clubs**

- Thanks to Ms. Singer, Ms. Chahal, Ms. Shaw and parent volunteer Julie Cox for coaching volleyball. Basketball will be next. Right now, grade 7, maybe grade 6.
- Volunteers welcome for basketball, anyone with experience is a plus, maybe Grade 12 students?
- Lunchtime clubs happening again soon. Parents can volunteer/help run clubs. Possible ideas: gardening, knit/crochet, coding, chess, intramurals, lego. Parents let Karen know if your child would thrive in a specify club.
- Funds for clubs covered from School's Budget - PAC can help with this if items needed

🌱 **Classroom Parents and Money Collections**

- Any money collected for the classroom should be collected by teachers, not parents. This can create problems for students/teachers. This does not include teacher gifts

🌱 **Reporting**

- Formal Learning Update #1 date changed from Dec. 15 to Dec. 22 (can be picked up on Thursday if requested)
- 3 Teachers using SPACES this year. Others using district based reporting template
- Formal reports are just a snapshot/summary of a child's learning. They are only one part of Communicating Student Learning. Communication through email, conversations, and artifacts going home are other ways parents can be continuously updated about their child's learning
- Refer to [SWAY](#) sent home on October 14th for more info on new BC reporting order

🌱 Traffic Safety

- More neighbour complaints about parents blocking driveways, garbage bins. They are urged to call the city about these issues
- See [Safe Parking map](#) on SWAY from Nov. 18th
- How can we improve safety? “Best Routes to School” - Ask City for re-evaluation for speed humps, crossing guard, flashing lights for crossing at trail crosswalk on 32nd? - Karen will look into this
- Karen has emailed and called the city, can we start a petition? Looking into getting Crossing Guard
- More students coming from King George Corridor expected - higher volume traffic also expected
- Can the school ask kids to let their parents know about parking safely?
- Larger/clearer signage for parking/drop-off area?

🌱 Construction

- Meeting with Capital Projects Office on Nov. 20th
- On-site motion sensor camera in place for full construction site. Can be reviewed anytime if needed
- Requests/considerations: third party review of project safety, education for students, samples of daily safety checks completed by construction team, safety audit being looked into
- Sketches/Plans for new addition will be added to upcoming SWAY
- Parent Concerns - Larger scale concerns such as processes should be directed to proper channel (ie. Trevor Wong, SD36 Associate Director, Construction, or Neder Dhillon, Assistant Superintendent)
- Karen would still like to be notified from parents about concerns/details that she can address herself. Feedback board on website under ‘Construction’
- District Based Supervisory Aide now on premises 9-2. Has walkie-talkie and will be notified when younger students in music or students are walking on their own
- Staff Parking Lot - Parents please wait on sidewalk or within taped off area. Help keep kids from walking through parking lot
- Keeping kids safe - Buddy system is in place and is for the most part followed, some exceptions have been made, but not the standard

🌱 Looking Ahead

- Discussing/considering funds/planning for Accessible Playground/Gaga Ball pit - this can take a long time to plan, very expensive for very little
- Grant list/ Variety Club matches funds

Treasurer's Report - Vagmi Dholakia-Baxi

- 🌱 **General Assets: \$77,984.43**
- 🌱 **Gaming: \$28,834.95**
- 🌱 **Total Assets: \$73,256.08**

DPAC Report - Sheri Hardcastle

🌱 **District Survey**

- If parents haven't done so, complete online input survey from district Due Nov.29 - Karen will add reminder to upcoming SWAY
- Important decisions being made about the future of the district, how to accommodate influx of students - Fresh ideas welcome

🌱 **Portables**

- Big changes coming to our area, pre-fabricated/double decker portables have been approved as additions, not portables
- More capital required for schools due to district growth. Education needs to be high on radar for upcoming election year

🌱 **Playgrounds**

- How are funds allotted? SD facilities keep a list of schools in need of playgrounds and submit to province.
- Surrey had one school chosen last year out of 25 in province.
- Notification should be given to district facilities if PAC raising money for one. Relying on PAC funds is not equitable across the district.

🌱 **Bike Racks**

- Process for installation? Funding comes from district - look into this while construction in progress

🌱 **Earthquake Bins**

- Should be refreshed every 5 years, may require more having added students - We have 2 right now but we have grown a lot
- Gaming funds can go toward purchasing non-perishable food for these, should we choose to allocate funds here. Water in bins is provided by district.

🌱 **FSA's**

- Working on better communication out to parents for next year. Too much confusion about exemptions this year.
- Ministry stepped in this year and wanted more students taking this

🌱 **Screentime**

- Current allowable screen time for students varies by teacher/school. Parents would like to see policies in place for amount/type of usage
- Karen will share what this looks like at our school/how it is managed

🌿 **Aftercare**

- Has been looked into for our school, but under current construction, there is no space for this. Application has been started for our after school care to be at Alex House.

🌿 **Fundraisers**

- Liability for PAC events or fundraisers off school premises. Insurance should be considered if D-PAC criteria not met
- District against any events with alcohol present, they will not be covered

Old Business

🌿 **Fall/Winter Fundraisers**

- Most Fundraisers completed, Samosas, Meridian Meats - Open to new suggestions
- Purdy's closing this weekend
- Spirit Wear completed - pickup date coming up
- Last minute Photo Fundraiser well received - Thanks Nina and Germana

New Business

🌿 **Movie Night - Dec. 8th**

- Something fun for the students to take part in, in lieu of winter concert
- Allowed to have up to 300 for fire safety regulations

🌿 **Translation**

- Anyone willing to translate PAC documents into a different language is welcome to volunteer. AI tools can be used, but do not always translate appropriately and can even be offensive. Someone fluent in the language would still be required to carefully translate documents.

🌿 **Post Construction Mural/Crosswalk Early Proposal**

- The District is moving away from Murals on Buildings and our new addition will have glass in the front/possibility for crosswalk mural or on fencing

🌿 **Jog-a-thon Spend Vote**

- Members voted unanimously for Technology Upgrade Spend
- MacBooks, Keyboard Covers and ADST Supplies to be ordered right away

Meeting Adjourned at 10:26am

**Next Meeting
December 21, 2023**

Respectfully submitted by Heather Neilson