



Walnut Road Elementary School PAC PAC Minutes – October 28, 2021

Executive Council in Attendance

Susan Légaré, Chair
Amanda Widdes, Treasurer
Kirsten Harms, Vice Chair
Saakshi Khanna, Vice Chair
Vicki Hunter, Secretary

School Representatives

John Horstead, Principal
Brette Barreiros, Teacher/Parent
Sarah Baxter, Teacher/Parent
Jacqueline Reyes, Teacher/Parent

Regrets

Heather Horwood, Volunteer Coordinator

Others in Attendance

Sunhee Gooding, Member-at-Large
Aisha Alansa
Grace Antonio
Xiangban Jack Ban
Deepali Batra
Shaveta Bhalla
Kathy Cui
John Gong
Suhani Gupta
Lisa Kim
Lindie Melendez

Jessica Beggs
Larry Mireku
Deepti Prahllad
Naya Rajha
Bobby Sahota
Avneet Sidhu
Venkata Anil Voodi
Nicole Welsford
Candice Yeung
Ann Young
Grace Zhang

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

1. Welcome

Susan welcomed everyone and introduced the Executive and Mr. Horstead. PAC encourages all parents and caregivers to take an active part as automatic PAC members by attending a meeting, volunteering and just introducing themselves to another person they see. This will form invaluable relationships.

2. Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2021

It was motioned by Amanda Widdes and seconded by Vicki Hunter to approve the minutes of the last PAC Meeting of May 20, 2021.

3. What is P.A.C.? How about D.P.A.C.?

Susan explained what P.A.C. is (Parent Advisory Council) and showed the "Welcome to WRE PAC" information sheet. If anyone would like a copy of the file, they are encouraged to email her. She went on to briefly explain Surrey D.P.A.C. (District Parent Advisory Council) and encouraged anyone to attend a meeting to get a feel for all the work they do. Visit their website at <https://surreydpac.ca/> WRE's DPAC Representative this year is Reema Aggarwal.

4. Principal's Introduction/Daily Duties

Mr. Horstead introduced himself to the new parents. He touched on many subjects with Covid-19 being a large focus.

1. Daily Health Checks for all students, staff and teachers are still in place.
2. He is proud to report WRE students have become massive hand washers.
3. Microfiber cloths have been provided to each student to hang on the back of their chair. Teachers take them home to wash once a week. This a safety measure as well as savings on paper towel costs. Desks are also wiped down with the microfiber cloths and disinfected by the teachers daily.
4. All students must wear masks. Parents have been great wearing masks on the school grounds.
5. Students are always sent home when not feeling well.
6. Updated ventilation system - MERV 13 in all classes, portables and modulars to maximize air flow.

Some other points of interest:

- There are 691 students and 31 divisions this year.
- The soccer and volleyball teams are back.
- The staff will continue with SEL (Social Emotional Learning).
- 60% of the children in grades 4 and 7 have withdrawn from writing the FSAs (Foundation Skills Assessment) this year.
- Plans to tackle cursive writing with grades 4 to 7.
- In the office, Cathy Tocher has moved on to another school. Deb Colbert will be retiring at the end of November.
- Mr. Horstead thanked the parents and PAC for the playground and the 40+ parents who showed up on a very hot weekend to install the playground. Over \$14,000 was saved by this initiative.
- He thanked PAC for the TV in the school lobby. It will be showcasing artwork and photos by students.
- Walnut Road has its own App but it is still being tested.
- Mr. Horstead thanked PAC and the families who supported the families at Abbey Road and Veranda that were affected by the fires in their complexes.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Organizational Account's current balance is \$15,042.31 with an outstanding cheque still to be cashed for \$85.00. Once the cheque has been cashed, the balance will be \$14,957.31.

In the Gaming Account, the current balance is \$44,349.24 with two outstanding cheques still to be cashed for \$1,024.03 and \$6,870.00. Once the cheques have been cashed, the balance will be \$36,455.21.

Total balance of all accounts is \$51,412.52

Gaming Grant received from BC Government: \$13,420.00

Total Paid out to School for Various Activities and Funds to date this year: \$15,811.49

P.A.C. banks with Prospera Credit Union. We have a system in place where cheques being issued need to be signed by two authorized P.A.C. members. Receipts must be handed in to the Treasurer in order to be reimbursed for funds used.

Money in the organization account comes from our many fundraisers including hot lunch. P.A.C. is able to use the money in the organization account as they see fit.

Money in the Gaming account comes mainly from Government grants. Because of this we must use the money for non-curricular items and activities only. In the past this money has been used to fund activities such as Zumba and new gym equipment. This year P.A.C. has used Gaming grant money on individual classroom sports equipment and a digital art display for the hallway near the office.

6. P.A.C. Updates

- Budget Planning/WRE's PAC Contribution

A brief description was given for all new parents attending the meeting about where beginning of the year monies are normally spent. Cheques have already been given to WRE for things such as Classroom Funds (\$10/student), additional books in the Library Learning Commons and more. This year there is a surplus in the Gaming Account. It was discussed that a portion of this surplus should go towards field trips/in-class field studies.

- Motion by Amanda Widdes - **increase the Field Trip/In-Class Studies to \$20/student for the 2021-22 year.** *The caveat being the school must pay for trips/presenters, submit the expense to P.A.C. for reimbursement. Clarification of the student population will also be required.*
- Motioned seconded by Vicki Hunter.
- **Motioned passed unanimously.**

- Hot Dog Day/Hot Lunch/Concession

Hot Dog Day is on Friday, November 5. This is a Spirit Event for the students rather than a full hot lunch. PAC is using the vendor for the first time and ensuring there is positive feedback. *F.U.E.L. Catering* is Covid-friendly with food items individually wrapped and sorted by class divisions. Hot dog orders are to be in by midnight on Friday, October 29 and can be placed on <https://munchaluch.com/schools/walnutroad> If all goes well, PAC is hoping Hot Lunch will be back in 3 to 4 weeks. For more information, check WRE Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WalnutRoadPAC>) or the school's *SchoolLink* account.

- Contactless Payments/Volunteer Safety

WRE PAC is only accepting credit cards for payment. No cheques or cash at this time. For Volunteer Safety, PAC will be following the school's lead with daily health checks, hand washing/sanitizing, masks, automatic social distancing and a new guideline information sheet for Volunteers.

- Fundraising Committee

We are starting up a Fundraising Committee for the first time and are looking for 4 volunteers to be part of the committee. Vicki Hunter is the lead and will be accepting all names and ideas!

- P.A.C. Teacher Representative (Sarah Baxter)

Susan introduced Sarah Baxter as the official P.A.C. Teacher Representative. She has agreed to be an active participant in P.A.C. as well as act as a liaison between P.A.C., teachers and the office. She will be reporting at staff meetings as well as keeping staff up-to-date via emails.

Sarah spoke about the newly installed Buddy Bench - This is a bench for when a student feels lonely, needs a friend, to develop a connection with fellow students, etc. The idea is older students will be on a rotation or assigned a student to look out for and talk, approach, listen, play and/or help. Students will be introduced to the Buddy Bench by their teachers.

- Upcoming Events

- Broom Fundraiser

This fundraiser will be happening shortly. Each broom costs \$20. For more information, their website is www.theoriginalgardenbroom.com

- Spirit Wear

PAC will be running Spirit Wear in January this year. If anyone has recommendations for companies to look into, please contact Susan.

- Cancellations/New Ideas

This year's Holiday Market has been cancelled due Covid restrictions and the capacity amount allowed in the school's gym. PAC is looking to possibly do something in the spring. During Christmas we will look to hold more easily organized fundraisers such as Purdy's and poinsettias.

7. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm

Next P.A.C. meeting is November 17, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Get Connected:

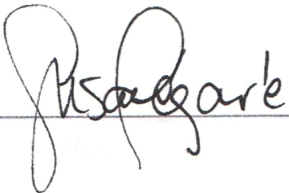
Email: info@walnutroadpac.ca

Facebook: [facebook.com/WalnutRoadPAC](https://www.facebook.com/WalnutRoadPAC)

Twitter: @WalnutRoadPAC

Request Invitations for WeChat, WhatsApp (English & Hindi/Punjabi), KakaoTalk

Minutes Approved and Verified by:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. S. Gark', is written over a horizontal line.

*** Special thank you to all who took part in our Icebreaker Game! It was rocky but laughs were had. Congratulations to Bobby Sahota for the win!***