



2020 Moody Avenue,
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PAC General Meeting

Date: Sept 25, 2024

Location: Queensbury Elementary School (2020 Moody Avenue) - Library

Present: Janice Phillips and Flora Yuen (Co-Chairs), Tammy Clarke (Secretary), Lindsay Calder (Communications), Hannah Stephens (Member at Large), Sarah Hughes (Member at Large), Shanna Herrick (Member at Large), Jana Hrubá (Member at Large), Adam Baumann (Assistant Superintendent), Sanj Johal (Principal), Helen Chambers (Vice Principal), Andre Oliveira, Chelsea Donaghy, Marylan Gibbs, Azadeh Aghaei, Stacey Playle, Cherine Casillan, Jennifer Wong, Natalie Lauzon

Regrets: Sarah McKinney (Member at Large), Ashley Klyne-MacDonald (DPAC), Sara Khalifa (Treasurer), Lee Ann Denham (Member at Large)

Called to Order: quorum established; meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

Land Acknowledgement: Tammy

Introduction: Jan

Motion: to adopt the minutes of the June 11, 2024 AGM - approved by Lindsay, seconded by Cherine. Motion carried.

Agenda: Jan

1. Introduction and welcome – Adam Baumann, Assistant Superintendent. Adam was invited to provide context for the concerns regarding placement of the new portable and answer questions about issues within his purview. Initial concerns raised by the PAC included placement being other than what was communicated to the PAC prior to the end of the 2023/34 school year, as well as potential issues of noise transfer and lack of light due to 'window to window' placement of the existing music portable to the new Grade 5/6 portable.
 - a. Operational efficiencies to 'twinning' the portables was explained – specific challenges were identified only once engineer/architect were on site, including existing gas line for the music portable which made the original placement plan no longer feasible, as well as site challenges such as slope.
 - b. Adam noted competition amongst districts throughout the lower mainland to purchase portables, the preferential configuration is ordered up front

and there is no opportunity to change later or risk not having a planned classroom facility which is not an option.

- c. Adam acknowledged that there was a gap in communicating the new plan and apologized for this.
 - d. Parents in the meeting with children in the Grade 5/6 portable agreed that the kids seemed comfortable and happy, noise transfer between the music and classroom portables seems to be minimal and the kids like having a heat pump and new furniture.
 - e. Adam noted overall unpredictable increases to enrollment due to a multitude of factors – immigration backlog during Covid released as well as other increases in immigration. In terms of demographics, the whole district is not full which is required to be able to build new schools – spaces east of Lynn Creek still exist while schools central to Lonsdale (Queen Mary, Ridgeway) have the most demand for spaces. The District's priority is to keep 'overflow' within the family of schools to try to keep some predictability to the high school demographics. Also with Cloverley coming on line, initial capacity is estimated as 50-60% at opening as kids are already placed within the family of schools so it will likely take a couple of years for capacity to be fill.
 - f. Discussion on how tech such as laptops/ipads are distributed and plans to raise the standard of tech in schools. There is a draft tech plan in place, further details to be available in the new year.
 - g. Adam thanked for his attendance and the PAC will invite him to return in 2025.
2. Admin Report – Sanj Johal, Principal and Helen Chambers, Vice Principal
- a. Sanj noted the one day delay this year in the movement of students due to the unpredictability of enrollment this year. As capacity amongst the schools was being sorted out, Queensbury started with ~322 students with Queensbury as a 'placeholder' and have now settled in at 308 students and full classes from K-7.
 - b. School Plan – the school plan for 2024/25 is:
 - i. Sense of belonging
 - ii. Student engagementSanj has been talking to every class about the plan and has facilitated a presentation to the staff on Unconscious Bias. A Newsletter will go out to

the school community on the 3rd Thursday of each month, with the exception of March due to Spring Break.

- c. School Planning team – our team includes Cameron Phillips and Sienna Chen (Grade 5 students), Ms. Williams (Teacher – K) and Ms. McTavish (Teacher – Grade 1), Helen and Sanj. The team requires a CUPE member and is still recruiting for this. The team will have events after school in October and April and will meet with other schools and share learning about respective school plans and implementation. Sanj encouraged all parents and guardians to review the plan which is on the Queensbury website.
- d. Crossing guard – applications and interviews for the vacancy are ongoing. In the meantime EA's are helping with this role. There have been some instances of negative comments/inappropriate behaviour to our fill-in EA's and Sanj noted that while it is not clear whether these are parents or other community members, there is zero tolerance for this behaviour.
- e. Focus for the year will also include celebrating and acknowledging more customs and cultures than we have normally done. Parents and guardians who are interested in helping educate and celebrate their various customs and cultures are encouraged to connect with Admin on this.
- f. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA's) – Helen is organizing these for Grades 4 and 7. The ministry requires that these be delivered to students in those classes in October. They are not graded and are not for marks. The booklets are returned to the students to take home in April.
- g. Lockdown drill – this will be happening in October. A letter will be going out to parents and guardians to explain the drill and includes a FAQ.
- h. Parent and guardian feedback for next year's class placements – Sanj noted some role confusion around this – class placements are at the sole discretion of the principals with input from the prior teacher – parent and guardian feedback is optional and should not be expected to be accommodated. There have been a number of meetings this year where parents and guardians were upset that requests were not followed. The feedback form/request will be changed for next year as a result. Sanj noted that as part of planning, prior to the end of the school year, students are asked to make a list of 6 students they work well with – this is not a friends list – students are asked to include students from their own grade, as well as one grade below and one grade above. Trust needs to be extended to the principal and teachers to make these decisions.

- i. Meet the Teacher and Welcome Back BBQ – Helen asked for any feedback from parents on these events – the request was that the Meet the Teacher portion be extended to accommodate families with multiple children – Helen will raise this to the staff, noting an extra 15 minutes to 5:15 should accommodate most families.
 - j. Terry Fox Run – Helen noted that lots of ‘walking field trip’ consents had yet to be returned therefore the run was held on the school grounds with the intermediate grades running within the perimeter of the school property and primary grades running the perimeter of the gravel field. Over \$800 was raised – thank you to Indian Fusion Restaurant for topping up funds to hit this benchmark, Helen and Sanj will be wearing costumes as promised next Friday (October 4, 2024), which is the Pancake Breakfast.
 - k. Orange Shirt Day – teachers have been doing truth and reconciliation work with their classes and there will be schoolwide activities to celebrate first nations culture – singing the Coast Salish anthem and tying orange ribbons around the school.
 - l. Teachers wish list for PAC fundraising is \$10,000 for school/classroom enhancements. As well, a wish would be to increase the per/division PAC funds by \$100 for teachers that are newer in their careers – ie from \$300/division to \$400 for newer teachers to accumulate class materials.
 - m. Sports – Helen noted that cross country season was underway for Grades 4 and up and Basketball will be starting soon – one boys and one girls teams to be filled with Grade 7’s and then opened up to Grade 6’s if teams are not filled.
 - n. Calendar events – several events upcoming on the school calendar including Grade 6 immunizations, Helen/Sanj costume day, Pancake Breakfast, School Planning meeting at Sutherland, upcoming Pro D day, and the Hallowe’en parade.
3. Meet the PAC Executive
Jan introduced the 2024/25 PAC executive and roles/role descriptions. In accordance with PAC bylaws, executive roles are by nomination/vote at the June AGM and any roles that remain vacant/unfilled at the AGM are made by appointment of the executive until the next AGM. As such, Sara Khalifa has been appointed as Treasurer and we are greatly appreciative of her support in this role.



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4. PAC Fundraisers

Jan described the various fundraisers underway/upcoming to support the PAC's goals – Apples, Pancake Breakfast, Family Photo Shoot, Purdy's, Moja Coffee, Love Ball, Spring Fair, and of course Fun Lunch. There will be other fundraising throughout the year by the Grade 7 class to fund graduation activities.

5. Class Reps

If anyone can support their child's class by being a Class Rep, please come forward.

6. 2024/2025 Proposed Budget

Motion: to adopt the 2024/25 proposed budget ahead of the vote to be held at the October 22, 2024 meeting – approved by Jana, seconded by Cherine. Vote was unanimous to approve the proposed budget. Motion carried.

7. Backpack Buddies – Shanna mentioned this as a program that parents/guardians or school admin can make referrals to for those in need. Sanj and Shanna to connect regarding the program specifics/details for consideration.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 PM

Next General Meeting: October 22, 2024 – virtual meeting, time TBD.