



# Semiahmoo Trail Parent Advisory Council

3040 145A Street, Surrey, BC V4P 1P8 | semiahmootrailpac@gmail.com

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## PAC General Meeting Minutes Thursday October 24, 2024

**Attendees:** Sara Block, Rachael Marples, Sheri Hardcastle, Heather Neilson, Nina Hemmes, Karen Fadum, Jamie-Lyn Hugh, Tara Sheldrake, Zita Wang, Hye Seon Chang, Jessica Rowa, Grace Yang, Grace Kim, Baljinder Sharma, Amanda Lowe, Belinda Liu, Megan Bane, Haley Stewart, Brandon Heuser, Sandra Todd

**Meeting called to order at 9:02am**

### **Motion to Approve Agenda**

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

### **Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

🌱 Motion Approved by 2: Sheri Hardcastle, Nina Hemmes

## **Principal's Report and Updates - Karen Fadum/Jamie-Lyn Hugh**

### 🌱 **Enrolment & Staffing**

- 434 Students - 19 Divisions
- IST position is currently vacant (Ms. Simpson returning in December) Being covered by Ms. Hugh. In December, Ms. Hugh will teach intermediate prep (currently filled by TTOC's)
- New Supervisory Aide - Vagmi Baxi
- New staff this year:
  - Ms. Simran (CYCW)
  - Mr. Donnelly (Music)
  - Mr. Shaefer (Counsellor)
  - Ms. McLean (Until Ms. Pereira returns in December)
  - Ms. Minoza (Grade 5/6 - 4 days shared class with Ms. Dhaliwal)
  - Ms. Williamson (IESW)
  - Ms. Sadhu (IESW)

### **Construction**

- Karen and Jamie-Lyn did a walkthrough of the interior, showed pictures of the progress, starting to look great, common staircase, classrooms, cabinets - all taking shape, furniture expected January
- Landscape being prepared
- Gaga Ball pit going in soon
- Staff will tour in new year (January) and decisions will be made as to which classes will move in
- Student Occupancy expected late Feb-March
- 10 Classes overall: 5 Intermediate, 4 Primary and 1 Kindergarten
- All classes will be equipped with in-ceiling projectors/apple tv
- Elevator is available for those that require it
- Water bottle fill station/washrooms available on second floor
- No confirmed date on when portables set to go

### **Parking**

- Passes have been made for some that need access to accessible drop-off lane
- Please DO NOT block the entry to accessible lane/bus lane at drop-off/pick-up
- Please Follow Bylaws - many people still parking in no stopping/parking areas including drop-off zone

### **Terry Fox Run**

- \$1200 raised for Terry Fox Run - Well done!

### **Sports**

- Thanks to Ms. Elston, Ms. Plumb, Ms. Sawatzky, Ms. Singer and Ms. Chahal for coaching Soccer & Cross Country
- Volleyball will be coached by Ms. Singer, Ms. Keller, Ms. Chahal and a parent volunteer Kelly MacGregor - Thank you!

### **Winter Performance**

- Save the date - December 17th - Winter Performance/Concert facilitated by Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Ablitt and several teachers - All families welcome

### **Library**

- Many books being returned damaged or lost. Parents, please help students care for their books and ensure they are returned
- Book Fair - planned for the week of Nov. 18th (date tbd) Parent/Guardian Only shopping between 12:30-2:15pm

### **Art Card Fundraiser**

- Student led fundraiser will be art cards again. Expect the option to order early December and delivery the week of Dec.16th. Will gather student feedback for use of funds, likely outdoor equipment and activities suitable for all ages

### **🌿 Halloween & Classroom Parties**

- Primary team (K-3) will rotate through learning stations as a group where students enjoy activities and games over the year allowing students to connect with peers in different classrooms. This is in lieu of classroom parties such as Halloween.
- Halloween fun on October 31 will be a school-wide event for students with stations organized and run by grade 7 students
- Parents, please do not send extra candy to school
- Remind students that costumes must be school appropriate
  - no replica weapons
  - be thoughtful of younger students with scary costumes/blood
  - no masks in hallways for safety reasons
  - be thoughtful about culture and disability
  - consider leaving small parts that may be lost at home

### **Treasurer's Report - Nina Hemmes**

- 🌿 **General Account: \$61,077.62**
- 🌿 **Gaming: \$10,814.76**
- 🌿 **Total Assets: \$20,829.21**

### **DPAC Report - Sheri Hardcastle**

#### **🌿 Overcrowding/Funding Issues**

- Traditional Schools (3) being looked at to be changed over to standard catchment in order to receive more funding from government - children in those schools concerned about this (Choice program - more like private school)
- Modularity being used in place of portables, not creating a lot of extra seats
- Large push to change funding for portables from operating budget to capital funding. DPAC raising focus on chronic underfunding on capital projects and that impacts the students

#### **🌿 Bussing**

- Many families are without bus service in district due to financial constraints
- Bussing costs have increased by 41% due to inflation
- District looking at routes to work with families

#### **🌿 Cell Phone Usage**

- NO real concerns with recent changes made, elementary schools have had little change

#### **🌿 AI Parent Information Session - Mark Pearmain (Superintendent)**

- Large attendance for this session, another one may be scheduled, video of session is available on Surrey Schools website

#### 🌱 CRC's

- Criminal Record Checks may be coming for more volunteer work in any school setting

#### 🌱 Work Orders

- Order of importance by the district: emergencies first, anything leading to an emergency, accessibility issue then any seasonal work
- These are submitted by principal for anything needing to be done at the school

#### 🌱 BCCPAC

- Currently affected by internal issues, lack of transparency with funding, other issues
- BCCPAC may not speaking on behalf of the current PACs - coalition has been formed to remove the current BCCPAC - 3 people left on the board
- We have not yet submitted our annual membership, deadline approaching
- By-election could be coming soon

#### 🌱 Surrey DPAC

- Sheri was voted in as a member of DPAC - Congratulations! She is also Chair of the Diverse Learners Committee for this year, putting out an application for new members soon
- Parents always needed to help with advocacy work on behalf of students

### Old Business

#### 🌱 Fall/Winter Fundraisers

- Most fundraisers underway, Dieleman Fundraising (DFS), Purdy's, Neufeld Farms all available to order
- Picture Photo Fundraiser may work - Nina will talk to Germana, portable 7 available
- Samosa fundraiser will be pushed to a later date
- Spirit Wear available on hot lunch site, not really a fundraiser for us, we try to make sure this is affordable so more students can participate
- Any fundraiser ideas welcome
- Movie night won't work this fall, but looking into a date for spring (February?)

#### 🌱 Yearbooks

- Yearbooks will go for sale on the hot lunch site - can be purchased earlier
- Sheri will be leaving our school next year, a new yearbook co-ordinator will be needed, please think of anyone who can take over this role

### New Business

#### 🌱 Drying Rack Spend Vote

- Originally had purchased 2, but they were sent back. We have purchased one at \$440, but need to vote to purchase a second one.
- Spend vote for second art drying rack up to \$500 - 11 voted yes

🌱 **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

- Is there anything PAC can do to assist the school with? Karen thinks that around March (after spring break) this will happen, perhaps tie it together with community event - food trucks, carnival games, face painting

🌱 **Tae Kwon Do for school sport?**

- PAC can look into doing Tae Kwon Do instead of Lacrosse as the fitness contribution for next year
- Lacrosse was already agreed upon by the teachers for the coming new year, a lot of planning goes into this as far as scheduling (starts in May of following year)

🌱 **Tech Upgrade**

- Gaga ball pit will not cost as much as originally quoted, all extra money will go to purchasing more MacBooks to complete the set purchased with jog-a-thon funds

🌱 **Playgrounds**

- Blue playground (Kindergarten) is scheduled to be removed in June. Playground committee will need to be formed. Karen looking into what school would like put in there, perhaps an outdoor learning area

🌱 **Vote to Include new Member at Large**

- Members took a vote to include new Member at Large - Belinda Liu
- 15 yes votes

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:37am**

**Next Meeting  
November 21, 2024**

Respectfully submitted by Heather Neilson