

École Marlborough School PAC General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 30th, 2019 – 9:00 am-10:30 am
Staff Room – East Building



Attendance

Parents: Uma Budireddi, Meera Johnson, Jasmine Hu, Ruby Chen, Donars Waqarri, Jenny Liu, Johnny Kwan, Hassan Pirayesh, Connie Sim, Simon Leung, Dominique Deng, Le- nail Silva, Louise Rusch, Anna, Gursimaar Kaur, Sibel Ozkan, Roz Taylor, Lori, Shraddha Upu, Suzie Lim, Hend Ayad, Monaid Heidan,

PAC Executives: Lily Ruan (Chair), Tommy Chu (Treasurer), Sweety Rajpal (Secretary)

Marlborough Staff: Karen Floyd (Principal)

Guest: Christine Cunningham (School Board Trustee), Louis Rusch (Bonsor Recreation Complex Program Coordinator)

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and introductions – Lily Ruan

- PAC Executives, Marlborough Staff and parents were welcomed.
- Parents' self-introduction.

2) Principal's Report – Karen Floyd

- The incident which led to a partial hold and securing in the school was a bank robbery and the perpetrators were at large. RCMP asked the school to direct all present inside the classrooms as a precaution. The culprit was caught later. Principal assured the parents the school tries to prepare the students by conducting mock fire drills, earthquake drills and emergency drills.
- Visitors who work for school always wear name tags. If parents see anything suspicious, please call RCMP.
- The principal thanked all the parents who volunteered at the pumpkin patch. It was great fun for all students and a beautiful day. Lots of photos on the way!
- The Halloween assembly is scheduled for 31 Oct from 9:30- 10:30 am. The new sound system will be display in all its glory, thanks to PAC. It is advisable to bring a change of clothes so that kids can safeguard their costume for Trick or Treat. Parents are advised to send kids in school appropriate clothing- no traditional clothing, traditional cultural clothing, swords or weapons. If your child's classroom is having a party, please try to send treats without nuts or peanuts.
- The principal thanked "Adrianna" for helping direct parents in the Dover parking lot. The presence of school and volunteers is helpful as it leads people to park their car in the lot and walk their child to their classroom. If any parent has a bit of spare time 8:35 in the morning or 2:45 in the afternoon they can visit the principal and they will be given a bright safety vest to go outside in the lower parking lot to help with the traffic flow.
- A reminder for parents to send their child in weather appropriate clothing. The children are always going outside unless its downpouring.

- The principal noticed that most of the intermediate students are not bringing lunch. The school used to provide granola bars to kids not bringing lunch but this should not become a regular feature. Food is the fuel for the mind; the children should get their lunches for proper nutrition.
- The Grade 5-7 kids have signed a cell phone usage contract. The cell phones will be kept in lockers unless the teacher needs them as a learning tool in class. Parents are requested not to text /call their kids during school hours. If there is anything urgent, please connect with the school office and they will pass the message.

Q: My daughter is in Grade 1, will it be required for me to buy a phone for her in future?

ANS: It is happening in high schools. The phone is a learning requirement but not mandatory. It is not definitely happening for kinder gardeners. The school board is working on a technology plan for future. They want a base level of technology to available in all schools. Teachers have their own devices like iPad and desktop.

Q: Does school post pictures of kids on social media?

ANS: The school only post pictures on the school website and not on any social media. Parents are also requested to not post pictures or videos of other kids without their parents' permission.

3) Bonsor Recreation Complex: Louis Rusch

- Louis presented a survey for parents to fill out taking feedback for the various after school programs. She also requested the parents to fill them online.
- Brochure for long term Arts program at Bonsor complex was also shared.
- A meeting for redevelopment of Forest Glen park will be held on 5 November. Parents were requested to join them and share their views about park development.
- Louise asked the parents about ideas for after school programs. One of the parents requested for self-defense and Louise mentioned about the "Physical Literacy" program which is closer to it and teaches about different aspects of nutrition, exercises etc. and develops a basic confidence about the body.
- Parents mentioned interest in Floor hockey, babysitters' program. Louis also clarified that the baby sitters program is eligible for 11 years and old.

Q: Why does not city provide pick up and drop for after school program?

A: The City is not qualified to be a day care so cannot offer this service. The after-school programs are generally in East building so students are safe to move around. They can also go to the office for help. The principal mentioned that school announces for after school program kids that the program is happening in what location. The school also has the policy of not releasing kindergarten kids to anyone else other than parents or guardians.

Q: An unlicensed day care provides the service of pick up so why cannot the City do so?

A: It is not within the guidelines of City to provide picks ups and drops. This can be definitely be taken up to community meetings of the city for future.

Q: Parent asked that earlier her daughter had a nut allergy and she was not able to participate in an after school science program.

A: Louis explained that the protocol has now changed. Children with allergies can participate in the programs by submitting a doctor's note about the allergy and precautions and first aid required. All the City staff has now allergy training. Children are still required to bring a nut free snack for after school programs.

Q: Why are there no after school music programs?

A: Since Bonsor recreation complex is so close to school and it already offers various options for full time music programs. The level of quality provided at Bonsor is much better.

Q: Do parents have to fill out the survey for after school programs every year?

A: Yes, parents should fill out the survey twice a year for fall/winter and spring/summer after school programs. Burnaby Recreation Complex will decide which programs are held in Marlborough according to survey results. Parent can reach Louise by email louise.rusch@burnaby.ca.

4) School Board trustee - Christine Cunningham

- The board is aware of child care crisis in the city. The board is governed by the School Act so it cannot donate money to the child care. Finding spaces to offer child care in school is only a partial solution.
- School plan is dependent on Ministry of Child & family development. The ministry is indeed lobbying to the provincial government to raise funds for child care. The school board is also lobbying to the City.
- The board is working on a system to provide child care by dividing the schools into hubs. There will be a certain number of schools that will be grouped in a hub and all parents corresponding to that school will be in the list. Going forward, a new waiting list will be created. The proposed timeline for this to be effective is September 2020.
- The school principal also added to this plan by mentioning that the East side will have portables put up for day care once the plan is realized. Burnaby Neighborhood House building will also be rebuilt.
- In Marlborough Hub only two schools are included and it is known as the Marlborough Elementary Hub
- All communication related to this will be shared with parents in the future.
- Christine also mentioned that Strategic Plan by school board is underway and it will be ready by Jan 2020. The board is always ready to understand parents' concerns.
- The board has worked hard for the 5 year plan. It is also focusing on Indigenous groups, Climate Change. One of its main goal is deepening relationships with parents and show that they care about parents.
- If any issues in school, one should always communicate with the school staff. As a next step they can also talk with Assistant Superintendent of school board with attention to Trustee.

The GM Minutes of 25 September were approved by Lori and Rosalind.

3) PAC Chair's report – Lily Ruan

PAC will donate the following amount to different activities:

- Sports equipment and bins - \$120 each division
- Classroom supplies/consumables \$4500 (NO Sweet Treats please)
- Family in need for Christmas - \$650
- Maple cookies - \$200
- Fruits on Sports Day - \$500
- PAC will support Field Trips as usual, but no Playland or waterpark.
- The planning for Hot Lunches is on and we are aiming to start in December. The dates will be announced in Nov. meeting. PAC is looking for 2 Hot Lunches coordinators. Please send email to PAC if any parent is interested.
- PAC also needs 2 coordinators for Book Fair in April 2020. All the parents are welcome to contact us if they are interested, especially those parents who helped this event in previous years.
- PAC is planning Marlborough LOGO T-shirt fundraising before Christmas.

- PAC and school have had an agreement that school leads Grade 7 and Québec fundraisers. All inquiries are referred to principal. School should give PAC notices before their events start.
- Victor Sihombing has missed September and October Executive meetings without prior notices and there is no confirmation on when he will be back from overseas. Therefore, according to Bylaws, Victor Sihombing is deemed to resign from Vice Chair position. Right now, PAC Vice Chair and Co-secretary positions are vacant. Marlborough parents who want to join PAC executive team please contact us by email. The more people help, the better we can achieve!
- 87 parents have sent a joint letter to PAC regarding to road safety improvements around our school. PAC fully supports it and will send the letter to Burnaby Traffic Division on behalf of Marlborough parents.
- A couple of parents came to PAC that they don't want to teachers give sweet treats to their children regularly. Special occasions are fine, such as Halloween and children's birthdays, but parents prefer teacher distribute candies or cupcakes at the end of the day, so it won't impact children's normal snacks and lunches.

Q: A parent is working on Quebec Fundraiser and mentioned that they would like to have pizza day for the same in Dec & Mar?

ANS: PAC plans Hot Lunches once a month. Grade 7 or Quebec committee should be able to find available dates, if parents want to do so.

Principal added that there is feedback from parents that there are too many individual fundraisers happening. Principal will work together with PAC to space fundraisers so that they are not close and become too much for parents.

Q: Parent raised question about meeting timings can it be done in evenings so that more parents can attend?

ANS: PAC tries to rotate the meetings so that all the parents can attend.

Q: Can the PAC AGM time can be shifted to evening so that more parents can join?

ANS: PAC executive team will discuss on this.

4) Treasurer's Report – Tommy Chu

- At Sep. 30, 2019, we have \$35,540.75 in Income Account and 33,936.04 in Gaming Account.
- PAC year budget 2019-2020 (attached) was approved by all parents who were presenting.

Q: Why does PAC has two types of accounts?

ANS: Money in Gaming account is provided by BC government and can only be used for specific activities. Income Account is for all other PAC activities.

5) DPAC Report:

September 2019

School District presented Strategic Plan for the next five years. The four pillars are:

- Thriving Students
- Inclusive environment
- Inspiring Workplace
- Strengths in partnerships

DPAC staff and DPAC members had discussed the expectations and suggestions for monthly meeting, including:

- Proposed changes to funding programs (which affects the school's budget)
- How to support Special needs students

- what are some of the regulations BCCPAC have helped pass

October 2019

DPAC had PAC 101 and treasurer workshop in Oct, our school principal and PAC members attended.

- School district policy committee- Burnaby School district is looking to update and revise their policies in the future so they are more streamlined. This will make it easier for parents to find the policy they are looking for.
- School district IT committee is looking to develop minimum and maximum support levels for each school. PAC will be expected to fund technology (i.e. laptops, iPads) less as the school district looks to fund these.
- School district education committee- early childhood education parameters to be changed from 0-5 to 0-8 years old. French immersion enrollment down to 200 students this year due to reduction in class size.
- School district special education advisory committee- common theme is that more EAs (Education Assistants) needed and how to recruit more EAs.

*** Reminder ***

Next PAC General Meeting is on Friday, November 29th 2019 at 9 AM in the East Staff Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

