



École Marlborough Elementary School

6060 Marlborough Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 3L7 Phone: (604) 296-9021

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 – 6:30pm ~ 8:15pm

Location: West Building (Library)

Attendance

PAC Executives: Tanja Scekcic Ivkovic (Chair), Florence Dompas (Treasurer), Lily Sharma (DPAC Representative) Debby Yao (Secretary), Ajlin Mehmedi (Secretary), Mill Tsang (CPF Representative), Emre Duygun (CPF Representative), Gigi Ng (Member-at-Large),

Regrets: Mariah Battiston (DPAC Representative), Akshay Shekhawat (Member-at-Large)

Marlborough Staff: Bruce Cornell (Principal), Rosemary Venos (Head Teacher)

Parents: 24 additional parents

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was established.

- 1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement** by Tanja Scekcic Ivkovic (Chair)
Tanja welcomed all the parents and read the land acknowledgment. “We acknowledge and thank the Coast Salish Nations of the Musqueam, Tsleil –Wauthuth and Squamish on whose traditional territories we teach, learn and live”
- 2. New PAC Executive Committee Introductions**
Tanja introduced new PAC executives for this school year. Tanja was elected as Vice-chair at the AGM, and in Chair’s absence, was the Acting Chair. In accordance with the PAC Constitution, she was appointed as the Chair by PAC Executives at the September 19th Executive meeting.
- 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** that took place on June 06, 2023 were approved.
Motion was put forward by Cassandra and seconded by Byron.
- 4. Principal’s Report** (Bruce Cornell)
 1. Introduction
 2. School Org Update
 - 1038 students
 - 44 divisions with the new class added in September
 - 14 FRIMM (French Immersion), 30 English
 - Even with three divisions added, we have limited seats left in the school for new registrations
 3. Staffing



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There is a teacher shortage right now. Attempts to fill positions started as early as May and still have some positions unfilled. FRIMM and Learning Support Positions have been extremely hard to fill. It is district wide issues, not just Marlborough. Daily calls with HR who are actively seeking staff to take the open vacancies are still in progress. There is no timetable for the positions being filled yet.

4. Cross Country

Thank you to Ms. Dare, Ms Bucovaz. Ms. Pagnucco and others for coaching. The students have been practicing hard and will be going to their first meet at Burnaby Lake on Thursday

5. Parking Lots

- A reminder for the community that the parking lots are for staff only. They are not drop off or pick up locations.
- The lot between the Welcome Centre and DLRC building is extremely busy with district trucks, deliveries, Welcome Centre families in and out all day. Please do not use this parking lot at all for pick up and drop off.
- The lot off Dover is also not meant for drop off or pick up. We are having problems especially in the mornings when families use it as a drop off or round about and staff cannot get in. We have had a number of our EA's and TTOC's arrive late as they can't get into the lot.
- The district in consultation with the city and an outside engineering firm had Arrow Street created for drop off, pick up and parking.

5. Chair's Report (Tanja Scekić Ivković)

- PAC Welcome Coffee event was hosted on September 05, 2023 in front of the East Gym. It was well attended.
- Sun-Oka Fruit Fundraiser (benefiting Grade 7 Graduation Committee) was launched by Vanessa L. on September 18th, and closes on October 7th
- Mabel's Labels Fundraiser (benefiting PAC General Funds) was launched on September 22. It's an ongoing fundraiser, with 20% going back to the school.

6. DPAC (District Parent Advisory Committee) Report (Tanja for Mariah Batiston)

- DPAC Meeting was held on September 18th, 2023. Mariah B. attended the meeting. The Superintendent, Gina Niccoli Moen, introduced all members of the senior executive team and gave a list of contacts for the coming year. She briefly discussed the following:
 - The Ministry of Education mandates the alignment of all districts across the province with how students are evaluated and the Proficiency scale.
 - Introduction of an Indigenous-Focused requirement for graduation starting this year
 - A presentation on the "Feeding Futures fund" and the 4-part plan to implement in the district by
 - expanding current meal programs from 12 elementary schools to 18
 - supplying targeted meals to elementary schools with identified students



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- adding additional support in secondary schools with meal cards and offer breakfast and lunch to identified students
- allocating Feeding Futures Fund to remainder of elementary schools to support individual needs via subsidized PAC hot lunch, snacks, cold lunch options, food cards etc for identified students
- accessible BC Act and the objectives to ensure improved services delivery in areas such as education
- Upcoming speaker on Traumatic Event Systems by Kevin Cameron being offered Thursday, Sept. 28th, 2023 at 7pm at Michael J Fox Theatre (sold out)
- Upcoming” PAC 101 Presentation” is on October 3rd at Burnaby Central Secondary starting at 6:00 pm with a trade show and meetings to commence at 7pm. It is recommended for all new members to PAC. The following week will be a “Treasurer’s Workshop”.

- Slides and minutes from the DPAC meeting will be made available prior to the next scheduled DPAC meeting.

7. CPF (Canadian Parents for French) Report (Mill Tsang)

- CPF Monthly Meeting Schedule 2023/24 is to be agreed upon. The first meeting of the new school year will take place on September 27th.
- CPF is looking to continue with the traditional activities, such as:
- Membership Drive - flyers will be sent to families in Oct 2023
- “Ecole des loisirs” French books subscription - flyers will be distributed in Oct 2023
- Fetes des Arts (Theatre la Seizieme) - Subsidies from CPF for French teachers to organize French-related activities, eg, puppet shows in French, gallery visits in French, etc. Details for applying for grants will be sent to school admin/FI teachers in Oct 2023
- Patinage avec Bonhomme tentative in Dec 2023
- French Film Festival tentative in the week of Feb 5, 2024
- French lessons (online) for parents will start in Oct / Nov
- CPF Summer BBQ tentative in June 2024
- French Summer Camp tentative in Aug 2024

8. Treasurer’s Report (Florence Domaps)

- Florence D. (Treasurer) presented the Draft budget for School Year 2023/24. The budget includes most of the activities PAC funded last year, such as Field Trips, Pumpkin Patch, Sports Day snacks, Carnival Cookies, Grade 7 Contribution, Teachers Consumables, and ELL Consumables (both reduced amounts). If we raise more funds, PAC will look at funding additional activities, and bring those for discussion and approval at the General meeting. Gaming Grant approval is still pending, and the applicants should be informed by the end of September.



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(It is noted, the Grade 7 left over budget is under a separate account, this budget represents PAC only)

- PAC 2023/2024 Annual Budget Discussion & Approval. Motion was put forward by a parent, and seconded by another parent.

9. Fundraising Ideas (Tanja S. I.)

- Tanja presented some of the fundraisers that PAC is considering this school year. The idea is to have a variety of fundraisers to appeal to most families. Another criterion is to have at least 20% return, preferably higher. In addition to Hot Lunch, PAC is planning seasonal fundraisers too. Once the Grade & Graduation Committee and Quebec Trip Committee are formed there will be a meeting to coordinate the dates and activities so everyone can meet their goals.
- PAC is looking into subscribing to Munchalaunch, and using it instead of SchoolCashonline, as it is more cost effective for school, and offers more flexibility for setting up the fundraisers and using the funds. It can be used by Grade 7 Committee and Quebec Trip Committee too.
- List of fundraisers being considered:
 - Ongoing: Hot Lunch, Mabel's Labels, Donations
 - Seasonal: Apple Sales, Frozen goods, Purdy's (Christmas and Easter), Created by Kids or Art Cards by Kids (Fall and Spring), Pancake Breakfast
 - Scholastic Book Fair
 - Donations
- Events/activities we would like to fund:

● Field Trips (all grades)	● Granola bars for emergencies
● Pancake Breakfast	● Sports Day snacks
● Pumpkin Patch & Hot Chocolate Event	● Portable Ice Maker for Ice Packs
	● Carnival Maple Cookies
- A parent asked about donations - As the school does not have a setup to receive payment on a recurring basis, school cash is the only venue to receive cash.

10. Health & Safety/Grounds Improvements (Tanja S. I.)

Tanja presented some of the issues and concerns that were brought up by parents prior to the meeting.

- East Building – Classrooms facing the Parking Lot on Dover Street
 - Principal will look into painting lines to avoid parking close to the fire hydrant, and will have a discussion with the School Board about other measures
 - General Discussion about parking situation and how pedestrians are endangered. There is a shortage of passing guards. Some parents drive their kids because of safety concerns. Training parents and getting them qualified to guide the traffic and help more was discussed.



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- East Field – a hole in front of the classroom #3
 - Principal said that fence extension is not an option, but they can arrange for the hole to be filled up.
- East Building – puddles in front of classrooms #6-9
 - These accumulate every time it rains. Principal will look into this issue.
- East Field – lack of grass around basketball court
 - It cannot be changed unless previously designed to have grass. Images show that it was always the same.

11. Electing a new Vice Chair

- Tanja invited parents to nominate themselves if they were interested in the position. Sam and Cassandra were interested. Sam decided to join the Graduation 7 Committee instead, and Cassandra Vandusen was elected as the new Vice-Chair, with all in favor (28).

12. School Calendar

- Friday, September 29: Terry Fox Run, Orange Shirt Day
- Monday, October 02: National Truth & Reconciliation Day (School Closed)
- Friday, October 06: Individual Photo Day
- Monday, October 09: Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)
- Friday, October 20: Pro-D Day (No Class)

13. Questions & Answers

Q: Why is the number of split classes so high in the new school year?

Principal: Split classes are the only way to accommodate as many students as possible, as there is an imbalance between the grades.

Q: Can we have more after school programs and more information about them in the newsletter?

Principal: We can have only as many as the teachers are willing. In the absence of newsletter, information can be found on Marlborough website,

Q: Can we bring the after-school chess club back?

Principal: We need to find a teacher who is willing to coordinate it.

-----Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 PM-----

We look forward to see you at the **NEXT PAC General Meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2023 at 6:30-8:00 PM on Zoom (TBD)**