

# Norma Rose Point PAC Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 7, 2017

**Location:** NRP Library

## AGENDA

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

PAC Chair Report

Finances

Staff Report

New Business

**PAC Executive in attendance:** Jody Yau (Chair), Sharon Yu (PAC Co-Chair), Rob Peregodoff (DPAC Rep), Beth Krisciunas (Lunch Committee Chair), Wendy Yip (Co-Secretary), Kelli Kadokawa (Co-Secretary), Julie Wang (Communication Chair), Donghong Liu (Volunteer Chair)

**PAC members in attendance:** Fariba H., Melanie H., Miloofar R., Minghua C., Vivian P., Sophia F., Amy C., Sunny K., Jackie L., Kate S., Eunice C., Soo In J., Helen D., Yesung L., Chris R., Phan Quang D., Despina R., Jennifer E., Krystal K., Grace W., Julie H., Max X., Sarah C., Yasmin D.

Please note: there were quite a few others in attendance whose names did not make the sign up sheet.

## School Admin & Staff in Attendance:

Rosa Fazio (Principal), Carrie Froese (Vice Principal), Karen Noel-Bentley (Grade 7/8 community) and Sharon Sahota (Grade 3 community)

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Greetings and acknowledgement that we live and work on the traditional lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish People.

## Approval of January meeting minutes

**Motion:** Beth moved to approve the minutes from the January PAC meeting. Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

## PAC Chair Report & Finances- Jody

- We received \$14,076 for the Gaming Grant. As discussed in past meetings, these funds are allocated for technology for the school (computers).
- Balances:
  - PayPal Balance: \$1,953
  - Gaming Grant: \$14,076
  - Bank Balance: \$69, 736
- Funds Allocated:
  - Gaming Grant: \$14,076 (technology)
  - Direct Appeal Paid Out: \$26,785.72
  - Direct Appeal to be Paid: \$258.28

- Payable (Uninvoiced Expenses):
  - Lunch Orders: \$36,818.94
- Available Funds:
  - (PayPal + Bank Balance + Direct Appeal to be Paid) – (Lunch Orders) = \$34,611.78

#### **Staff Report – Carrie Froese and Rosa Fazio**

- Rosa encouraged all parents to get the NRP app, which can be set in different languages. Daily and weekly notifications (sent every Sunday).
- Grade 3 Passion Project
- For the 2017/18 school year, NRP will go from 760 students to 860 students.
  - Cross-boundary applications cannot be accommodated and are always declined unfortunately.
  - Staff are currently waiting to hear from HR/VSB on class capacity and therefore how many spaces NRP will have for new incoming students. Currently, class size is as follows:
    - Kindergarten: 22
    - Grades 1-3: 24
    - Grades 4-12: 30
  - Kindergarten lottery is February 17
  - There is room for growth now but this may not be the case next year.
  - NRP was built as a middle school and has no plans to eliminate grade 8. Specialist teachers and the extra space come with the middle school, which allow for the exploratory classes.
- A special thank you from Miss Tamara to all the parents who helped with clean up and moving the instruments after the K-5 winter concert.

#### **New Business**

- Parent to Parent discussion on “Connecting the Dots” and lingering questions from last month’s meeting on curriculum vs. content.
  - Jody prepared an incredibly informative and succinct slide presentation that helped answer many of the lingering questions surrounding BC’s new curriculum and was a great starting point for the rest of the discussion. (See attached for the slide deck)
- **Rosa:** the goal is to have the curricular competencies on the assessment, so that you can see where the child is and their progress through the year on those critical thinking and analysis skills. Right now, Grade 3 still doing some more content assessments (e.g. Grade 3 - can they do multiplication). But all should go to competencies assessment, in which a student's familiarity with content is integrated into the assessment of his / her core competencies.
- **Sharon Sahota (Gr 3 teacher):**
  - <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/mathematics/3> Teaching team meets in the summer and looks at the "Big Ideas" - core concepts the kids need to learn during the year. Then they design the year's curriculum to teach all that. They assess the kids at the beginning and look at what the kids know. They differentiate into two groups: those who don't know something and those who are above grade level (as students come from all over world). In addition to the

content, they are assessing the "competencies" - whether the kids can reason and analyze and understand how they got the answer, not just getting the right answer. The beauty of NRP is that there are several teachers, not just one, to help teach at different competency levels. They do switch the teachers around for different units / concepts, so that kids don't think they are in "the lowest level" by getting a certain teacher. The kids get the message they are being taught what they need to know to get to the next level. Rough guidelines are given to parents.

- Teachers do tell the kids the goals for each unit. Sometimes kids are asked to do a self-assessment. Teachers do see the kids' work activity and can see whether they are doing it on their own (mastering), or whether they are still asking for help.
- Teachers have access to assorted math textbooks in their faculty room. They pull out what they think works best from the different sources. Some textbooks are too wordy for kids learning ELL.
- **Rosa:** Chinese Normal U., China West U., China Normal South U. are all visiting. One professor spent 1-2 days to understand NRP methodology. China reaches math purely by memorizing.
- Rosa will go to China to teach some educators.
- Langley, Surrey - some schools already did away with grades completely. A. 7/8 parent commented that her older child had similar assessments to NRP's in K in Surrey schools 7 years ago. ("Fresh Grade" in that school system- parents are supposed to be seeing what's ongoing in their kids' progress. That's what Edsby is supposed to do for NRP.)
- NRP's biggest difference is "learning communities". The school launched with the new BC curriculum from the start. They share and learn from other school systems like Delta.
- VSB has been more conservative, and moves glacially.
- **Rosa:** Old VSB grading system had 5 points of contact- 3 report cards and 2 conferences. Now parents have more points of contact at NRP, from the welcome night through to open houses and conferences.
- Feb 22-23: upcoming parent conferences.
- **Karen Noel-Bentley ( Gr. 7-8 teacher ) presented:**
  - <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/mathematics/7>  
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/mathematics/8> The new assessment, using Math as an example - "Mastering and Extending" only given once kid can articulate the "why" behind the "what" that they do. (E.g., explain why does a negative multiplied by a positive equal a negative; it's not enough just to get the right answer.)
- They are asked to integrate skills authentically into the theme (design): reading, writing, math, art, etc. Personalized learning - content is the same, but may be taught slightly differently to accommodate the student.
- Assessment reports will give an overview of the content that is covered, but the teacher will give the assessment based on the core competencies / skills that the kids are supposed to acquire according to the BC curriculum.
- **Parent question:** How does the Khat/Sas. Pod (7/8) 'test' ("check-ins") to see what they know of the content taught.
  - E.g., Just did integers and are moving on in class. But students still have the chance to work on the past topic by themselves, to move to mastery over that topic.

- **Parent question:** How are kids being prepared for provincials?
  - Karen Noel-Bentley: FSAs are changing. There will be some provincial exams. Kids are being taught to reason, to analyze, to work at it.
  - Carrie Froese (Vice principal): Even provincials are changing so that kids will be given marks for showing process and their work even if their answer isn't exactly right. They get credit too, for the "right answer".
- **Parent question:** What is the main difference between the new and old curriculum? It sounds like the content is the same but now, the assessments really are looking at core competencies and do the kids get the big ideas.
  - Teachers agreed.
  - Rosa will post on the main Norma Rose website an FAQ from the BC government about what is new and what is old. She said that Delta schools have a good website and explanation of the difference.
  - Regarding "Big Idea" - E.g., kids are not just learning / memorizing all the facts about butterflies - the big idea is that every living thing has a life cycle. Butterflies would be just an example.
  - **Rosa:** U Hill Secondary is a bit behind where we are, only 1 year into BC's new curriculum whereas NRP is 3 yrs into it. 8 alumni students came back from U Hill Secondary because they miss NRP and have told her which U Hill teachers get the new curriculum / teaching style.
  - BC Ministry of Education has a link for parents with all sorts of resources.
- *Jody pointed out that you can start exploring the BC website one subject at a time and you can explore within each one, what they offer. It's informative and not too overwhelming. You can see how each topic is built up over their school career.*
- **Parent question:** Why is there not some amount of homework sent every day.
  - Karen Noel-Bentley: Traditional high schools - you may get a 45 min. lecture where teacher talks at the students. Then they have no time to practice / do the math in school. They have to do homework.
- Biggest difference at NRP is that the kids are learning by doing and collaborating and talking together at school. The kids are told of deadlines for projects / work. Some kids may work at school, or some at home if they don't get it done at school.
- Edsby is a window on the classroom for the parents as well as students and teachers. Also encourages class discussions even out of school room (Like 7/8 Khat/Sas. pod discussing Design theme)
- **Parent question:** How are kids organizing themselves, if no written agenda as before?
  - Many communities use Edsby portal, esp. 6/7/8

**Next PAC meeting:** March 7, 6:30 – 7pm, followed by Parent Talk from Saleema Noon. All parents are welcome.