

## Norma Rose Point PAC Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 20, 2016

**Location:** Norma Rose Point Learning Commons

---

### **PAC Executive Members in Attendance:**

Jody Yau (Chair), Natasha Radbourne (Treasurer), Donghong Liu (K-5 Rep), Beth Krisciunas (Secretary),

### **School Admin & Staff in Attendance:**

Rosa Fazio (Principal), Sean Maryln (Vice-Principal), Karen Chow (Grade 1/2 teacher), Karen Noel-Bentley Grade 7/8 teacher), Adrienne (Librarian)

**Call to Order:** 6:32 PM

Approval of last meeting minutes (June 2016) – Approved by attendees

### **1. Chair Report**

- **The focus for 2016/17 is Community Building and Education – how are we going to do this?**
  - Special events can help build community – our first community event was ‘Meet the Teacher’ held Sept 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Adrienne has proposed a weekly family meeting time in the library and also a morning chat time for parents that could include coffee and chat time, this is a work in progress
  - Parent Education Nights – Building on the success of the presentation last school year from Saleema Noon we have booked several speaker nights for this year. Saleema Noon will be back covering ‘Body Science’ March 7<sup>th</sup>; Jessie Miller will cover ‘Living in a Digital Age’ Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and Deborah McNamara will cover tow topics ‘Bullying: a new approach to an Enduring Problem’ and ‘Understanding Resistance in Children/Adolescents’ – dates TBA.
- **What is PAC?** The PAC (Parent Advisory Council) are comprised of ALL parents whose children attend Norma Rose Point – so yes, if you were wondering, you do belong! The PAC does have an executive committee that gets voted into position every year to act as representation for the entire parent body – this group facilitates communications between all of the PAC and the school.
- **Proper Ways for Parents to ask questions of the school:** Asking questions is a good things however we as parents do have a responsibility to ask those questions on an appropriate and respectful way. There is a process that Vancouver School Board advocates to follow when issues arise at school and

following the process is both helpful and necessary to ensure all the right parties are engaged at the right time and that you, the parent, get the answers that you need.

- The process should be to approach the teacher of your child first, if necessary approach the school Principal or Vice-Principal second.
  - Any questions or concerns you can always email the PAC, your concerns will always be treated privately and anonymously
- **What is the PAC meeting for? Why do we hold them?** The PAC meetings are a great communication toll – between parents as a group and between the school and parents. The PAC meeting is an opportunity for parents to pass on any concerns, or suggestions. In addition, the school administration will give an update as to what’s happening and coming up at the school – anything from extra-curricular events to educational philosophy. Guest teachers will come to the meetings and pass on what their classes are working on and also give insight into the teaching and learning styles at the school so it’s a great way to learning more about your child’s experience at school.
  - **The PAC AGM (Annual General Meeting) is coming up and we need your help!** Any parents that can spare some time is very welcome to volunteer to either run for a position on the PAC executive or o one of the committees, come on **Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and check it out!**

## 2. Treasurer Report

- General Account Balance: **\$66, 112.23** (\$30,675.75 carried from 2015/16)
  - Caterer invoices still to be paid totaling \$33, 184.75
  - School invoice for gym equipment still to be paid approx. \$15, 000
- Lunch Money raised this year so far: **\$2,581.45**
- Total raised from Direct Appeal so far: **\$7,858**
- Total useable funds in APC account: **\$22,488.03**

## 3. Committee Report

- **Events:** The committee just finished up hosting ‘Meet the Teacher’, lots of feedback and general discussion amongst parent attendees as to what worked and what could be improved. Most people enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere that included children however parents new to the school would like to see a formal presentation by the school on educational philosophy and where the school is heading. Teacher feedback is that they would also like to see a portion of the evening devoted to teacher introductions so going forward we will work towards a hybrid – a relaxed inclusive event leading into a more formal event for parents who WISH to attend. Next event will be in February when we host the 2<sup>nd</sup>

annual 'Multicultural Fair' – this is a great opportunity for parent participation! We need volunteers to join the committee, you can do so at any time by emailing PAC or by attending a PAC meeting. As we get closer to any event we will also email parents directly looking for help!

- **Lunch:** The Lunch Program is the main source of fundraising and all items on the menus are marked up a straight 10% which goes into the PAC funds. We would like to remind parents that using the Lunch Program supports the school directly and while you may choose to use other caterers for your child's lunch, be aware that those caterers do NOT support the school with funds.
- **We do have some children that are in need of food support at the school for lunches, this means that the PAC is sponsoring the lunches for those children and the caterers are helping with donated or reduced rates for those children. If you would like to help, in the lunch menu you will see a 'donate' button, this will donate directly \$5 which contributes to 2 days' worth of lunches for a child.**
- The Lunch Program is heavily used however we are in great need of parent volunteers and the program will be cancelled this year if we do not get help, please contact the PAC email if you can spare even 1 or 2 hours a week!

#### 4. School Staff Report

- **Adrienne (Librarian and class support):**

The school Librarian would love to commit to one morning per week or Family Reading, from 8:00 am – 9:00 am; currently the Library is open early from 8:40 am-9:00 am and later from 3:00 pm – 3:20 pm however adding a program for 1 hour per week would be a great opportunity for parent/child time – please let Adrienne or the PAC know your feelings on this.

- Call for volunteers! If you have some spare time, please drop by and see Adrienne! Helping in the library is a rewarding experience and Adrienne definitely understands that for busy parents a defined schedule may not work so there are opportunities for you to volunteer on a drop in basis – see Adrienne to find out more!

- **Karen Chow (1/2 teacher):**

- Karen Chow presented on what teaching with differentiation means in the K-5 school. Students are taught and helped based on their current skill levels in different areas including language arts and math – teachers can help children grow to the next level of work but by also working with a group of children they can learn from each other (often using children from other grades) which creates a program of instruction that allows each child to flourish at their level but also provides opportunities to push themselves and 'take risks'! As Karen indicated, if a child has a skill that is higher than typical for their grade, why would

she not encourage and help that child at their level and at the same time, if another child needs more support and help, why would she not help that child at the level that they need? Teaching with differentiation allows each child to meet and then stretch and then go beyond their starting skills while keeping them engaged with their own interests driving their learning!

- **Karen Noel-Bentley (7/8 teacher):**

- presented on what teaching with differentiation means in the Middle School– essentially they use a ‘leaners at the centre’ approach which means children have core-skills embedded in the or learning but also taught to be self-regulated, to be inquisitive and follow up their questions and inquiry with project work, to help collaborate with fellow students to build upon learning and to give feedback to others, again as learning support. As it is so important for children to be engaged in their learning every child is taught within the range of skills appropriate for them and also challenged to stretch them and help them grow and soar – this means that at times they may have to review typical Grade 6 work but it also means that they will often be working on Grade 9/10 work

## **5. New Business**

- Jody discussed positions still to be filled at the upcoming AGM. The main position still to be filled is Lunch Committee Chair. Currently Jody is doing PAC Chair, Lunch Committee chair and Lunch Treasurer. It is extremely important that we get the Lunch Chair position filled or we will have to cancel the PAC lunch program. It is a big volunteer job but also very important!
- Please come out to the AGM on October 4<sup>th</sup> to help choose the Pac Exec and also to discuss and vote on the years PAC budget. NRPS staff will be presenting so it’s also a great opportunity to learn more about your child’s learning environment.

### **Questions?**

A question was asked about formal reading lists for Middle School – there are not formal reading lists however teachers are happy to work with parents to develop suggested reading for your child.

A question was asked about Edsby and when it will be used – Middle School should be up and running now and will use the digital portfolio extensively to manage their work and have direct communications with teachers, parents and students. The school is currently working with VSB to roll out Edsby throughout the school so ‘stay tuned’!

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm**

**Next meeting AGM on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (Childminding available)**