

PAC Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

Parents in attendance:

PAC Executive in Attendance: Rob Peregoodoff, Beth Krisciunas, Donghong Liu, Jody Yau, Monica Ma, Wendy Yip, Qiuning Wang

PAC Members in Attendance: Fariba Hafezi, Yameng Li, Connie Chen, Niloofar Riozi, Sophia Fang, Shiva Olyaci, Csilla Tomas, Harini Rajagopal, Mohamed Elnady, Kirsten Molstad, Laura Zajac, Melanie Hidber, Thomas Wang, Shi Yun, Ning Chu, Julie Hoo, Yasmin Diaz, Ligia Souza, Klara Abdi, Marcelia G. Doria de Melo. Vinicius Barbosa de Melo

Staff in attendance: Rosa Fazio, Principal, Carrie Froese, VP, Ms. Sharon Lower (Grade ½ teacher), Ms. Karen McKinnon (Grade ½ teacher), Ms. Pamela Hansen (Grade 7/8 teacher)

Meeting Called to Order at 6:35pm

Greeting: Please join me in acknowledging that we live and work on the traditional lands of the Musqueum, Tseil-Waututh and Squamish Coast Salish Peoples.

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes: Motion made by Beth. Seconded by Rob Peregoodof. Show of hands to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

1. PAC Chair Report:

- a. Jody welcomed all parents and thanked them for attending the evenings meeting. She explained that, while the parent-parent conversation about the reporting style was the main topic of discussion for the evening, they needed to proceed with the general PAC meeting items first.
- b. Jody welcomed to NRP the new Vice Principal Ms. Carrie Froese. She has come to the school from Tecumseh Elementary and we are happy to welcome her on behalf of all the parents.

2. Finances:

- a. Unfortunately Hisham is not available tonight.

Post PAC Meeting Financial Update:

- i. *Balance Vancity = 39, 856*
- ii. *Balance Paypal = 2, 588*

This does not include accounts payable for hot lunch (I estimate around 24,000). Also, the balance appears lower than expected due to the fact the PAC is still awaiting the VSB to return the \$27,044 direct appeal funds to us. We have already commenced paying the school for items on the direct appeal.

3. Committee Reports:

a. Event Committee:

i. Multicultural Event: Jan. 23

- 1.** Laura Zajac is one of the parents who is organizing the event. She gave the report: 1st meeting with parents was Friday. We have many countries who have expressed interest in participating. From Mongolia, Mexico, Nigeria and more. Currently we do not have a group from Japan, China or South Korea. More information will be communicated out as we get closer to the event.

b. Lunch Committee:

- i.** Beth is the Lunch Coordinator and gave the brief report: Adding Calhoun`s to Fridays along with Foodiekids. There will be a competing hot dog available. The menu is almost complete and Beth will send a notice out to parents via the Website once ordering is open.

4. DPAC Report

- a.** Rob Peregoodoff who is the DPAC Representative on the PAC Executive explained the role of D-PAC - showed slides (SEE ATTACHED) with Strategic Goals for 2016/17. Mentioned that the governance and mission may be undergoing review / revision.

5. Staff Report:

- a.** Rosa officially welcomed Carrie Froese as the new Vice Principle.

6. New Business:

- a.** Report Card Debrief-

Discussion run by Rob Peregoodoff and Dr. Steven Yau: (SEE THEIR SLIDES ATTACHED)

Rob Peregoodoff (Sauder Business, Dir. of Learning Services).

Rob / architect of change at Sauder Business School's assessment. Broad-based admissions now at UBC and across the base. Not just top class rank. Leadership, problem-solving, critical thinking skills. He likes that NRP is embracing the challenge to redefine the future. NRP has culture of excellence here (without competition).

Steve Yau (Family Physician, involved with education at UBC Family Practice Residency program; Med. Director UBC Faculty of Med.; Internat'l physicians transitioning to Canada)

- UBC Med. School 50/50 academic & non-academic. It did away with letter grade system. Competency-based assessment system. Learning may be episodic ... but is longitudinal. Med students need to self-reflect. Mis-aligned incentives and priorities.

Alignment with the new BC curriculum.

Rob likes the assessment language and uses it at home on the chore front!

Steve / When you look at how the med students do with new admissions model - they perform the same as before.

Two NRP student alumni -

-Felix was at NRP for 2 years before going to U. Hill Secondary. Sean was there longer, and found the transition to letter grades OK. But the biggest shock was moving to more assigned homework and textbook readings and hard due dates. NRP's model of project-based work is very different from U Hill.

Rob / whole educational system needs to be reset.

1 NRP immigrant parent / what she has heard from other parents is that if you are good with the "fundamentals" (maybe meaning math, science, etc.?) then the NRP focus on core competencies. There was open discussion with several parents on merits of different teaching styles. Balance is needed.

Alumnus Sean said that NRP's 8th grade science / biology project last year helped prepare them for high school projects.

Rosa and teachers reassured that they teach the fundamentals. NRP has a wide range of student levels from many different backgrounds. NRP is good at addressing a student and bringing them forward.

Rosa / NRP school does teach the kids the info., but also more importantly, is teaching them how to find the info if they don't remember.

NRP is about passionate about teaching kids as individuals and to love learning.

Common concern from parents (domestic and international) at the PAC meeting - they don't understand the assessment because most are coming from a letters & grades system. So it's hard to know how to help our children based on the assessment report.

Maybe we need some guidelines on what are the expectations of the children in acquiring core competencies.

NRP does give a letter grade at the end of the year for 6/7/8 letter / numeric grades. Also try to give grades for those returning to international school systems.

Rosa sees a lot of mental health and anxiety levels in children today.

One parent gets report from U Hill Elementary (letter grades) vs NRP (assessments). She thinks NRP's report gives more info on each student than UHill's report.

Current NRP parent asked NRP alumni's thoughts on the NRP reporting system. They like the more detailed NRP report card: it gives a paragraph description. U Hill Sec. report card has a number / letter grade and 1 sentence only. E.g., "Achievement is good" box was checked - most of his classmates got the same comment. U Hill has too many students for more individualized assessments from each teacher.

NRP report is a continuing, longitudinal reporting over the course of the child's time at NRP, as opposed to discrete snapshots as with usual letter grades and tests.

Beth asked will VSB try to bring the high school to the same assessment paradigm as elementary school? Rob will bring this to DPAC to ask.

Ministry was expecting K-9 to be doing this style of assessment that we do at NRP. Grades 10-12 eventually will go there, but the system is dealing with other issues first.

When Rosa started at NRP, she noticed there were not many kids volunteering for leadership roles or community service. She had to encourage them to step out of their self-absorption with just their own grades, etc.

Rosa may put up some of the VSB links or one-page description of expected core competencies for each grade (?).

Question from a parent about whether all NRP students get into U. Hill Sec.
Rosa / All schools on campus feed directly to UHill Sec. - it's part of the public school.

NRP is working together with U. Hill Sec. much more with the current principal, to learn from each other's school. (He has visited NRP more times in 1 year, than last UHS principal did in 3 yrs.)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00p

: Next meeting February 7th at 6:30pm