

NRP PAC minutes - Final
Copy April 4th, 2019

Meeting called to order 6:32 by Chair Jody Yau

Attendance = Jennifer Figarski (Volunteer Chair), Jeanine Rhemtulla (Treasurer), Tara Ivanochko, Paul Keeling, Dara Poon, Julie Wang, Donghong Liu (Lunch Treasurer), Rob Peregoodoff (DPAC Rep), Claire Chow, Fei Liu (Parent Education Chair), Jody Yau (Chair), Lyndsay Campbell, Priscila Supimpa, Grace Jiang, Yiping Zhu, Sun Wan, Lili Tsang, Rachel Ren, Csilla Tamas

1. Approval of February Pac Minutes as presented

- a. Motion by Rob Peregoodoff, seconded by Jennifer Figarski, motion carried unanimously

2. Financial Report by treasurer (Jeanine Rhemtulla)

- a. Please see appendix for treasurer's report and bank account update for Sept 1, 2018 to April 1, 2019
- b. Gaming grant = discussion around creating an ad hoc committee for the spending of the gaming grant. If parents are interested then they should reach out to the treasurer.

3. Committee reports

- a. Lunch = through chair from lunch coordinator, all is good
- b. Event Committee
 - i. Spring Fair -
 - 1. getting tables
 - 2. Volunteers
 - 3. Food truck - Bannock truck will defer to Sports Day

4. School Report = Principal (R. Fazio) sends regrets, VP (Teena Smith) provided the

- a. Multicultural day
- b. Black History Month to be celebrated
- c. Communicating student learning
- d. Staffing update (6 supervision aides, SSA's tough to fill positions)
- e. Losing Grade 8's, increase in 1 division to 5 for K intake.
- f. Athletics - Girls Basketball have done well,
- g. Presentations = Selema Noon, Safer schools (tech), Netherlands delegation
- h. High school articulation
- i. School planning (social and emotional learning/mental health)

See attached for full report details

5. New Business

- a. Field Trips - Sphero Robots field trip to Apple store for Gr. 6, presented by Grade 6 parent i. Letter from Acting Principal (M. McEwan) to all Grade 6 student parents/ guardians submitted for discussion. ii. Ad hoc committee - review of the existing field trip policies with goal of addressing any gaps with regard to vendor and marketing. R Peregoodoff to lead (TBC)
- b. Ad hoc committee - explore NRP possible expanding use of gaming grant funds to
 - i. support and guide coding and STEM activities at NRP. R Peregoodoff to lead (TBC)
- c. Math Club/Competitions -
 - i. presentation Math club exec (R. Ren) looking for support:
 1. in extending beyond April.
 2. and a solution from school to host Gauss Contests.
 3. to extend the Match club beyond the current date (?) communicated by the teacher sponsor (R. Fazio).
 - ii. The Chair responded:
 1. Unfortunately this situation is beyond the scope of the PAC to become directly involved, however some points of clarification:
 - a. The club must communicate directly with the teacher sponsor and school administration (in this case the same person); a member of PAC exec will attend as has been requested by Administration.
 - b. It is normal practice for clubs to have defined beginning and end dates and not to run year round.
 - c. Sponsorship of clubs within public education is entirely a volunteer exercise; if there is no volunteer for whatever reason, the school cannot sponsor or be involved in any with the club.
 - iii. Confirmed with the parent volunteer for the math club (R. Ren) that the request today was focusing on seeking support and solution from school to host Gauss Contests.
 - iv. A parent (R. Peregoodoff) shared his concerns that while the general intent of the Math Club is to be commended. It has unfortunately developed a reputation as being elitist by other students and parents within NRP, and in his opinion, can be seen to be a proxy curriculum for those parents who are dissatisfied with the math curriculum their children are receiving at NRP. He also expressed his satisfaction with the student math performance in BC.
 1. The response of the volunteer coach (S. Wan) supported the dissatisfaction of the current formal math curriculum and pointed out the fact that BC students ranked below the national

- average in math. (citation not provided).
- v. Another parent (G. Jiang) asked the question on whether there is a policy governing the teaching content in a school math club. Teena and Jody said they would look at the VSB Policies.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm

Next PAC Meeting will be May 1, 2019

Appendices

1. NRP Admin update
2. Math Club Presentation
3. Math Club Letter from Principal
4. PAC Financial Update
5. PAC Budget Update

PAC April 4, 2019

Ind Focus Week/ Multicultural Day/ Black Culture Focus

Feedback from staff was that it was a success appreciated that there was a connections between leaders/presenters and our local area. Students learned more about Residential school and Indigenous Histories and felt it brought the whole school together especially the story telling.

Staff felt it was great to highlight so many different cultures on Multicultural Day– would be great to have all represented in some way. Feedback from teachers was positive only request was if students from their class was going to be involved all day, they would like to know.

Black History and Culture Focus – as there was so much going on in February we decided to move this dedicated time to May and will be a focus week from May 13-17. Looking for any parents who have time, treasure, or talent in this area to meet with us tomorrow morning at 9am.

Respect Diversity but also need to ask how can we uplift the most marginalized?

Communicating Student Learning

Information from last PAC meeting about goals from fall was addressed with staff and was hopefully a part of the parent teacher conferences. Nice to see so many parents come. We have had many celebrations of learning since January and I am so impressed by the complexity of topics that are taken on and the ways in which students are able to demonstrate their learning.

Staffing

SAV's – 6 all here

SSA's – volunteers, student practicum

Teacher Candidates

Next Year – losing Grade 8's but have 5 K's going down 2-3 divisions

Athletics

Basketball Teams – Girls did very well this year

Track is about to start started

Volleyball

Presentations

Saleema Noon-Sexual Health

Safer Schools-Impact of Technology and digital footprints

High School Articulation

Currently ongoing for our Grade 7 and 8's, we are looking to start this process earlier in the year. Biggest feedback from the high schools for our students is to help them with keeping track

of having 8 different teachers and how to time manage for homework and deadlines. Biggest asset our students are bringing is their self-advocacy skills.

School Plan Ideas for Next Year

- Looking at a focus on social and emotional learning as all cognitive function is mediated by social, emotional, and mental-health factors
- The investment in SEL and well-being will actually raise scores.
- We want to ensure that students have a sense of belonging in our school
 - o Feel good about who they are and what they can offer
 - o Feel connected
 - o Are challenged to develop deep critical thinking
 - o Learn how to learn and work with diverse others

Upcoming:

WTK, RSL

Grade 7 and 8 leaving ceremony

Camps

And many more events....

Thank you for the opportunity to address the PAC. My name is Rachel, the parent coordinator for our NRP math club this year. The NRP math club was set up by Lisa Yang and has a four year history of success, backed by a strong team of year-round parent volunteers and NRP alumni coaches from U Hill and Lord Byng. I am here today to discuss the early end to math club and find an alternative if the school doesn't host the Gauss competition in May.

This year, a record **121 students grades 5 to 8** participated in our orientation test to join math club last October. Of that number, we were only able to accept 41 due to the limits of our hard working volunteer coaches. These students are highly committed, participating in weekly team meetings and diverse competitions **open to all NRP students**, where we won a number of special awards. The students are very proud of their personal growth and team accomplishments, and continue to work hard to improve.

As you may know, NRP has an excellent reputation for its math teams and has won regional, provincial, and even national competitions in the past. **While the main goal of math club is to ignite the intellectual passion of as many students as possible**, the benefit it provides to NRP's reputation is undeniable.

This wouldn't be possible without the generous support of NRP and Rosa, who served as our sponsor teacher this year. Our team greatly appreciates her leadership and is here to discuss the remaining competitions in the school year.

There are two more competitions the students are looking forward to. The Mathematica competition where NRP won 3 national championships last year was recently cancelled. You can still see these plaques on the cupboard beside the library.

The second competition, Gauss, is a very well-known international event recognized by public and private schools throughout Canada. We fully

understand the school has a limited budget and isn't able to fund this, but we see no concern here, as families can cover the entry fee of four dollars per student.

This tournament is a highlight of the year and one NRP has performed very well at in the past. Last year, NRP was the best school in Canada.

To help our students achieve their goals, our request is simple:

We require **no funds**. We only request **one teacher** — not necessarily Rosa — **to register NRP to the Gauss competition on Wednesday, May 15th**. This is with the full support of our volunteers, who will organize, and supervise at the tournament.

While math club is limited, math competitions are open to everyone at NRP. Our students have worked hard in preparation for these events and would be disappointed not to attend. We sincerely hope we can find a solution to allow our students to finish the year on a high note and continue NRP's history of success at the Gauss competition.

Thank you for your time and I would like to answer to your questions now. Since we only have 10 minutes, I hope the discussion will focus on whether and how to hold Gauss competition.

April 16, 2019

Dear Math Challenge Club Present and Past Coaches and NRP PAC:

RE: Math Challenge Club – A Review

Every September, at our first staff meeting of the school year, staff are asked if they are willing to sponsor a school club or team (either coach or supervise a parent coach). No VSB employee means no club is run for the year. For instance, this year there was no grade 6 basketball teams and no grade 7 boys basketball team.

Most of our clubs/teams are a 2 – 3 month commitment, with the exception of Debate Club which ran longer. If a parent agrees to be a coach, VSB staff must be present not only at the practices but at the events.

From the beginning of the school year, I told the Math Challenge coaches that no teacher or staff member would sponsor the club. It is important to note that teachers at NRP will often take on a club, especially if there is a lot of student interest. Teachers consciously did not take on the Math Club as many are opposed to the way it runs. Over the years, there have been various issues that have arisen and a high level of commitment from staff that spans beyond what they wish to take on.

Sponsoring and coaching is not a mandated expectation but rather a volunteer initiative. In September, then VP Karen and I met with the coaches of the Math Challenge Club to inform them that we were willing to jointly sponsor the club since there was no willing teacher sponsor. At this meeting, we said that it had to be reined in, that it needed to be simplified as we really didn't have the time to take on another responsibility but recognize how important it is to many families at our school. As part of our commitment, along with our office staff, we: 1. Photocopied weekly worksheets 2. Registered our school and paid for math competitions 3. Printed certificates 4. Remained in the building during club time and if we were unavailable had to find a staff member to check in on our behalf 5. Communicated via email

In January, when VP Karen moved to another school, I met with the coaches to inform them that it needed to end after the regional and provincial competitions. I explained that with a new VP and the many complex needs that require my attention, I could no longer sponsor the club beyond the provincials.

Running a school club means adherence to a VSB staff member being present and following the rules of the competitions. We have not succeeded in either. During the regional competition, I was in Toronto and could not attend. I could not get any staff to attend over the

weekend. During the provincial competition, I was again unavailable due to illness (I have been off work since April 3rd). Again, I could not find any staff to attend. In both circumstances, I am in violation of a VSB staff being present.

I will highlight two instances where I realized we were not following the math competition rules. As I informed the coaches of a January 26th email from the American Mathematics Competition (AMM) after the coaches contacted the competition to get results:

“A parent contacted AMC to also get the score report for your school. Please note, parents are not to be involved with the AMC competitions and we do not give parents other student's scores. This would cause your school to be disqualified from competing in the contest.”

Also, I was contacted by the University of Waterloo stating that they do not let anyone else other than schools participate. In both an email and phone conversation, it was clear that parents are not to be responsible for these tests – that tests must be run through the school staff, paid by the school and parents are not to be made aware of any result other than their child's. In the manner that the club has been running, our school would always be disqualified. We are not following the rules and therefore, must change practice.

After the January meeting with coaches, I thought I expressed that the Math Club needed to end after Provincials and that it was understood, yet I received another email in March questioning why it was ending earlier and to register for another math competition. My response to you on March 12th, stated: “It is unfortunate but it is earlier this year due to the increasing demands in this building. At this time, my time and the school's financial resources need to be spent elsewhere. While I highly value the program and the additional opportunity for our students, once the Provincials are over the MCC will end. I understand that there are community programs that the students may be interested in attending. All the best to them and thank you for volunteering.”

Besides the two above stated reasons, there is also a myriad of other issues that school admin has dealt with in regards to this club:

1. Parents complaining about the elitist component (all school clubs accept all abilities except Math Challenge). This is not in sync with our school philosophy.
2. The website and photos publishing student information was a past issue.
3. Communication to families does not occur through the school sponsor, but rather through the parent coaches, which is not protocol.
4. The many negative emails being shared through WeChat sent to 400+ families in the group speaking poorly of the school.

I also met with PAC Executive on April 1st to answer questions and to share some of the complexities around this club and on April 4th, the Math Challenge Club was given time to speak at a PAC meeting where the Chair stated three points of clarification:

1. The club must communicate directly with the teacher sponsor and school administration (in this case the same person); a member of PAC exec will attend as has been requested by Administration. 2. It is normal practice for clubs to have defined beginning and end dates and not to run year round. 3. Sponsorship of clubs within public education is entirely a volunteer exercise; if there is no volunteer for whatever reason, the school cannot sponsor or be involved with the club. As a solution, it was recommended that the math club rent a room through VSB rentals and run their own after school math program. Room D110 is available for rental. This option did not seem to garner enthusiasm.

It was my intent to outline some of what has transpired this year. With the complexities noted above, the club cannot continue in the manner it is running. Although, in general, I value advocacy efforts, this is not a parent decision to make. We must follow school/district and competition protocols.

In closing, the effort of the coaches over the past five years has been immense and commendable. I remember, early on, meeting with Lisa and Andrew and being part of the growth of the club. It was so exciting to watch a grade 10 and then grade 11 student run the club, with the support of mom. Watching my first regional and provincial competition was incredibly eye opening. I remember telling Lisa how it was as exciting as watching a hockey game – and that’s pretty amazing! I cannot thank you (as well as the dedicated student coaches) enough for the amount of passion and volunteer hours dedicated to this club and building upon the skill level of students.

Over the years, I was unaware of math competition rules and so they were overlooked. However, as Maya Angelou states, “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” I hope that the passion of parents and students won’t be lost. There is always a way to succeed. I know you will find it, outside of school sponsorship.

Best
Regards,

Rosa Fazio
Principal

NRP-PAC Bank Account Update * Sept 1, 2018 - April 1, 2019

Starting Balance for the Year (Sept 1, 2018)	\$ 34,609.55
Revenue	
Hot Lunch Payments (to April 1)	\$ 196,218.64
Direct Appeal Donations	\$ 7,030.00
Interest	\$ 37.08
sub-total	\$ 203,285.72

Expenses	
Hot Lunch Vendor Payments/Parent Refunds	\$ 159,759.19
Direct Appeal Refunds	\$ 2,930.00
NRP Support (as budgeted at AGM)	\$ 9,987.13
PAC Events (Multicultural Day, Spring Fair)	\$ 2,674.82
Misc (Babysitting, Coffee etc)	\$ 565.80
sub-total	\$ 175,916.94

Current VanCity Balance **\$ 61,978.33**

Receivables (money owed to us)	
Lunch Accounts Receivable (\$ parents owe us)	\$ 3,507.15
Lunch Payments that Muncha Lunch owes us	\$ 15,906.47
sub-total	\$ 19,413.62

Liabilities (money we owe to others)	
Lunch Accounts Payable (credits owed to parents)	\$ 1,059.85
Lunch Vendor Payable (owed to lunch vendors)	\$ 38,212.94
Prior Year Expense to be Paid	\$ (141.90)
Direct Appeal from Last Year (owed to NRP)	\$ 1,111.83
Direct Appeal Donations (owed to NRP)	\$ 3,400.00
Direct Appeal Refunds (not yet cashed)	\$ 700.00
PAC Budgeted Expenses 2018/2019 (not yet spent)	\$ 13,760.00
sub-total	\$ 58,102.72

Estimated Funds Available Currently **\$ 23,289.23**

Estimated Funds with projected Lunch profit to June **\$ 27,289.23**

Norma Rose Point PAC -- Budget Update (As of April 1, 2019)

	2017/2018 Actual	2018/2019 Budget	2018/2019 Actual To Date
REVENUE			
Lunch Program	\$24,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$18,000.00 (22,000 projected)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$24,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$18,000.00
EXPENSES			
Administrative			
Babysitting for PAC Meetings	\$330.00	\$300.00	\$235.00
Muncha Lunch Admin Fee	\$235.20	\$300.00	
Printing	\$382.21	\$300.00	
Miscellaneous	\$590.53	\$500.00	\$330.00
Sub-total	\$1,537.94	\$1,400.00	\$565.00
Recreational			
Beach Day	\$135.00	\$300.00	
Multicultural Day	\$350.64	\$500.00	\$425.00
Spring Fair	-	\$4,000.00	\$2,250.00
Terry Fox Day	\$160.00	\$250.00	
Movie Day	-	\$250.00	
Sports Day	\$150.42	\$500.00	
Teacher Appreciation Lunches	\$258.41	\$300.00	
7/8 Leaving Ceremony	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Sub-total	\$1,554.47	\$6,600.00	\$2,675.00
Supportive			
PAC-2-PAC	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Helping Hand	\$2,798.80	\$5,000.00	(\$0 projected)
NRP Competition	-	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00
NRP Learning Communities	\$3,986.95	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Sub-total	\$7,785.75	\$18,000.00	\$9,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,878.16	\$26,000.00	\$12,240.00
BALANCE	\$13,121.84	\$0.00	\$5,760.00