

Norma Rose Point PAC General Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21, 2021

Format: Zoom Meeting

Total Participants: 59

School Admin & Staff in Attendance: Henry Peters (Principal)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

2. GREETING

Acknowledgment that the land on which we gather is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) People.

3. ADOPTION OF THIS AGENDA

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – MAY 2021

Moved: Atul Gadhia, seconded: Jeanine Rhemtulla, all in favour. Meeting Minutes approved.

5. STAFF REPORT (MR. PETERS)

- Welcome from Mr. Peters
- Acknowledgement of NRP on Musqueam land.
- Huge turnover in staff which provided complexity to the first week of school.
- Thank you for all parents' questions and concerns that were raised over the first week of school. This helps NRP navigate what needs to be addressed.
- 31 students on waitlist. Placements were found for all those on the waitlist. If you are given a placement at an alternative school, you still stay on NRP's waitlist and should a spot open up, you are invited to NRP to take the spot.
- Mr. Peters focuses on 7 sacred teachings: love, take care of yourself, learn from your experience, strengthen your inner muscles, be humble, be honest with yourself, and adapt to change,
- Thank you PAC for advocating for your kids and public education.
- VSB has had a strategic plan from 2016 - 2021. They are working on a new education plan; district staff will be coming to NRP to collect information from students regarding what they value about education. Collecting student voices for the new education plan.
- NRP's Code of Conduct, Key Piece: racism will not be tolerated at our school. This is a journey; we want to respect the rights of all individuals prohibiting discrimination in the school environment.
- Staff Professional Day on September 7 was focused on anti-racism. Teachers reflected on own biases are systemic biases. Commitment to preparing teachers and students for a society where diversity is respected and valued. Discussion points around conformity (what we need to do) vs. morality (we know what we are supposed to do, but what should we do from a moral perspective).
- Circulated to parents updated Staff List: many staff changes (people moving, retirements, movements within the school), 31 divisions, NRP is full (UHill family of schools are full this year), 31 on the waitlist.
- NRP has two goals: 1) how do we engage students, make their learning real to them and do they have choice in that?; 2) focus on indigenous education - playground/playspace design.

Health & Safety: Please be cautious when driving and dropping/picking up kids, especially during the rain. Encourage parents not to double park, be cautious, patient, kind and vigilant. Leave space. Be mindful of where you park. If possible walk/bike.

- Thank you for being mindful during drop-off/pick-up and keeping space for COVID measures.
- Masks are required for all staff and Grade 4-7. Encouraging K-3 to wear masks. Majority of kids are wearing masks in public spaces. Be mindful that teachers and staff do remove masks at times for communication reasons, working with single students or groups, please be patient with teachers/staff.
- Remember Daily Health Checks
- Thank you to the PAC for funding Classroom Funds and Learning Experience Funds. This allowed NRP to bring in dance instructors and speakers for forest and outdoor learning education.
- This year NRP is allowed to go on limited walks and field trips.
- Playground updates will be in the PAC conversation.
- Friday, September 24 will be the first Professional Day. No school for students.
- September 29 + 30: Orange Shirt Day. Statutory Holiday is on September 30, recognized as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- September is Terry Fox month. Walks/Runs have not been put on by the school due to COVID. Teachers, at the classroom level, are in charge of the way in which they deliver the Terry Fox experience.

Questions:

1) NRP policy on screen time in the classroom? There is no policy at NRP or VSB level. Outdoor learning, play-based learning is a primary focus. Screen time was increased in the first week of school, for time management purposes. NRP is not a school that is inundated with videos. Videos are shown when there are needs to meet contractual agreements. Please communicate with your classroom teacher about how screen time is related to educational planning.

2) When will app be updated with current teacher contact details? Communities are working on that now. App is primary method of communication. Peters will remind teachers to update the app.

3) Can students borrow books from the library? Yes. The library program is up and beginning to run. Connect with your child classroom teacher about when library will be up and running.

3) School cash online system is not working yet? Office team are just getting the forms ready this week. Forms are coming out and being distributed by teachers. Please stay tuned.

4) Can students move classes? There is no space in the school and as such NRP cannot move students as the school is at capacity.

5) What is the difference between the “Communities”? Communities can change as class populations move up through the grade system. Communities are more about teachers working together, planning together and how they organize their teaching activities.

6) Philosophy behind communities? Community structure is built in to support teacher collaboration. Each community consists of 3-4 classroom teachers and support staff is assigned to a community. Structural unit that can flow in and out how instructional practice is give, reflects teacher passions and strengths and focuses on collaborative talking/thinking. The physical structure of NRP helps facilitate this community structure. There is a communal philosophy for shared learning space and things. Structure that helps with life learning.

7) Could parents get more regular updates from teachers instead of just the parent teacher meetings twice a year? Once the school year gets rolling, there will be more regular updates/communications from the communities. Mr. Peters will bring this up to teachers in next staff meeting to provide more regular updates.

6. EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT (YUKI NAMEKAWA)

- Teacher appreciation lunch on September 29. This is an event that runs twice a year. This used to be a potluck party prior to COVID. PAC used a food truck twice last year. The first lunch will be an individually packed sushi lunch for the teachers.

- Bike to school week is still in the planning stages but will be in October.

7. PAC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2021 – 2022 (SUN KIM)

- The PAC is looking for new executive members this year. The most important task is to attend meetings and lend your voice to meetings.

- Format is 1 executive meeting per month and 1 general meeting per month. This is the minimum requirement. If you are interested in being a part of the executive, please email Sun.

- Next month is AGM to elect new positions.

8. FINANCE REPORT (JEANINE RHEMTULLA)

- Welcome to parents. Jeanine has been the PAC Treasurer for the past 3 years and is stepping down this year. Taniya will be her replacement.

The PAC has two accounts:

1) Main account – PAC fundraises in various ways; these funds get brought into the account and then it gets spent. These expenditures are planned via the budget which will be presented at the AGM in October.

- Revenue: Due to COVID, PAC was unable to fundraise as much (typically \$20,000 - 25,000 is raised in a normal year). Last year, PAC projected raising \$10,000 and actually raised about \$7,500. This was due to Save On Foods fundraising, chocolate sales around the holidays and a little bit of bank interest. Started the year with \$30,000 in the bank account. This has been slowly building up over time the past couple of years, as the PAC has been fundraising more than it has spent.

- Expenses:

- Administrative Expenses – items that keep the PAC running;
- Events/Activities (COVID impacted normal events but the majority of the funds went to Multicultural Day in February and staff appreciation lunches); and
- Supportive - money that goes towards materials and resources that go directly to support the school and students. Budgeted \$1,000 for Saleema Noon Body Science; \$1,500 for Helping Hand which helps family that need support of one kind or another, like the hot lunch program for families that are short of food. \$2,000 for computer upgrades. \$10,000 to purchase 20 new iPads for the school. At the beginning of every year, PAC provides \$250 per teacher in each of the learning communities so that teachers can buy any supplies that they need that are not covered by the funds that they receive from the VSB. It enables teachers to do additional activities with the children.
- Total expenses were \$26,378. PAC raised \$7,500. This took the account down by about \$20,000. End the year with just over \$10,000. Historically, PAC has been good at accumulating money for a 'rainy year'. Given COVID, PAC decided that this was a good year to provide additional support to the school.
 - PAC is hopeful to bring the hot lunch program back this year and with this program running fundraising will be able to increase again.

2) Gaming Grant Account: This is the second account that NRP PAC has. This comes from the province every year from gaming and lotteries. The amount given is based per student, roughly \$20 per student. Started last year with a total of \$32,000, \$16,978 was carried over from the previous year and then a new grant last year for \$15,000-\$16,000. Unlike our own account, the Gaming Grant funds are not allowed to cover anything curricular or that Mr. Peters is supposed to cover with his budget. For example, PAC can't use this fund to pay for computers and iPads. This fund can be used towards additional learning experiences or extracurricular events.

- Expenditures:

- Money towards the graduation ceremony: PAC budgeted \$1,500 and spent about \$1,200.
- Clubs and competitions: There weren't many activities last year due to COVID, but for example, this school year the Cross-Country team is starting again and PAC may be able to budget some funds to help them. PAC has supported them in previous years with canopy tents.

- Bike to School week and Multicultural Day was funded from the Gaming Grant last year.
 - Resources to Improve Student Experience: resources to the school to enhance activities that students are interested in such as cameras for the yearbook committee, fine art supplies and the Classroom Experiences Fund which was pitched at \$20/student to provide an additional experience for the students.
- \$19,520 leftover in the Gaming Grant account.
 - \$15,000 expected to come in at the end of the month for this year's Gaming Grant.
 - Next month there will be a discussion about how the PAC should spend the Gaming Grant, there has already been a discussion around PAC and Mr. Peters that Experiences Fund is something that should be repeated as well as Indigenous playground space. Graduation ceremony and clubs and competitions will be budgeted for again as well.
 - Lucky as a school and as a PAC to be well funded. Always open to new ideas from teachers, staff and parents. The Experience Fund was an idea from a parent who is also a teacher in another school.
 - \$1,000 was received from a UNA grant for Multicultural Day.

9. GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE (SUN KIM)

- Once a month: Evening meetings (6:30pm) every 3rd Tuesday of each month. Next Meeting is 6:30pm on October 19.

10. LUNCH PROGRAM COMMITTEE (SUN KIM)

- Survey results collected from parents over the past week. More than half of the families at NRP responded.
 - 398 responses.
 - 74% of parents said that they would order hot lunch; 55% of parents said that they would order 3 or more days.
 - Most popular menu item was pizza, followed by pasta and chicken strips. There were requests for sushi.
 - 59% would order the medium portion size.
 - Respondents that said "no" to the hot lunch program, reported that they had safety concerns about COVID-19.
 - Parents that responded "maybe" to the hot lunch program mostly wanted more information, and if the price is reasonable.
- PAC is intending on hosting a special meeting in two weeks to explain the lunch program, safety measures, menu items and suppliers before the lunch program starts.
- Among 400 responses, the responses per grade were quite evenly spread.
- Thank you for the completing the survey, the PAC gathered great feedback, tentative opening day is October 18.
- Two suppliers this year to simplify the logistics as much as possible and offer 2-3 main menu items per day as well as a side menu and desserts.
- No student volunteers are needed to deliver the lunches. Suppliers will deliver the lunches in larger boxes labeled per division. Students will only need to collect their division box. 1 parent volunteer on site for troubleshooting. They will not be involved in the delivery or have contact with the food.

11. PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE UPDATE (MICHELLE CHEONG)

- There is a small group of parents who comprise of the committee at the moment. Open invitation to anyone who would like to participate in the committee to send an email to the PAC.
- PAC is excited to start the playground committee and one of the main goals this year is to see how the PAC can incorporate an indigenous garden, play space and outdoor learning area at NRP. This will be the first goal of fundraising.
- The playground committee could run from 1-5 years, with a goal to roll-out different projects in different years to support the facilities and students in order to help meet all of the PAC and NRP's goals for outdoor space.

- Main aim of the committee will be to support the different age levels at NRP and provide outdoor environments that cater to the different ages and stages that the students are in.
- If children/students are interested in participating in the committee, the PAC welcomes their input as key stakeholders.

12. TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SUN KIM)

- A survey was circulated made by UBC Campus Connection Team along with PAC's Traffic Safety Committee. It highlighted important safety concerns around the overall traffic safety within NRP's community.
- Traffic Safety Committee along with UBC Campus and Community Planning and UBC Community Engagement Team will start putting action in based on survey results.
- The next PAC meeting the Traffic Safety Committee may be able to provide detailed information about the actions taking place.

13. OPEN QUESTIONS

- Letters above the Norma Rose School sign: PAPEP – it represents something indigenous. Mr. Peters will find out and communicate to Sun.

14. PARENTS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (FEI LU)

- Purpose of this committee is to tidy up information and useful knowledge for families who were learning from home last semester due to the pandemic.
- This semester, regarding September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the committee would like to encourage all families to recognize that this is not a regular holiday. This day is for specific learning and reflection about indigenous knowledge, indigenous history and reconciliation.
- The committee will circulate to the community information about indigenous people in Canada and the origin of Orange Shirt Day.
- The committee is connecting with the Musqueam Band to see if the PAC can invite a guest speaker. Still waiting on confirmation and will circulate confirmation and materials next week.

The PAC would like the participate in any indigenous cultural awareness about education as much as possible, and the PAC will continue to work on this.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Open Invitation and an encouragement to anyone who is interested to join the PAC or volunteer for the PAC. Volunteers are needed to help run PAC activities, and the more that the parents can give to the school, the more the school can back to the students.

16. TERMINATION AND NEXT MEETING

Thank you for joining the PAC General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.