

NRP PAC GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

January 18, 2022

6:30pm - 7:30pm

via Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87429725695?pwd=QW5XektXUnlsWmhGUTZpMDFReDZ5dz09>

Meeting ID: 874 2972 5695

Passcode: 871390

Call to Order: 6:32pm

Greeting: We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̅əm (Musqueam) People.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS PAC MEETING MINUTES ON NOVEMBER 16, 2021

MOTION: To approve the November 16, 2021 PAC AGM Meeting Minutes

MOVED: Sun, Seconded: Taniya, All in favour, Carried.

3. NRP STAFF REPORT – HENRY PETERS + SHANNON BURKE

- Thank you for supporting our school and being present at the meeting.
- Mr. Peters is happy and grateful to be at NRP and acknowledge that it is on Musqueam land.
- VSB is working on an education plan. The last education plan was from 2016 – 2021. The district is in the process of implementing a new education plan which will involve input from stakeholders particularly paying attention to the student voice.
- NRP school plan: focus on student engagement, student choice and student voice. Racism is not tolerated.
- NRP has a redesigned curriculum and a few things are different this year: communicating student learning reports went out in December (to document the conferences that went on in November). The divisions that did not send out reports in December will be sending out their reports in January.
- The redesigned curriculum was implemented in 2016 (can be found on the gov.bc.ca website). The core competencies are now focused on how students use their skills and abilities to show their understanding for a particular purpose. The redesigned curriculum supports deeper learning through concept-based and competency-driven approaches. Overarching task is to connect the student to the real world.
- In the redesigned curriculum it was crucial for the voice of Indigenous people to be heard. This is a work in progress.
- There will be some reports going home on January 28.
- In February there will be a general assessment about how students, staff and families feel about NRP. It addresses: do you feel safe at school? Are you interested in your learning? Are you involved in activities outside of school? Do you feel like you have an adult you can talk to?
- Between now and June, NRP would like to pilot 3 weeks (in different months) that are “modified weeks” where days will be extended to build in collaboration time, and then balanced by a shorter day. This would be communicated out to families in advance with at least 30 days’ notice. This is model that some school have practiced in the past in an effort to build in time for teachers to collaborate outside of school day.

- There will be a formal invitation to have a conversation with parents to gauge whether there is interest in learning more about a balanced or Indigenous calendar.

Staffing:

- Ms. Jan Dyson is new to Div 26, Ms. Lizzie Axen is new to Div. 18, Ms. Amber Burma is new to Div 15.
- Mr. Caleb Beale (Grade 6/7) his teaching partner Ms. Diane MacQueen has taken a leave; he will be teaching Monday to Friday. His reports will be coming out in February.
- NRP tries to keep staff changes close to breaks but at times that is not always possible. The aim is to always have consistency with our children and not to impact their learning.

Health and Safety:

- Pandemic is impacting learning and happiness. Moral imperative is to socially connect our students to each other, ensure their safety and bring a little bit of normalcy to their world.
- Safety is at the forefront of what NRP does: sanitizing, wearing masks, washing hands, physical distancing where possible in the school, alternative recess/lunch times, monitor traffic in stairwells, all meetings have gone virtual, trying as much as possible to make families feel that they are sending their children to a safe school.
- Pandemic will impact staffing: NRP may never functionally close. With a large school like NRP, there would have to be about 20 teachers absent before administration would consider a functional closure.
- Support staff have been impacted the hardest with sometimes a third to a half of the team missing. This impacts our most vulnerable students greatly.
- NRP are not medical professionals and do not have the answers to health-related questions. For any COVID or Omicron questions, please go to the BCCDC website to find out information about COVID. Answers change with time and context.

Thank you to PAC for being a wonderful supportive family group. The challenge again this year will be how to bring diverse learning experiences into the classroom.

Be happy; be kind to each other.

Parent Questions:

Q: Mask wearing enforcement in Kindergarten?

A: It is a mandate but we are told we are not to police it. We do our best and strongly encourage children to wear masks. Limit participation due to mask wearing gets blowback from some families. Families are in different places. We can't ask for proof of exemptions due to privacy and confidentiality. We don't want to ostracize or bring a negative impact. There are limitations on what we can do and say. The office carries masks and teachers send students to the office to get new masks throughout the day. PAC can support parents in articulating and voicing the parental concern to the Board of Trustees.

Q: Is NRP doing contact tracing?

A: NRP is not doing contact tracing. Before the break, VCH would phone NRP and give information about students/division. NRP does not do contact tracing. NRP does monitor the number of students and staff that are ill. This information gets passed on to Health and Safety department and VCH. NRP cannot tell you whether you are required to self-isolate. NRP has not been instructed to send confirmed exposures at school at this time.

Q: What are the rules around missing school due to the COVID variant? How much time can you take off?

A: Once a student is absent from school for 30 continuous days they are removed from enrolment. This is a VSB policy. People on the waitlist may get the spot. After 30 days, there is a chance of losing your spot. NRP has not heard of any online option for education other than Vancouver learning network. This is a program that you enrol for and you would no longer be a member of NRP.

Q: Will NRP reconsider parent-funded HEPA filters in the classroom?

A: Health and Safety has told us not to bring in outside equipment into the school. NRP is a very new school and the ventilation and filtration work efficiently and effectively. HEPA filters would create limitations on the current effectiveness of the filtration system.

Q: Is there any alternative support from NRP for children who are staying home during this time?

A: It is hard to transport the learning from the classroom to home. There are things that you can do: reading, keeping a journal, home-based tasks. You can contact teachers and ask what to do with an extended absence. This is a hard time for teachers to offer in person learning and home-based learning for students.

Q: Is it considered an excused absence to keep your child home due to safety concerns about COVID?

A: If you decide to keep your children home because it is the safe and best thing for your family, you will not be questioned.

Q: Have there been any cases of Omicron at NRP?

A: There is not a clear picture of absences among students. There have definitely been cases, this is also seasonal cold and flu season. Cannot report on teacher absences. Last week to this week, absences started at 130, and went as high as 200 absences. Average is at 150-200 absences out of 750 students. This is not typical; the absences are much higher than a typical year.

There are challenges getting substitutes (EOCs) for EAs (support staff). We support as best we can. If there are critical health things that we cannot meet, we have conversations with those students' families.

Q: What is the trend of student absences as Omicron infections trend upwards followed?

A: Informal data collection: it is staying constant, it is leveling out at 150-160 student absence per day. This is not necessarily COVID related. It is hard to extrapolate this information.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FINANCE REPORT – SUN KIM ON BEHALF OF TANIYA AMIRAJ

(1) NRP PAC Main Account – account has funds collected from school fundraisers

- There is no limitation to spending on this account
- Budgeted \$11,000 in revenue. Made \$5,500 so far.
- Lunch program has made \$4,200.
- Fundraising has made \$1,337.
- The total revenue to date represents half of our goal.
- Budgeted expenses for the year are \$9,900. Current expenses spent are \$1,780.

(2) Gaming Grant – These funds are governed by the BC gaming board. There are limitations on how PAC can use these funds. Every year NRP PAC receives \$20/student.

- Expected and received \$14,860.
- With rollover Gaming Grant funds from previous years, the account total is at \$34,676.
- Most of last year's funds were spent on the Classroom Experience Fund. The same is expected of this year.
- \$10,000 is earmarked for the Indigenous Garden/Playground.
- There has been no significant spending in this account yet.

The Lunch program has made \$4,200 so far, but orders have gone down by 30%. There will be much less money coming in. Please continue to support the lunch program where you can.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE – MICHELLE CHEONG

The committee is working closely with Ms. Tso at NRP and are waiting to hear back from the Indigenous department at the VSB to determine the next steps forward. The goal is to have a plan and a sign up to notify the community of the vision.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

The presentation by 2 representatives from UBC Community Planning and UNA will be postponed to next PAC meeting in February. They will be presenting the results of the traffic survey that was conducted last year and collect parent feedback after the presentation to bring back to UBC and UNA, to help plan for a safer community.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

There is an art contest for this year's yearbook. The due date January 31. Details are on the NRP PAC website.

HOLIDAY HAMPER DRIVE UPDATE – SUN KIM

At the end of last year, the PAC conducted a hamper drive in support of families that were experiencing financial difficulty in our community. There was an amazing response from our school that filled the PAC with pride. PAC collected over 200 items for 15 families who provided a wish list. Almost all items were fulfilled. A lot of families chose to donate cash. One family in particular had extreme hardship, the cash donations were donated to this family to help with their finances. Thank you to everyone.

8. Q & A

To order a yearbook, please visit the NRP PAC website and look for the 2021/2022 Yearbook Presale headline. Current price is \$25. April the price changes to \$30.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 15 @ 6:30pm

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING – 7:35pm