

Ecole Sperling School
PAC General Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, November 23, 2004

In attendance:	Luba Banuke	Principal
	Wanda Pierson	Chair
	J.R. Westgate	Past Chair
	Bettina Charpentier	Treasurer
	Karen Hum	Fund Raising & Hot Lunch
	Yvonne Chand	Fund Raising
	Carolyn Sluis	Parking & Safety
	Pat Ratcliffe	Secretary
	Dena Domijan	Head Teacher
	Elena Frances Hutchinson	CPF – Burnaby President
	Coreen Moroziuk	CPF – Treasurer
	Tony Wong	Website Designer

Trish Alsop
Suzanne Brunet
Amy Choy
Tess & Robin Frost
Elizabeth Loewen
Helen McDougall
Hunter Moroziuk
Cindy Wenzek

Regrets:	Iva Vincalek	Vice-Chair
	Jennifer Hatch	Emergency Prep & Speakers
	Barbara Kristos	DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council)

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Wanda Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. She welcomed all & introductions were made around the table.

2. Presentation on Reading Strategies: Luba Banuke provided a presentation on reading strategies, which summarized the presentation to the faculty made on the preceding Pro-D day. This aligns with the school goal to improve literacy, specifically in the area of nonfiction.

Luba explained the “Ready, Set, Learn” initiatives for preschoolers which introduces them to reading.

3. Announcements:

Because of the number of announcements and time restrictions, Wanda asked all to read the

announcements. Announcements are as follows:

- “The PAC thanks JR Westgate, Karen Hum and Yvonne Chand for their work on the Entertainment Book project.
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- The PAC thanks JR Westgate, Karen Hum and Yvonne Chand for their work on the Entertainment Book Project.
- Thanks to Karen Hum for setting up the account at Kensington Plaza Recycle Depot for Sperling School. The proceeds for this account will go towards assisting our foster child. Please be sure to take your recycling to the depot and let them know you are from Sperling School.
- The Student Directory is typed, duplicated and delivered. I would like to extend my thanks to Luba Banuke, Iva and Vaclav Vincalek and Pat Ratcliffe for their assistance.
- The PAC Classroom Parent Rep list is attached. We have representatives from all classes except Mme Altman. If anyone knows of someone who might like to fill this spot, please let Wanda know.
- The Grade 5 First Aid day was November 17, 2004.
- The next Hot Lunch will be Friday December 3, 2004.
- Christmas crafts will be December 6, 8 and 10th. Veronica Tsang will need volunteers to assist.
- Susan McIntyre from Burnaby Parks and Rec has provided a draft of the programs at Sperling for the New Year. The babysitter’s course (Jan. 21-?), basketball (Jan. 21-Feb. 18), sports zone (Jan. 26-Feb 23), Valentine chocolates and crafts (English and French-Feb 10), Easter Eggstravaganza (English and French, March 16), and drawing and cartooning (Feb-May depending on grade level) will be available. The drawing and cartooning programs will be 5 weeks in length. Program length has been adjusted because of the Trestle equipment coming during the month of March. Sue is also working on having a sports program for us in French, but that is not finalized at the moment. The flyers will be available before December break and she suggests registering in December as programs do fill up. Susan also offered to send a leader to do face painting at our community event, for no charge.
- Western Society for Children with Birth Defects is offering a parent support group in conjunction with the New Westminster Family Place. The parent support group meets every Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:30pm at New Westminster Family Place to support parents and families with children 12 and under who have diverse learning needs. Information and the registration form are posted on the bulletin board.

Announcements – continued

- There is an updated volunteer driver authorization form. The new element is an

agreement to not operate any wireless communication device while operating the vehicle.

- Coreen Moroziuk has agreed to be the treasurer for CPF. She and Karen Dalla-Tina will represent Sperling at CPF.
- Achieve BC: Math for Families--Supporting Math at Home can be accessed on the Achieve BC website (www.AchieveBC.ca). I have one copy of the booklet in hard copy that will be circulated at the meeting. (*Wanda Pierson circulated book*).
- Surveys related to needs for each classroom's sport box have now been received. The boxes will be replenished sometime this month with supplies.
- JR Westgate and Maureen Mah are looking at the feasibility, safety, costs, etc. of an intermediate playground.
- An orientation for volunteers participating in the walking sidewalk will be held November 29 at 0915 in the staff room.

Wanda also advised that the Christmas skating party will take place December 16 after school. The entire family is welcome to attend at no charge.

4. **Budget & Proposed Project Items:** Bettina handed out financial statements and proposed project item list. JR Westgate made the motion that the list of 5 proposed projects be accepted as proposed. The motion was passed.
5. **Parent Donation Project:** Karen Hum advised that the parent donation project has been very successful with funds of approx \$4,700 raised to date. Ms. Miller's class won the pizza lunch as they had all their forms returned within 3 days.
6. **French Immersion Long Term Planning:** Luba Banuke provided information regarding the draft of proposed changes to the French Immersion program in Burnaby (draft attached).

The French Immersion Program is gaining momentum because:

- 1) Success is undisputable.
- 2) The Federal Government is involved.
- 3) Learning a 2nd language expands brain capacity.

Burnaby is facing challenges, as are all other cities and districts. There has been 33% growth in the district. Sperling has reached capacity and will continue to operate with French being offered in Kindergarten to Grade 7.

French Immersion Long Term Planning – continued

Marlborough has 1200 students and is operating at full capacity. They promoted their late immersion program and a waiting list has started. They are looking for a school with classrooms available. The Minister of Education will not be building new schools until the existing schools are filled.

Seaforth had undergone renovation and added a new wing. Extra classroom space was available. It was determined at that time that French Immersion could be introduced at Seaforth to accommodate extra French Immersion from Marlborough. This attracted students from New Westminster, as there is no early French Immersion program there. The English program at Seaforth was also successful. The combination of both English and French programs being so successful caused Seaforth to run out of capacity.

Marlborough still continues to grow. There are 3 Kindergarten classrooms this year, one which is shared with an English Kindergarten class.

Another site is needed. The French Immersion Program is NOT going to be capped. The Ministry does not allow portables so we must find a place for these children to go.

Moscrop High School was under construction for 4 years and can house 1,400 children, but it has reached capacity. There is some space at Caribou High School.

It has been proposed to have some elementary schools split into Primary and Middle Schools. Primary school would be K-3. Middle School would be 4-7. High School would be 8-12. School times would be staggered to allow parents to pick up and drop off children at staggered times.

Luba believes Sperling will continue to provide K-7 and every attempt will be made to accommodate families within the school.

When the proposal is received, all principals will sit down to orchestrate. February 1st is the first enrollment date to allow for setting of rules.

7. **CPF Presentation:** Elena Frances Hutchinson presented on behalf of CPF. Elena advised that the proposal is a draft proposal and they are looking for feedback. Feedback can be sent to Luba and she will pass it on.

The proposal will be presented at the Trustee Board Meeting on December 14th. Elena encouraged all to think of the bigger community and keep dual track in mind.

8. **Adjournment:** Wanda thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.