

Part 1. PAC General Meeting September 13, 2007

PAC Executive Meeting September 13, 2007

6:30pm Dora Van Der Minne opened the meeting.

Executive Potluck: The discussion surrounded possible dates and it was decided that the potluck will be on Thursday December 6, 2007 at Sonya Scaglione's home. This year there will be no agenda at the potluck. It will be solely a social event.

Babysitting: There is no babysitting available for the PAC meeting this evening. Madame Anger explained that potential babysitters had not been given much notice for the meeting this evening and as a result no one came forward to help out. Madame Anger suggested creating a list of students interested in babysitting and also the possibility of having an adult as a back up. In the past, babysitting costs for PAC meetings have been covered by the school. Madame Anger asked if PAC could consider sharing the cost with the school.

School Newsletter: Kirk Rockwell has created a handout to promote that the school newsletter will now be available online. The handout uses half a page of paper to minimize paper, keeping with the goal of going green.

Sonya Scaglione suggested that parents would benefit from more school information being provided in the school newsletter. For example, awards, clubs, school assemblies. Madame Anger wants all parents to know that they are welcome to attend school assemblies. The Celebration of Learning assembly occurs on the last day of each month at 11:00am.

Speakers: The focus this year will be on the library update and fundraising, but it is necessary to book speakers well in advance. Trish Alsop will book Seleema Noon to come speak in the 2008/09 year.

Meeting Schedule: Dora requested feedback on the new meeting schedule. Executive meeting at 6:30pm and General at 6:45pm. There was some concern expressed that 15 minutes may not be enough time for the executive meeting. It was suggested that there be separate agendas for the meetings. This would allow an opportunity to assess the time needed for topics to be covered and when there are large agenda items for an executive meeting, additional time could be set aside to cover these issues. One benefit that was mentioned is that the new schedule reduces duplication of meeting discussion, as often the executive and general meetings cover the same agenda items. This new meeting schedule is being done on a trial basis and will continue to be evaluated. Feedback is welcome.

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Sperling PAC General Meeting Minutes
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6:45pm Dora Van Der Minne opened the general meeting.

Introductions were done and meeting agendas were passed around

Foster Child: Sperling sponsors a foster child in Mexico named Siomara. The school has an account at the Kensington Return-it Bottle Depot and the money collected goes to Siomara. The current balance at the Return it Centre is \$168.00 and this money will be added as an additional donation when the school renews the foster child program this year. This program is an ongoing program so students and parents are asked to continue to recycle and donate by bringing recyclable items to the Return-it Bottle Depot which is located at 6518 Hastings in Kensington Mall. Please be sure to tell the cashier it is for Sperling before they ring it up.

Suggestion Box: There will be a box placed on the wall next to the bulletin board by the office so that parents can submit their ideas, suggestions, or concerns that they would like to have discussed at the PAC meetings. It is preferable that contact information is on the submissions so that the issues can be followed up on if necessary.

Fraser Institute's Testing Results: Madame Anger will do a one hour presentation to parents on the Fraser Institute's testing results in relation to Sperling, at a later time to be announced, possibly October or November, 2007.

Soap Dispensers: There have been some kindergarten parents concerned that their children could not reach the soap dispensers in their classrooms. The Sperling custodian, Mr. Johnson, has dealt with this issue by buying a big jug of hand soap and supplying each classroom with bottles to place the hand soap in. Bottles cannot be placed in the bathrooms due to district policy and the fact that students have been known to throw things down the toilets.

Library Upgrade Update: Pat Ratcliffe presented. Pat met with Bettina Charpentier(PAC treasurer) to discuss possible funds for the library. Pat and the Sperling librarian, Vesna Kanjer met to discuss prioritizing the plans for the library. The first priority is the built in shelves, which will cost approximately \$10 000. The second priority is the rest of the shelving. Pat was hoping that \$20 000 could be allotted to the library update by December 2007 to enable all of the shelves to be completed at once. This would enable a more efficient workload strategy. For example, moving the books would all be done at once, rather than twice. Pat will provide a more exact quote of the costs involved at the next PAC meeting.

Vacant Executive Positions: There are still some vacant executive positions. There is advertising for these positions on the website, but perhaps there needs to be more promotion for volunteers. Some of the positions are as follows:

- a) **District Parent Advisory Committee Reps: Involves attending District meetings and reporting back to our school PAC.**
- b) **Special Events Co-ordinator: Organizes the skating party, teacher appreciation party, etc.**

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- c) ***Sports Box Co-ordinator:*** *Maintains the sports bags that are located in each classroom. These bags contain sports equipment, such as soccer balls, basket balls, etc. Equipment gets lost and damaged and must be replaced.*
- d) ***Class Reps:*** *Each class needs a class representative to take PAC meeting information back to parents. Trish Alsop will send home a request for class rep volunteers.*
- e) ***Student Class Directory:*** *Tony Wong will take care of this as registration will now be online.*

Handwashing: Micheline Kamber attended a Foodsafe course and became inspired to locate some signs to remind children to wash their hands after using the washroom. Ross Powell will laminate the signs and they will be distributed throughout the school.

Student Class Directory: The directory registration is now online. Teachers could promote the online registration at the upcoming intake meetings.

Discussion also surrounded how to distribute the completed directory to Sperling parents. There was some concern for privacy and security with the idea of having the directory available on the website. Limiting the information listed was one idea to address these concerns. Parents could submit only their first names, last initial, the child's first name and division. This would be a dependant on Tony Wong being able to make these changes to the online registration form. It was concluded that the best option for distributing the class directory is email. The directory will be emailed to those who participate. The deadline for registering for the class directory is October 9, 2007 and registration must be done online.

Fruit and Vegetable Program: We were not one of the Burnaby schools chosen for the Fruit and Vegetable program that provides fresh fruit and vegetables to the students for snacks. It was agreed that it is valuable to apply again. Micheline Kamber will complete the application.

PAC Newsletter: The newsletter is Going Green. It will only be available on the website. A few copies will be available at the receptacle by the bulletin board near the office to accommodate parents who do not have internet access. Kirk Rockwell has created a handout to promote that the school newsletter will now be available online. The handout uses half a page of paper to minimize paper, keeping with the goal of going green. Members in attendance provided feedback on the form.

Traffic and Safety: Alice Yuan spoke about the walking sidewalk. Volunteers are needed and the commitment is only 20 minutes per day. To volunteer, send an email to Alice at aliceyuan@shaw.ca. Alice needs to double the current amount of volunteers to fill the walking sidewalk shifts. Alice spoke about the importance of parents reading the traffic safety information. To encourage parents to do this there will be a questionnaire on the content of the traffic safety sheet and prizes will be awarded to the students. There was some concern expressed about delivery trucks backing up in the staff parking lot. As well, Dora is looking into the procedure to approach the city about creating a crosswalk at Cliff and Adair.

Principal's Report: Opening week went smoothly. The mixed groupings worked well. The assembly went well. At the assembly the entire school went outside and formed a large circle by

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holding hands. The focus was on building school spirit. Madame Anger wants all parents to know that they are welcome to attend assemblies.

This year was the first for Sperling to do a gradual entry to kindergarten and this was a success.

It enables the parents to get to know the teacher before parent/teacher interviews.

The school calendars are all online now. They will be updated as events get scheduled. The book fair is at the end of September. School newsletters are also online.

Budget: The budget was reviewed. Wanda Pierson explained the budget, as Bettina was unable to attend.

Micheline Kamber asked PAC to consider giving \$1000 to learning resources that assist students with special needs.

It was suggested that the following be deferred to assist with the library update:

\$1500 from the home reading program

\$500 from library support

\$2700 from busses for fieldtrips

\$1100 from speakers

It was suggested that the \$450 allotted to the classroom sports box, be reduced to \$250.

It was suggested that \$1000 be allotted to learning resources.

The budget was approved in principal and will be revisited in October.

Wanda Pierson motioned. Kirk Rockwell seconded. The Motion was passed with all in attendance in favor.

Fundraising: Fundraising was briefly discussed as one parent had a fundraising strategy that she had researched last year. She quickly explained that parents purchase gift cards from stores that they already shop at and a percentage is returned to the school. There were a number of stores involved, such as Costco, Superstore, Safeway, etc. More in depth information will be provided about this fundraising option at the PAC meeting in October.