

**PAC General Meeting
January 10, 2008
6:30pm-8:00pm**

In Attendance: Dora Van Der Minne, Sonya Scaglione, Heather Marcotte, Pat Ratcliffe, Wanda Pierson, Bettina Charpentier, Lisa Bjornson, Stephen Meighan, Ross Powell, Micheline Kamber, Tony Wong, Tammy Van Hinte.

Regrets: Claudette Angers, Trish Alsop, Kirk Rockwell

Announcements: A very big thank you to Renee Loboza for all her time and effort that she put in to make the Christmas Crafts such a success. Thanks to all the faithful volunteers who helped out.

A big thanks also to Trish Alsop for organizing the Skating Party.

The meeting next month on February 7th, is an Executive only meeting. The next General Meeting is on March 13th. The meeting time has been changed to 6:30 PM for all meetings for the rest of the year.

Information on the Burnaby Parks and Recreation Winter and Spring After-School and Evening Recreation Programs at Sperling Elementary, can now be found on the PAC website. Sue McIntyre was the Community Co-ordinator for this program. Sue recently moved jobs and Cassie Gibeau is the new contact person.

Library Upgrade Update: Pat Ratcliffe explained that the library is currently closed to both students and teachers. The shelving purchased by PAC is now up and finishing touches are being added. The shelving that the School Board contributed arrived today and has not yet been assembled. As well, the School District will be adding some shelving, but we are not sure when this will happen. It is a possibility that the School District shelving may be added this summer, but there are no firm dates at this time. The library furniture was ordered in early December and was due to arrive soon. Pat called this week to confirm the order and was told that they did not have the order completed. Pat cleared this issue up and the furniture will arrive in 4-5 weeks. It should be here in February 2008.

The library may open as soon as Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

Thank you to all of the parents who assisted with removing books from the library. As well, the school principal, Claudette Angers, the librarian, Vesna Kanjer and the school custodian, Mr Johnson have assisted greatly with the library upgrade work.

Nails Found on Sperling Avenue: Residents and parents continue to find roofing nails strewn along Sperling Ave from Broadway to Curtis Streets. The City of Burnaby has cleaned up the nails but they appear again. School, City, School District staff and the RCMP are aware of the issue. Please observe and report any suspicious activities to the RCMP and the school office. If activity is in progress: phone 911, otherwise phone the non-emergency number 604-294-7922 to report information. Record license plate numbers and/or descriptions (start from the top: male/female, age, hair colour, facial hair, and noteworthy features of clothing, shoes, what they are carrying, and the time).

After calling RCMP, notify the Burnaby Works Yard 604-294-7200 (24 hrs). If it's before 10PM the City will send out a sweeper.

ShopFunds: Lisa Bjornson reported on the success of the Shop Funds fundraiser. To date the school has raised \$1475.00 through Shop Funds. It appears to be running smoothly. December was a busy month and extra volunteers would have been helpful. There were two issues that occurred in the kindergarten class with the Shop Fund orders and both issues were addressed. No other problems have occurred.

Lisa expressed concern about the impact of this fundraiser on the teachers. Lisa asked Dena to get teacher feedback at their staff meeting on January 23, 2008.

The next Shop Fund order will go home on January 28, 2008. It will be due back to the school on February 1 and the cards will be sent home on February 11. January orders will be placed in a draw for a chance to win a \$10.00 gift card for The Old Spaghetti Factory. Two separate winners will be drawn.

There have been some changes to the upcoming order dates. Lisa will send these changes to Tony Wong and Kirk Rockwell to update the website.

Millenium March: The Millenium March will be held on April 25 this year.

Spring/Summer Event: Lora Skedeler has volunteered to co-ordinate the Spring/Summer fundraiser event this year. It will be held on June 1, 2008 and it will be a pub night for adults. June 1 is a Sunday and Monday June 2 is a ProD day. More information to follow.

Budget: Bettina Charpentier went over recent activity in the budget. The library upgrade expense came out of the gaming fund. The actual cost for the upgrade was below the anticipated amount. As a result, we are under budget and it may be possible to reallocate some of that money to other categories. No changes were made to the budget this evening.

SPC Update: JR Westgate will comment on SPC at a future PAC meeting.

Lunch Lady Program: Lisa Bjornson spoke about the Lunch Lady Program. Lisa explained that The Lunch Lady is a franchise organization. The nearest franchise is in Coquitlam and they do not service Burnaby. To bring the Lunch Lady Program to Sperling, someone would need to purchase a Lunch Lady Franchise which would involve a considerable financial investment.

Foundation Skills Assessment: This year the Foundation Skills Assessment will be administered from February 4 to 15. The assessment is administered each year to Grade 4 and 7 students in public and provincially funded independent schools. Claudette Angers will speak about this assessment in February or March.

Test of Phonological Awareness(TOPA): Kindergarten students will be administered the TOPA test. The test is used to identify students who are considered to be "at risk" in their reading readiness so that concerns can be addressed.

Website Security: Dora Van Der Minne received a spam email requesting that the PAC consider purchasing school supplies. Dora identified that the seller obtained her email address by following the link on the School District website. Tony Wong stated that 1.6% of the hits on the PAC website are through the District link. Dora asked those in attendance if this presented a security concern. Concern was expressed over the fact that a list of all of the PAC executive full names and contact information is located on the site and that the site is intended for the Sperling School community use and not public

use.

Wanda Pierson motioned to have the link removed from the School District Website. Heather Marcotte seconded. The motion was passed with all in attendance in favor.

Tony Wong will send a request to the School District to have the PAC link removed from their site.

As well, Tony Wong suggested that the school newsletter be removed from the school website and placed back on the PAC website to increase security.

School Directory: Tony Wong received three new additions to the school directory. Tony will email a directory supplement to parents.

School Supplies: Teaching Things will require order forms to be completed for the 2008/2009 school year by February or March. We will need to obtain a school supply list from the teachers

Entertainment Book: The PAC has a sample copy of the 2008 Entertainment coupon book located in a box in the teachers staff room. The coupons are available for PAC executive members to remove and use.

Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program: To apply for the Fruit and Veggie program for September 2008, the forms must be submitted by April 1, 2008. If we are accepted for this program we will need a parent co-ordinator who has a Foodsafe certificate. The co-ordinator would be responsible for distributing the fruit and vegetables biweekly. Micheline Kamber and Tammy Van Hinte volunteered to assist with this program.

Healthy Schools: On January 1, 2008 new legislation was passed regarding school food sales. The 2007 Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools will impact the sale of items, such as donuts for the hot lunch program. For more information go to www.bced.gov.bc.ca/health/

Silkens Active Kids Movement: The Silken Laumann Active Kid's Movement stresses the importance of physical activity for children. Every Wednesday evening, volunteers supervise parks and gyms to allow children to experience the joy of unstructured play. We would need parent volunteers to run this program in our gymnasium and we would need to work around after school sports programs that are already in place. Heather Marcotte and Tammy Van Hinte expressed an interest in this program. Ross Powell stated he would be available to assist after March 2008. For more information on the program so to www.silkensactivekids.ca

Feedback on the Christmas Concert: Claudette Angers has requested feedback regarding the Christmas concert that occurred in December 2007. Some parents with more than one child commented that they found it difficult to attend two nights to watch their children perform. It would have been nice to be able to bring siblings to watch the event and babysitting would be helpful for parents with younger children. A suggestion was made that all family members could attend on one evening if future events were held at Burnaby North High School. This years event was less crowded due to the new structure and this extra space was appreciated. Some parents found it difficult to see. Much appreciation was expressed for the work that went into organizing the event. Many PAC meeting attendees said Mrs Wong did a good job co-ordinating the Christmas concert. As well, parents enjoyed having the older classes interacting and performing with younger students.

Healthy Living: Sperling is aiming to meet the healthy living guideline of 100 minutes of exercise per week.

Basketball is starting today for the grade 6 and 7 students.

The ski program begins this month. There are 107 students attending this year. They will go to Whistler/Blackcomb for three ski sessions. Whistler was chosen because they offer supervision by a ski instructor during the entire trip.

Noon hour games are beginning this week.

Traffic and Safety: At the October PAC meeting, a few parents voiced their concerns over the safety on the Hycrest side of the school. There was a question about whether a fence could be built along the field on that side of the school. Madame Angers requested that a fence be placed along the lane way and the request was denied because it is not considered to be a high traffic area.