

General PAC Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2008

With Regrets: Pat Ratcliffe, Tony Wong, Dora Van Der Minne

Meeting called to order 6:30pm

Announcements

Mr. Larry Hayes, the school trustee liaison for our school, has requested to attend one of our Pac meetings in order to stay informed about what is going on in our school. Dora has emailed him the remaining meeting schedule for the year and invited him to attend at his convenience. We will wait to hear back.

Dora has written a letter to Mr. Lambert Chu, the Director of Engineering for the City of Burnaby, regarding the idea of the one-way street on Hycrest that was discussed at the Executive Meeting in February. Also included in this letter was a follow up response to Mr. Chu's answer to the crosswalk request at Cliff and Adair which Madame Angers had originally written in the fall. In reading his response, there seemed to be some misunderstanding in that he was thinking we wanted the crosswalk across Adair, not Cliff Ave. Our request was made clear in this follow up and he was respectfully asked to find a way to deal with the safety hazard that children and parents deal with when trying to cross Cliff Ave.

At the end of November, the PAC wrote a letter to the city requesting "that during periods of icy road conditions, the City plow and sand the heavily used portions of Adair and Hycrest Streets adjacent to Sperling School to improve traffic and pedestrian safety". They responded by saying it is not possible for them to assign a higher priority to these areas as it would divert resources away from their established priorities. If they did it for us, they would have to do it for all schools. Tony, who wrote the original letter, is going to write a follow up letter asking the city what it **CAN** do to make it safer for parents and students.

The meeting with Assistant Superintendent Morelli and the School District's IT manager Ken Kewertz, regarding having the Pac link removed from the District website for security reasons, will take place with members of the Executive and Madame Angers in April.

If there is information or updates that you want on the PAC website, please let Tony know.

Items for the newsletter must be submitted to Kirk by the 25th of each month. This allows the newsletter to be released the first Friday of the month and keeps the news in it current and relevant.

There is a Healthy Schools Initiatives binder, grey in colour, which is available for parents to look at if they wish. Speak to Madame Angers if you wish to see it.

The Grade 7 Grad Parent Evening Celebration is on June 19th from 4:30PM – 9PM. It will be a dinner and dance held in the school gym.

CPF recently gave \$100 to Sperling's library for French books. This is just one example of how the CPF membership fees come back to the school and serves as a reminder and incentive for parents of French Immersion students to sign up (<http://www.cpf.bc.ca>), especially if they have a child doing Concours d'Art Oratoire. The Concours is organized by CPF and even provides university scholarships at the high school competition level.

Interesting Fact: French Immersion puts an extra \$375,000 into the school board's budget each year. \$75,000 comes from the Federal Government; \$ 300,000 comes from the Provincial Government.

Discussion:

Budget and Library Update: Bettina Charpentier

Library upgrades are proceeding with a few items still to come. PAC has not used all the money that was budgeted for library upgrades. A discussion developed to decide to provide money to go towards fieldtrips.

Motion – Each division is to receive \$200.00 to go towards a fieldtrip. (motion made by Wanda Pierson, Ross Powell 2nd, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.)

Pub Night Social Update: Laura Scholdeller/Sonya Scaglione

Date has been set for Sunday June 1 (Monday June 2 is a professional day), doors open at 4pm, at the Soho Bar & Grill 7090 Lougheed Hwy. Door prizes are needed, if you have any donations please contact Laura Scholdeller lscod@shaw.ca

Millennium March: Josie Young

Forms will go out to the children April 10 and need to be returned Thursday April 24 (we will need people on the 24th to help count money from the envelopes) The Millennium March will take place the afternoon of Friday April 25th; many volunteers are needed along the walk route. All the children will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles; consequently there will be no water stations along the route. Juice boxes will be provided by PAC at the end of the route.

Funds raised may go towards

- **Curriculum Support**
- **Library Resources**
- **Fine Arts Presentations**

Traffic Safety Equipment

Emergency Response Committee: Ross Powell

Grade 5 students completed first aid instruction March 5. The emergency kiosk has also been restocked.

School Supplies Update: Maureen Mah

Changes have been made to the “basic package” for each grade to include more items that were previously in the additional items category from the form last year. Adding additional items in the basic package has raised the price of each package considerably. Forms to purchase supplies will go out soon and packages will be delivered to the school before the end of the current school year. Maureen is going to contact Teaching Things to see if the “basic package” vouchers (we received last year) can be used towards the new basic packages for this year.

Fun Fair Equipment:

PAC voted last year to give Sonya Scaglione authority to decide what to do with the Fun Fair equipment; currently it is stored at several different homes of parents. Sonya will decide if the equipment is worth it to be shared with other schools or should just be disposed of.

Silken's Active Kids Movement/Open Gym Night: Heather Marcotte

Heather attended an open gym night (school gym was available to families for free, to use equipment in a non structured environment) and found it to be very successful. For Sperling to host open gym nights we need 4 adult volunteers, if you are interested in volunteering please contact Heather chasmundson@gmail.com

Annual PAC Skating Party:

We are able to book now for the skating party in December 2008. We need to pick a date. There was a lot of discussion previously about the Certificate of Incorporation that we had been told we needed in order to book this event again. Dora has been in communication with Cassie Gibeau, who took over Sue McIntyre’s job as Community Program Coordinator for Northeast Burnaby, regarding this issue. Cassie checked with Sandra Battistel, who takes the bookings for ice space, who told her that we do **NOT** need a Certificate of Incorporation and will be able to book without it. The only thing required is a signature from someone on the PAC (“Doing Business As”), who becomes the contact for payment and liability insurance. The PAC purchases this insurance through Burnaby. The person signing is not assuming any personal liability. Cookies and hot chocolate should be ordered through the city for this event, the contact person for this is Rosary 604-320-2204.

Principal’s Report: Madame Angers

Madame Angers apologized for the changes of dates for the Celebration of Learning assemblies, usually they will be the last day of each month, and next one is scheduled for Monday April 28th.

Teachers work extremely hard on each and every report card and they work on the report cards on their own time. If parents have questions about the report cards please see the appropriate teacher. Parents expressed appreciation for the effort teachers put into the report cards.

Student led conferences are coming in April.

FSA booklets will be sent home with students on March 31. (Madame Angers will speak more about the FSA's at a later date. TBA)

New Business

Parent Drivers on Fieldtrips – there was a concern voiced over the safety of having parent drivers for fieldtrips with intermediate students. The Burnaby school district has a policy that allows parent drivers to drive on fieldtrips and sporting events. There is a form to be filled out and each driver must have adequate insurance to be able to drive on a fieldtrip. Many people at the meeting felt that if the school didn't use parent drivers then sporting events and fieldtrips would not happen.

Children and lunchtime – the matter of children not eating their lunches was raised. Some children feel rushed to eat their lunch, some children are just in a rush to get outside, and so they just don't eat their lunch. A question was posed – “What are some new tactics to get our kids to eat?”

One school in Coquitlam has the children go outside to play at 12:00 and then return to the classroom at 12:30 to eat lunch.

Dina is going to call a meeting with the lunchtime monitors to review ways to encourage the younger children to eat their lunches.

Madame Angers offered to change the bell schedule having the “first bell” ring at 12:15pm (rather than the current 12:10pm) to see if giving children five more minutes encourages better eating habits. This bell schedule will be discussed again at the next meeting to see if it helped the situation.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm