

Parents' Meeting Notes

Monday, January 21, 6:30-8:00 PM

6:15 pm Snacks and Greetings

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Lord Nelson Elementary School – Library

Child-minding available

PAC Executive

Leah Kimura (LK), Co-Chair; Angela Wong-Moon (AWM), Co-Chair, with regrets: Lisa Osoba (LO), Vice-Chair; Laura McGowan (LM), Treasurer; Courtney Hall (CH), Secretary

Representatives

Gail Marlow (GM acting principal), Lisa Pathyil (LP), Vice Principal,

Members at Large: Smiley, Jen Hickey, David, Ken Eliuk, Jon Leighton, Mike Zonnevald, Cynthia Farnsworth, Kate Newstead

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (AWM)
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** (Kate approved, Angela seconded)
3. **Build Report/Update** (GM, LP)

Project Manager, Steve Snyder and Pro Can have not provided any construction updates. The last report in November suggested we'd move in after Spring Break but before summer. We'll basically move in when it's ready. The tear down will then take about 5 months as there is asbestos in much of the building so it has to be done very carefully and slowly so as to not disturb the air quality for our students.

4. **Update from New School Spend committee** (KN, LK)

A small group of PAC execs (LK, AWM, LO) and KN met to discuss the allocation of funds to the new school. While the PAC has made general commitments as to what we will contribute to/pay for (namely, common furniture and exterior items), now it's time to firm up just how much and what. The committee plans to present the breakdown of possible spending at the Feb 21 meeting. All parents are welcome to attend to provide feedback. On a side note: LO will continue looking into why there is an expectation that the Lord Nelson PAC pay for learning commons furniture and inquire as to whether it cannot be partially funded.

5. **Financial Report**

Laura our treasurer regretfully could not attend and will present our financial records next meeting. We should know soon if we are close to reaching our \$200,000 fundraising goal. We would like to

come up with an idea to plant “200” flowers in commemoration of reaching such a significant goal. Also, LK informed us that the last movie night “Arthur’s Christmas” was mistakenly approved for a public showing. ACF who owns the rights in Canada contacted the PAC about our illegal showing and we had to pay \$279 plus taxes. More effort will be put on the approval process for our final movie night.

6. Fundraising/Upcoming Dates

Nov review: Social reported raising over \$5000 for school items. Plus another \$1000 plus from drink sales. GM and LP are busy ordering new primary book sets (about 15 sets!), keyboards (about 10-20), apple TVS (about 4-6) for our school. There was also great support for the ukuleles. Since our event, Ms. Conley found a bunch of ukuleles that need repairing so rather than purchase all new ones, she will be having them re-strung and fixed. Any remaining money raised for ukuleles at the social will be set aside for music program items.

Jan 30: Saleema Noon, Sexual Health Educator Parent Night 6:30-8:00 PM. Saleema Noon sex education program will take place for K-7s Jan 31 and Feb 1 (kids meet in grade groups). Highly recommended to attend the parent night so you know what your child will be learning. The PAC pays for this program and this year, we are happy to announce the PAC will also be offering iGirl and iGuy to grade 7 students. It’s a program designed to help our students transition into the teen years, give them the power to make smart decisions and navigate big changes. More information on this will come later. The igirl and iguy program will be offered to grade 6/7 next year, only grade 7 this year.

Feb 13: Art Fair, This year we are hosting an Art Fair for K-7 for students to present a piece of visual art. So far there are about 130 applicants participating (double science fair participation). Art must be able to be put up on a board or wall, or sit on a table or the floor eg. no music or dance performances. Each artist will have to submit a “message from the artist”. Template will be provided later. We haven’t found an artist-parent willing and able to present to the classrooms but two parents at our meeting have connections at Emily Carr and will try to drum up some interest. The kids will present the art during the school day (after lunch) and in the evening.

April 5: Date set for final movie night. This movie night will be the first Friday after Spring break.

May 31: Carnival Date is set. Jen Hickey, our Chair of the event, reported having fairly decent response to the call out for new committee members. We are still looking for a couple more parents to help put the event on. Please consider signing up. The plan is to hopefully still have access to the gym and field (as in previous years) so not much should change.

Other business discussed

It was suggested the PAC try to do more with regards to sustainability and the environment. Smiley, is going to look into bringing P.O.W (Protect Our Winter) to the school. It’s an organization dedicated to stopping climate change. The organization is global and many members are well known athletes. They offer presentations, free of charge. Rebecca also suggested looking into ways students and parents could contribute in the area of sustainability whether that be through action like a clean up or education. Further, Rebecca mentioned that Doctors Without

Borders also do a free presentation for schools if any teachers were interested in investigating this topic with their students. LP and GM will look into it.

Ms. Russell wrote to the PAC requesting we purchase a portable, electronic scoreboard since it's very difficult to keep track of time and score using their current system. Apparently the new school may be wired for a more sophisticated, permanent scoreboard system so it's a matter of deciding if we purchase the smaller portable one now and then later save for something a bit better in the new school. The scoreboard is about \$600. LP to find out about the scoreboard in new school.

Date still to be determined for Home Alone and Babysitting Course. Likely April.

7. Admin Report

Lots happening at the school right now. Ongoing:

- A Biennale Project will be coming to Nelson. For this project, the students will be learning from Alice Guss, an educator and artist from Squamish First Nation. Each student will make a 6 inch drum and learn about legends, storytelling and the spirit of the drum. There will likely be a celebration of what they've learned in May.
- Rock the Salish is another program the students at our school are getting to participate in (thanks Ms Cook and Ms. Conley for applying). Students are learning songs about the environment and will be performing them on March 14 - venue to be confirmed.
- Skating program at Britannia has begun.
- Feb 7, Kindergarten Information Night at Nelson.
- Jan 21, Axé Capoeira Vancouver presentation at the school for K-7s.
- Feb 6, Global Play Day at Nelson- morning only
- New District Calendar is out. Parents have until Feb 15 to send any comments or concerns to VSB.
- Highschool application forms for grade 7 students coming out week of Jan 21

Next PAC meetings:

6:30pm in the library.

Tuesday, Feb 26

Monday, April 8

Tuesday, May 14

Monday, June 17

Meeting adjourned.