



LORD NELSON ELEMENTARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
LORDNELSONPAC.CA

**Parents' Meeting Minutes**

October 3,, 2016

5:45 pm Snacks and Greetings

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Lord Nelson Elementary School – Library

**PAC Executive**

Kate Newstead (KN), *Co-Chair*; Cynthia Farnsworth (CF), *Co-Chair*; Kelly Carter (KC), *Vice-Chair*; Laura McGowan (LM), *Treasurer* absent; Ken Eliuk (KE), Theresa Gibbons (TG), *Fundraising* both absent; Jane Tilley (JT), *Secretary*

**Representatives**

Daniel Knibbs (DK), *Principal*, Rosemary Thomas (RT), *Vice Principal*, Rachel Lloyd (RL) *Teacher*,

**Vancouver School Board**

Steve Snyder (SS)

**Members at Large:** Courtney, Caitlin, Jennifer, June, Amy, Rod, Smiley, Eldridge, Claudette, Helen, Elaine, Celene, Reith, Sandra, Monika, Curt

1. Introductions (CF). Minutes approved by KC seconded Sandra. Additions to the agenda: – concern about discontinuation of safe arrival; Kids/Dog survey. Approved by Monica seconded KN

2. Curriculum (RL)

Rachel gave a presentation outlining the re-designed curriculum. Grades k-9 introduced fall 2016. Grades 10-12 curriculum is being piloted this year.

The changes are a response to the technology-rich world our kids are growing up in and the ways in which we interact socially, personally and professionally. Reflecting advances in educational research thanks to which we understand better how children learn. Learning is deeper when achieved through doing rather than passive listening or reading; engaging in tasks that relate to real world deeper learning. Also offers a more global perspective and more emphasis on diversity and aboriginal perspectives. Key elements are Essential learning, Literacy and Math Skills. Core competencies: communication, thinking and personal/social competency. Focus is not just on what kids need to know (content-based), but also what they need to be able to do in order to achieve success in life beyond school. No one size fits all approach to curriculum – defines the what to teach but not the how, allowing teachers much more flexibility in their teaching. Opportunity to go deeper into the subjects, more time and flexibility is great, more emphasis on student interest: what are you interested in under this umbrella?

DK and RT introduced the curriculum website. Please see: [curriculum.gov.bc.ca](http://curriculum.gov.bc.ca) for extensive information.

Continue to encourage your child to question and take risks and appreciate diversity. Validate your child's learning process. Engage in family activities that encourage learning.

Q: Assessment and reporting – will be redesigned to align with the curriculum. There will be a transition period. There will be changes to the report card, but later this year. There will be some student-self-evaluation with regard to the competencies.

Q: How is the teaching standardized? Teaching focus will be more on the process than the content. Students will have different ways to showing their learning. PLOs are still there, but there are fewer. How you get the information is going to look different from class to class etc. Homework policy? Roughly no more than 10 minutes per grade. 70 minutes in grade 7 for example. Although sometimes homework is unfinished work. How does the curriculum transition from elementary to mini schools or university? DK: discussion still in process. Some of the learning principles are being adopted in higher learning, more experiential learning.

3. Seismic: SS. Behind schedule due to city permitting process. Tender is completed and they are evaluating bids. Hoping to start November, but contractor will set dates. Will set up a series of meetings likely November. Will have a better idea of scheduling at that time. Contractor will be engaged with conditions – needs to give detailed fine-tuned schedule. Completion goal is May 2018. They will not move the school mid semester, so aim is to be in new school fall 2018. Demolition – 3 months, including remediation (Site remediation is always full of unknowns.) Construction access likely off Garden Drive.

Rod: How has design integrity aligned with original 20 or so stakeholder requests? SS: Happy with team that put together proposal and with the design. 21st century learning design has been maintained. All those original ideas have been incorporated. The slide is a go! Outside cover area looks good. We get a wood floor in the gym. Natural materials, lots of natural light, better lighting, more bathrooms etc. – all covered within the design of the school. Durable – maintenance people are happy. Budget looks good. Project is in under the base budget. There is a priority list and a “back-pocket list” (“if we can we will”). Function and educational use – priority. Have to remember that these are replacements for seismically deficient schools (‘new’ schools have different funding), furniture and supplies will be transferred from old school. CF: once we know specifically what is included in the budget we will revisit the list of needs PAC were given.

Just waiting on the approval processes with the city. We have the development permit. Need to erect tree barriers before we can get the building permits. Next time will have more details. Confident that what we are going to get is great. CF: Next PAC meeting is November 7. May call a special meeting to discuss seismic upgrade as there will be lots of other issues to discuss at that meeting.

4. Financial report: KN. Laura unable to be here.

New school fund – 60000\$; General account \$8000 including \$4000 contingency.

Gaming at this time \$1400. Total is around \$20 per child

Rod raised the question of financial reporting following an incident in Surrey where council members cleared the PAC bank accounts. Recognize the need to be disciplined in terms of accountability.

KN: Conscious of our accountability to the parents, especially as we are so actively fundraising. It is actually difficult for any PAC exec to withdraw funds. (LM) We have controls in place: Two PAC officers of only four (Chairs, Vice-Chair and Treasurer) can sign any cheques/withdraw funds; Before we sign any cheques we must have the appropriate paperwork: invoices or receipts for example. CF: Will ask Laura to prepare a spreadsheet to share at the next PAC meeting.

Rod: what type of account is the \$60000 held in – is it interest bearing? CF: A question for Laura – since we are not a non-profit it could be.

5. Fundraising:

KN – reassurance regarding fundraising for some parents who may be out of here by the time the school is complete – the community will benefit from the landscaping etc. We will continue to fulfill our standard fundraising commitments. We have a fluctuating list of fundraising priorities: there will also be opportunities for additional funding as we go. Same amount of funding to same programs we have always promoted. – anything over and above those monies raised will go in the seismic fund. Talking to other schools about their experiences.

WRT: November 25th silent auction. Focus is on obtaining items to auction on the night. Eg student offering baby sitting etc. Lawn mowing etc. Lots of work involved in asking companies for help. We have asked parents to source from friends, family and close contacts. Last time we had 79 Items in a range of prices. Would be good to have new faces. But please check in so that there are not multiple

overlaps. Claudette – some schools have posted items for silent auctions online in advance. Could add to the fundraising page on website. Anyone who wants to work on auction please check in with Kate. Online sign-up sheet will be distributed. Once we have committees figured will be setting up small meetings. Will be looking for someone to do decorations for the night. PAC will try and send out a communication a week rather than overwhelming everyone.

Movie committee: Helen and Claudette. First movie night Movie October 28th  
Rod will do posters. Committee will decide on movies. Star Wars at the end of the year. DK: Can get pre-releases - there is a cost of \$175 but they are available. Might make more if it was a new movie. Family photo day October 29<sup>th</sup>: Alistair Bird donating time once again!! Probably \$75 for a session. Photos added to drop box, each family provided with a link to their own photos. Early enough that it is available for calendars and Christmas etc.

Coming up at school is Monster Mash– parent led dance. Primaries and secondary students are separated.

Also in November Poinsettia fundraiser (Amy) and Purdeys (Kelly)

We will have the first of the Parent information nights arranged by Sandra Heusel on body image. Other fundraising suggestions: Pedal heads bike camps – donate money to PAC – if we run a camp here. Donald's grocery stores offer gift card fundraisers – we sell gift cards for Donald's and they give 10 percent. Rod will talk to Kate and Donald's about this.

Additional items: Vancouver board of Parks and Recreation are running a Dog and kids survey online. They are looking at planning parks with and without dogs. Please see: [Vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs](http://Vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs).

Reith: concern with the abolition of the safe arrival program. Is there a way to maintain this?  
DK. Unfortunately we do not have the clerical staff to do this. It would need to be consistent. Hard to say what the commitment is – depends on the season. If a parent were to volunteer, they would need access to computer and phone. Would need to be the same person. RT – former school PAC had dedicated line at the school. CF: we used to have parents doing safe arrival but then the school had fewer students. Could the classroom teacher could red flag certain kids? Other suggestions include a buddy system; an app currently used by Templeton. DK It would be a school decision as to whether we could work with that. Is there a creative way that the PAC could assist/implement a program? Minimally taxing in terms of time. Call for assistance of someone to look into this.

#### 6. Admin report DK:

Cross country underway. Completed one mini-meet. 2 more. District meet is on October 20<sup>th</sup> at trout lake. 2 senior soccer teams now in their 3rd week. Co-Ed. 4 girls playing. Niz and Matsumi took this on. Last date is October 19th. All games at mount pleasant elementary. Lunch program – new provider (previous provider no longer wished to do it) – a little rocky. Sylvia intercepted the undercooked burgers. We now have a Plan B in place in case there is ever another food safety issue. Continually tweaking the menu. Meals are not bad, but perhaps not kid friendly. We need 120/125 kids to stay in the program. Form available online. Will send along with email. Terry fox run – 680\$ raised aimed for \$900. Gym sense – usually in the fall, but after discussion with staff it was moved to end of March after spring break. Can keep equipment up. Lucinda is engaged with the school. Swimming program for Kids grade 3 – “swim to survive”. Combination of Pool sessions and in-class curriculum. We used to have swimming in Grade 4, but the kids mostly knew how to swim. Grade 3 program is free. Thanks to PAC for the reception at Meet the Teacher Night. Good turnout, great to have representatives from Van coastal health, Out of School Care, Strong start, Templeton community schools. RT brought in Constable Don Johnson to give a talk on Pedestrian safety. We have had the first of a minimum of 6 mandated fire drills.

Upcoming dates:

School wide performance October 11 – Axis Theatre Company presenting Robinson Crusoe.

MDIonline questionnaire. Middle schools 2 class periods. Parents can opt out.

Earthquake drill shake-out October 20th 10.15 duck cover hold. Not an evacuation.

Wheels policy – walk your bike, scooter etc. Dismount.

Pro-d day October 21st  
 DEAR drop everything and read day October 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 October 26 and 27 early dismissal goal setting conferences.  
 Walkathon October 28th.

**Meeting Adjourned**

<b>Action Points and Priorities</b>	Volunteer
Laura to prepare a spreadsheet to share at the next PAC meeting.	LM
Laura - regarding the funds held in the seismic account: is this/could this be interest bearing	LM
Check out the apps and other possibilities for the Safe Arrival Program	All
Will be looking for someone to do decorations for the silent auction	KN
Rod and Kate to discuss possible Donald's gift cards fundraiser	KN/Rod
Possible additional meeting in November to discuss seismic upgrade	CF