

MINUTES NVPAC General Meeting
Thursday, Sept 24, 2009
7:00pm LMCC Meeting

Chair: David Whitehead

NVPAC In Attendance: Leslie Uhlenbruck, David Whitehead, Jane Lagden Holborne, Mike McGraw, Susan Corcoran, Stefanie Barilla, Lisa Cartwright

In Attendance: Sylvie Michaud, Sandra Bridgman, Robert Bradbury, Agnieszka Jaszczewska, Jamie Fletcher, Lesa Wilkinson, Cathy Paterson, Julie McNeil, Tanya Mealing, Marline Warner, Cathy Floe, Sandra Ayling, Judy Clarke, Heather Skuse, Gareth Gleason

Regrets: Holly Back, Trustee; Suzanne Till, Queensbury

Schools Represented: Highlands Elementary, Ross Road, Carson, Ridgeway Annex, Plymouth, Montroyal, Upper Lynn, Ridgeway Annex, Carisbrooke, Fromme, Lynnmour, Braemar, Sherwood Park

A. FORMAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Welcome at 7:10pm
2. Introductions – Attending and NVPAC Executive
3. Approval of Minutes: Motion Jane Lagden Holborne, Noted correction to spelling required for Lagden Holborne, moved as amended.

B. MEETING FOCUS

4. **NVPAC Activities to Date:** General introduction on NVPAC activities at the beginning of the school year:

Fundraising Cuts: Gaming Grants and the Annual Facilities Grant – implications that the Ministries are not listening to the associations, they want to hear from parents. This may be the only thing they are listening for, NVPAC is advocating (copies of letters will be cc'd to PACs). Asked that these are forwarded to members (including templates) to get responses to the Ministries. If we don't do this the government will not listen to us. Noted that the government is starting their budget consultation process now, they are asking the question if Education & Health are core areas to be protected. Parents need to let MLAs know how they feel on this.

Discussed what to do as a DPAC?

- Ask PACs to send letter and encourage parents to send letters directly.
- NVPAC has spoken to Jane Thornthwaite and she's encouraged us to get anecdotal information on the impact of these cuts directly to students/schools.
- Suggested send letters, emails, important to get specific impact to kids
- NVPAC sending to Premier, both ministries, MLAs, sending to government opposition
- NVPAC will re-send to DPAC reps contacts and addresses so parents can write their MLAs, also include a summary of issues as NVPAC views them.
- Discussed issue that most North Vancouver schools will not be significantly impacted by the reduction in gaming funds. Spoke to the principals involved in the issue, which is to help support those PACs where this is impacting them greatly. Also can look at what issue is more important, impact of AFG grant. We do not know when this will come. It really comes down to the philosophical issue of supporting Public Education. Is Public Ed something the government truly values. Should and do PACs just want to be involved in just fundraising to provide the necessities for students (books, computers, etc.), versus the core education issues.
- Noted the SD budget process will start earlier this year. Parents should ask "what will parents allow the SD to be flexible with, what will we let them cut?"
- The SD is being put into a situation of just reacting, versus being able to plan strategically for the future.
- Mentioned that the SD will want parent involvement in budget process, more details to

come in the future.

- NVPAC will continue to work on communicating with parents to keep them advised. The role of the DPAC rep is to help facilitate the sharing of information. Please let NVPAC know if you have communications issues.
- David Whitehead spoke of the North Vancouver PAC Advocacy Project, letters to key ministers, the Premier and local MLAs sharing our concerns. Letters will be posted to the NVPAC web site.

5. Budget: A revised Budget for 2009-2010 was presented Revised from preliminary presented at AGM due to grant changes. Conservative Budget presented, NVPAC will redistribute more money to PACs this year based on presented budget. Reviewed line items. Would like to get message out to all PACs that there are funds available for PACs from NVPAC. Ideal is to spend full 3900.00 grants available. Motion: Sandra Bridgman, carried.

Reminder:

PACs send your BCCPAC registration in asap, NVPAC will cover the membership fee.

A speakers list for PACs was requested will put out request in Newsletter to collect speakers to update NVPAC list. Request by email to info@NVPAC.org

6. DPAC Reps: An Orientation presented by Leslie Uhlenbruck

Role of the DPAC: noted at least half of the DPAC reps present are new to the position. Distributed information package on role and responsibilities.

General questions: Are DPAC reps part of the PAC Executive?

Ans. If it is in the PAC Constitution, yes you are on the Executive. Most school PACs are setup this way (but not all).

NVPAC is asked to be the voice of parents, we look to the DPAC rep to get that perspective from parents and provide this back to NVPAC. The SD does not have the capability to reach most parents in the SD, the SD will provide the information to NVPAC and ask to distribute to parents. NVPAC is trying to provide the broader perspective of the district issues for parents beyond their individual PACS (i.e. the current advocacy).

7. BCCPAC: Lisa Cartwright, NVPAC Rep to BCCPAC, provided overview of the broader perspective of looking beyond own school or district at provincial level. The BCCPAC provides an understanding of the laws and needs of other districts. DPACs are voting members of BCCPAC, parents can access resources, i.e. advocacy for students. We ask that BCCPAC emails are passed onto parents who are interested in this. Suggest that a parent who is interested can review and advise information that is important to your school. Noted parents can join the BCCPAC listserv. Noted when there is a survey it is important, please consider and pass on as appropriate.

Lisa Cartwright can be contacted directly if anyone has BCCPAC questions.

8. Committees: SD are rationalizing and pairing down the number of committees due to budget constraints. We will be advised of which committees will be going forward. NVPAC will ask for parent involvement and forward out at a later date.

Closing remarks from David Whitehead, the NVPAC looks forward to working with parents this year. Next meeting Oct 22nd, John Lewis in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned 9:25 pm

PAC REMINDERS:

- Make sure your PAC Chair and NVPAC rep are both receiving all NVPAC emails...update your listings with registrar@northvanpac.org
- Have you let us know who the NVPAC rep is at your school?
- Check out "NV Parent Advisory Council" web pages at www.nvSD44.bc.ca bookmark it!

UPCOMING DATES:

- Public Board Meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 27, SBO
- Education & Programs Standing Committee, Tuesday, Nov. 3, Westview School
- NVPAC General Meeting, Thursday, Nov. 19, 7pm, location LMCC

Location Notes:

SBO is School Board Office at 721 Chesterfield Ave, N.Van

LMCC is Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre at 810 West 21st St, N.Van