

NVPAC General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 19, 2009
Location: LMCC

Chair: Lisa Cartwright

NVPAC In Attendance: Karen Stewart, Leslie Uhlenbruck, David Whitehead, Susan Corcoran

Trustee: Mary Tasi, Jane Thornthwaite, Holly Back

In Attendance: Carolyn Warner, Steve Galliford, Tina Meyer, Norma Doig, Christina Medland, Kelly Jenner, Sandra Hancock

Schools Represented: Braemar, Plymouth, Capilano, Seycove Secondary, Argyle, Montroyal, Handsworth, Boundary, Keith Lynn, Windsor House

A. Formal Business

1. Call to Order and Welcome by Chair - 7:15pm
2. Approval of Agenda – David moved , Kelly second, motion carried
3. Approval of Minutes – quorum was not reached therefore the January Minutes were deferred to the next meeting and the formal business closed. An informal meeting followed.
4. Introduction and Trustee Spotlight: Mary Tasi, Trustee,
 - Civic planner (Ottawa & New Westminster)
 - Comes to trustee position as an outsider (not from within the PAC system)
 - Daughter from private school system to the High Performance program in SD
 - Background in developing community, through consultative processes
 - supportive of diversity within SD
 - school liaison for Balmoral FOS, Windsor House, YLC, Third Step, Continuing Education

B. Informal Meeting

5. NVSD VISION FOCUS: "Program Diversity" 7:15pm

In preparing for the evening, the Chair reviewed the District's high school web sites and found the course program books very interesting. Suggested parents start there to find out information about the specific courses each high school offers. A listing of District Programs was distributed as provided by Asst Superintendent Dave Pearce.

Carolyn Warner, of Montroyal introduced their "Global Learner" program: It is based on three themes per year, workshops for Primary & Intermediates are offered featuring the themes and are a mix of both primaries and intermediates, this program does require lots of parents help, everyone at the school is very excited and working together, feeling very proud of what they have accomplished so far. More information is available on the schools website.

Goal is for every student to have their own personal laptop, PAC has raised enough money to supply some laptops.

Welcomed Trustee and Board Chair, Jane Thornthwaite.

Norma Doig, PAC Chair, Keith Lynn Alternate Program: Presented the program offered, currently 120-130 students attending, ranging from Grade 7-12. Meets needs of grade 7-10 for different learning methods, emotional needs, etc. it is a caring, accepting, program. Classes of 12 students to 1 teacher and 1 teacher's aid. It has a family feeling, the Principal is exceptional and has been there 20 years, students help each other. There is reporting to parents every 5 weeks so everyone knows what's going on. Sept has bonding event for each class, to help the class come together as a group. There are opportunities for student trips (i.e. Oregon bike trip, science on the shore at Long Beach)

Grade 7 element – Transition, small group of students

Grade 11 & 12 – Task oriented, full curriculum, and job experience opportunities.

This program should be looked at as an option, not an "Alternate". Support includes art therapy, music, a doctor, counselors, RCMP liaison, and all of these are available on a daily basis.

Book suggestion: Sir Ken Robinson, *Out of Our Minds*

Welcomed Trustee Holly Back.

Steve Galliford, Co-PAC Chair, Windsor House: Provided a brief presentation on Windsor House, it is a Learning Community, in existence in the SD for about three decades, it is a parent and volunteer participation program which suggests volunteering for approximately 4 hrs/week. It is based on Democratic Education, approx 100 student attend, and it is based on the believe in learning by doing.

50% of out of district students currently coming to NVSD are going to Windsor House. Type of students attending WH are very self-directed, those with high anxiety, sometimes students have a designation (gifted, slow

learner, non-reader, etc.). This program works for a certain type of students, generally they don't fit into the general public school program. Intake to the program is quite rigorous. More information is available online through the SD website.

6. Currently a March NVPAC meeting is not scheduled, however if there is interest a meeting with parents report on district committees may be scheduled for March 26. A notice will be circulated.

7. Treasurer's report from Karen Stewart.
General Chequing Account: \$13,665.01
Gaming Account: \$1398.48

8. Meeting Closed 9:10pm

RESOURCES & ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Check out our NVPAC Webpage at
<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx>
Meeting dates, contacts, correspondence, documents for PACs, links

SCHOOL DISTRICT WEB PAGES TO NOTE:

Trustees: <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/trustees.aspx>
Meet our new Board of Education Trustees, check for meetings that the public can attend including Public Board Meetings, Finance & Facilities Standing Committee, and Education & Programs Standing Committees.