

NVPAC General Meeting Minutes
Special Topic of Discussion: School District Committees
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Chair: Lisa Cartwright

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

Trustee: Franci Stratton, Holly Back

In Attendance: Wayne Froese, Bob Gifford, Valri Wright, Helen Hughes, Mike McGraw, Susanne Till, Concetta Di Francesco, Todd Dea, Carolyn Warner, Cyndi Gerlach, Tina Meyer, Jane Lagden Holborne, Darcy Kaltio, Karl Graham, Christina Medland, Karen Johnson

Schools Represented: Plymouth, Queensbury, Seymour Heights, Eastview, Capilano, Windsor House, Montroyal, Canyon Heights, Larson, Handsworth, Braemar, Seycove Secondary, Argyle, Ross Road, Highlands, Westview

Committee Reports

1. Welcome by Chair - 7:10pm
2. Parent introductions
3. Committee reports:

Committee: Healthy Schools Initiatives Committee

Parent/NVPAC Rep: Cyndi Gerlach

Chair: Mark Lefroy, District Administrator

- currently driven primarily by Vancouver Coastal Health reps, but any agenda items can be added
- 2 NVPAC positions (Cyndi & Lisa Cartwright)
- current focus is: diet & eating healthy in schools
- targeting teenagers & hopefully expanding to elementary students & parents
- meets 3 times per year, ½ day commitment (9am-noon), professionals health care professionals sit on committee
- joint committee between school district (SD) & Vancouver Fraser Health (partnership)

Committee: Inclusion Committee (official name still to be confirmed)

Parent/NVPAC Rep: Cyndi Gerlach

Chair: Julie Parker, District Admin Student Services

- SD use to have & brought back

- There has been one meeting so far
- The SD is re-visiting this committee, focus is the look of inclusion in the SD
- Committee to work on developing a vision, philosophy statement
- teachers reps were not yet identified and there was no representation at the initial meeting (more teachers have been requested through a call out by NV Teachers Associations (NVTAs))
- terms of reference are to be developed
- there may be additional opportunity for parents interested in this committee to serve as part of future subcommittees for specific projects.

Committee: Education Week Planning Committee

Parent/NPAC Rep: Leslie Uhlenbruck

Chair: Kelly LaRoue (VP Seymour Heights)

- the planning committee for Education Week met 3 times earlier in the year
- SD Admin, teachers, trustees and NVPAC represented
- different events planned for Education Week
- although the SD values education all year long, this special week is to show cases education and all those involved in education in our SD
- there was a 25-year teacher/employee recognition event, which Lisa spoke at thanking teachers and other staff on behalf of parents
- Leslie asked that as parents we all help to build awareness throughout the District of Education Week (which is usually the week prior to Spring Break)

Committee: Band and Strings Advisory Committee

Parent/NVPAC Rep: Leslie Uhlenbruck

Chair Asst Superintendent Bryn Roberts

- issues/concerns for Band & Strings is that registration is coming up (starting beginning of April)& the committee is eager to get the word out
- also parents of Band & Springs Assoc (currently asking for a parent rep from each PAC/school to participate in their association through their PACs)
- next meeting Mon March 30th
- Breakdown is strings start in Grade 5, band Grade 4
- Goal is that all schools will have access to some form of band or strings for students
- The process is that if enough children need to sign-up, in order for hiring of teachers to proceed
- This committee is an example of where parents got together to keep a program running that would have otherwise been lost due to budget cuts

Committee: Emergent Weather Review Committee

Parent/NVPAC Rep: Todd Dea

Chair: Ray Bodnaruk (VP Carson Graham)

- SD struck committee to review what was done right & wrong resulting from Jan'09 inclement weather

- 3-4 meetings took place over 2 month period
- goal to have report done by mid-April
- sitting on the committee are three administrators, Linda Watson NVTA, a CUPE rep, some parents, (no students) Chair Ray Bodner VP Carson, Jerry ? from facilities
- Goal 1: changes to emergency response manual, including updating specifics related to weather issues. Also looking at currently policy on who should be making the decision to close schools and that Principals should be empowered to make decisions for their school
- Goal 2: each school would have individualized school plan in case of emergency (this would detail specific site plans)
- The issue this January was there was a lack of communications between NVD and the SD has made progress as a 'Letter of Understanding' is now in place.

Committee: Budget Tier Committees

Parent/NVPAC Reps: Cyndi Gerlach (Tier 7), Mike McGraw (Tier 3), Todd Dea (Tier 4/5), Karl Graham (Tier 8/9/10), Sandie Herunter (Tier 6), alternate Lisa Cartwright (attended Tier 6, 8/9/10, 7)

- SD budgeting process with parents involved in all levels of the budget tiers
- good parent representation on the tiers as a result of a call from the NVPAC to the parent communities
- 10 tiers with some lumped together
- looking at specific budget issues associated with all elements of school district
- noted class size is not likely to be impacted by the budget shortfalls
- examining where to cut, issues to reduce budget by approx \$3 mil
- as a parent it is a privilege to go through process to be enlightened & understand position of SD and parent suggested that PAC/parents have MLAs attend to see process
- internal NVPAC working paper to put plain language on some aspects of budgeting is being developed for parents
- District's PowerPoint presentation of some of the funding formulae available is available on NVSD website.
- due to economy, investments are down
- revenue from rentals, leases will be down
- within tiers discussed general process of School Board and decision process impact implications to budget

Additional committee reports will be heard at future NVPAC meetings.

4. General discussion on the current School Board and their decision making process. Lisa presented the concerns of the Executive, parents and other stakeholders who have been directly in touch with the NVPAC to share concerns. Discussed a draft letter written by the NVPAC Executive to the Trustees regarding general processes of SB,

ensuring appropriate information is available for making a decision, to ensure the Board's fiduciary responsibilities. There was general discussion and concern that the issue would not be focusing on the actual decision the Board reached regarding Windsor House, but that the emphasis would be on the process. It was agreed that the Executive would edit the letter and meet directly with Windsor House representatives prior to the letter being forwarded to the Trustees.

5. Meeting Adjourned 9:15 pm

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.