

NVPAC General Meeting – MINUTES
Thursday, January 22, 2009
Hosted by Windsor Secondary School PAC

Chair: Lisa Cartwright

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

Trustee: Holly Back

In Attendance: Susan Rhodes, Sylvia Gelissen, Libby Brown, Susanne Till, Todd Dea, Kelsey Hine, Yvonne Massullo, Alison Dunlop, Terri Thompson, Brenda Barrick, Jo Woronchak, Peter Kobzar, Carolyn Warner, Lynn Johansen, Kristin McNulty, Marta Carlucci, Tina Meyer, Marlene Warner

Schools Represented: Cleveland, Plymouth, Queensbury, Seymour Heights, Dorothy Lynas, Capilano, Blueridge, Windsor, Lynmour, Upper Lynn, Brooksbank, Windsor House, , Montroyal, Canyon Heights, Larson, Ridgeway Annex, Braemar, Seycove Secondary, Argyle, Lynn Valley

A. FORMAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Welcome by Chair - 7:10pm
2. Approval of Agenda moved David Whitehead, motion carried
3. Approval of Minutes from Nov 20, 2008 General Meeting moved by Kelsey Hine, second Todd Dea, motion carried moved
4. Introductions: Holly Back, Trustee, Liz Spell, Windsor Principal, PAC Chairs & Reps and thank you to Windsor PAC (Yvonne Massulo, Windsor PAC Vice Chair) for hosting the NVPAC General Meeting

B. MEETING FOCUS:

5. NVSD VISION FOCUS: "Integrated Communities" 7:15pm
[In the North Vancouver School District], we build strong, trusting relationships that develop the confidence and sensitivity needed to share ideas and create solutions within our schools, families of schools and school district.

C. TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

Family of Schools (FOS): How to meet your PAC Neighbours: what are you doing for your extended school community?

Building community amongst schools in your neighbourhood – share your PAC's experience and successes and hear about what other Families of Schools are doing together.

Yvonne Massulo, Windsor PAC Chair began the discussion with Windsor Secondary's example. They started 2 years ago, started with feeder schools, and the next stage will be to invite French emersion feeder schools. Started as parents realized they had similar struggles (i.e. food guidelines), and began to meet once a month. The FOS now promotes event/activities of each school through FOS, share information and speakers.

Windsor FOS is planning a Windsor Fest for the Spring. The event is to bring more of the community to the Windsor, promoting to families that are will be feeding into the school as well as to younger families.

High Schools starting to do more communications with FOS i.e. Carson extended invitations specifically to Grade 7s for their open house. Carson has had spring fair, pot lucks, Open House with some success. Sutherland trying to leverage all the new technology at new school by trying to get more technology to Brooksbank so students are prepared for

Sutherland.

Seycove has had a very successful FOS fundraiser for approx 15 years, all feeder schools have been involved. FOS can help inform parents about the different programs available to students (i.e. dance program at Windsor, etc.). Many parents don't know all the programs that are available at their local high schools.

Braemar, BCCPAC event went well. Braemar is a blended family as a result of French immersion so some students go to Handsworth with other attending Balmoral. Canyon Heights is sharing information with Handsworth with an informal system of help by email.

FOS connections need come from each High School but if necessary the elementary school parents should push their High School to build these relationships. For high schools the benefit is that more volunteers are available. If any school would like a contact for their FOS you can contact Lisa Cartwright, NVPAC for assistance.

Chair spoke of the NVPAC grant of \$200 which is available for FOS event, the goal is to foster these school communities.

Discussed a more centralized sharing of information at the district level (i.e. coordinate fundraising events). NVPAC will explore the feasibility of a hosted central calendar, linked on web site. Newsbytes is currently a 'community events' newsletter to help share information. David Whitehead to look into options for a community calendar.

Newsbyte@nvpac.org is NVPAC's newsletter to the community to share information. When sending your information for Newsbytes, please give enough notice of your event, ensure details are in a short paragraph with events contact person & email. Don't send attachments and whenever possible please include a link.

6. NVSD VISION FOCUS: "Community Connections"

[In the North Vancouver School District], we thrive on bringing people together through collaboration and responsive partnerships that strengthen communities and contribute to the needs of students and society.

Lisa Cartwright welcomed North Vancouver School District representatives, Superintendent John Lewis and Director of Facilities, Ian Abercrombie. To discuss...

SNOW TALK: School Stories and Suggestions – How parents can contribute to building policy around the safety of our schools and on behalf of our extended communities.

Discussion Points:

- > Who is responsible for ensuring safe school zones?
- > What can be done to ensure that our school zones are safely accessible in extreme weather conditions?
- > What priority should be given for keeping school zones accessible amongst other community places?
- > What are our expectations as parents and taxpayers?
- > What role should we play as parents?
- > How should families be informed about adverse conditions?

Superintendent John Lewis spoke to parents and the School Districts (SD) concerns resulting from the unique snow conditions families and staff faced at the return to school after the Christmas break. The SD is interested in working with parents to ensure safety to

students and staff. One result is that the SD is starting the District Emergency Weather Review Committee. The committee will consult schools and help with the development of snow plans.

Points of interest from John Lewis included:

- some from Blueridge, Braemar PACs, problem solved day by day, hour by hour, to ensure the safety of their students
- some schools problem solved in creative ways to facilitate children drop offs, i.e. Ross Road had a valet service for parents to ensure children who were dropped off got into the school safely, while parents didn't have to leave their vehicles)
- SD is geared to teach children & do well, but not geared up to solve all problems
- Worked thru handout (see attached).
- the SD did have check facilities to ensure schools could receive students, in some cases portions of schools were closed and remote facility checks may have provided in complete information
- with the existing emergency procedures the SD does not have a formal process to work through snow issues
- one suggestion is for schools to consider instituting snow routes with street signage to improve safety
- school engineers are aware of areas with higher snow loads and looked more closely at older facilities that may be of concern, i.e. Lynnmore gym was closed, an area in Ross Road was closed, roofers were hired for snow removal from roofs & gutters.
- parents broke into smaller group to discuss issues and provide feedback for the Superintendent.

Braemar Traffic volunteer is creating a snow plan. This can be forwarded to NVPAC and shared if parents are interested in receiving this information. The SD will be working with the newly formed committee and PACs to collect develop solutions for future snow events, in next 6 weeks.

D. NVPAC EXECUTIVE UPDATES:

7. EXECUTIVE

- Chair's Update

New initiatives:

- o Family of Schools grants and coffee meetings
- o Invite a NVPAC exec member to your PAC meeting
- o Next month's meeting focuses on NVSD Vision theme of Program Diversity

8. Next General Meeting – Thursday, February 19, 2009 at LMCC Visions statement on program diversity.

9. 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.