

Windsor Elementary School

Parent Advisory Council

MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, October 24th, 2018

Attendance:

School Staff:

Navdeep Aujla, Principal
Shelley Janvier, Head Teacher
Shahzyah Juma, Community School Coordinator

City of Burnaby, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services:

Louise Rusch, Program Coordinator, South West Area

PAC executive:

Gurpreet Sangheva, Co-Chair
Lindsay McFadden, Treasurer
Natalia Rodriguez, Secretary

1. Opening:

- Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.
- The agenda was set as follows:

2. Approval of the past meeting minutes:

September meeting minutes are checked, and approved.

3. “After-school” programs: *Louise Rusch, Program Coordinator, South West Area*

Currently the registration is full for *Cooking* and *Halloween crafts*. That is, there was a very positive response and interest from the families.

In the past, the following programs were also successful regarding registration: *Lego, cooking and crafts, babysitter* (run with school support), among others.

In addition, the Sports program (school registration required) receives school financial support as well.

Families showed interest in arts programs, basketball, badminton, among other sports, music, according to the survey. As for music, it will not be offered as an after school activity due to its characteristics (check Bonsor and Edmonds Community Centres in the South West Area for courses).

Suggestion: offerings of programs for all ages throughout the year. – This occurs on a termly approach to ensure everyone has an afterschool option at least once a term.

Bonsor swimming pool maintenance closure: from November 12th until December 16th.

There is a special interest on receiving feedback from the families as regards the programs being offered. All families are invited to complete the survey at <https://www.burnaby.ca/Things-To-Do/Be-Active-Programs/Programs-for-Everyone/After-School-Programs/Afterschool-Survey--Southwest.html>

4. Principal report: Navdeep Aujla, principal

4i. Staffing:

The school has incorporated a new librarian, new EAs, an EA III, and a music teacher (Ms. Lo) that collaborates with the former music teacher who is in charge of the Choir. There is still a need of an EAIII which will be covered by next week.

4ii. Infrastructure:

Library renovations are almost completed, thus, library activities will be resuming soon.

The Kiosk set up was completed, and half of it is organized. There is a need of parent collaboration in order to keep water supplies, snacks; acquire equipment, tents, cooking items, portable bathroom, among other emergency preparedness items; as it is well-known that the school needs to be prepared to provide food and shelter in case families are not able to pick up their children right away. Volunteers are welcome to contact the Principal in order to coordinate next steps. (Note that in May the earthquake drill full release will take place)

There might be opportunities for getting grants, like the grant offered by the City of Burnaby (\$ 400) for playground upgrades or renovations, if the school is also raising money in order to match the amount of the grant or to have the rest of the value required for the renovation.

4iii. Equipment:

Projectors will be incorporated in the Kindergarten rooms; and next school year they will be set up in the LSS rooms and Mr Ragoobar's room (grades 2-3).

4iv. Educational resources and assessments:

Writing assessments were completed by the teachers, then, goals were established based on the results, there will be **more emphasis in XXX**

The school purchased Write Traits, for grades 1-7, which are **research-based** programs containing materials for teachers in order to develop writing skills **following the 6 traits of writing: voice, ideas, presentation, conventions, organization, word choice, and sentence fluency.**

In addition, the school acquired the yearly IXL license (valued over \$1,000), in order to detect Math deficits from grades 4 to 7, **practice at school and home, and monitor the general performance.**

It is important that students from grades 4 to 7 participate in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), that is, the annual province-wide assessment of all B.C. students' academic skills. This assessment provides valuable information of the development of reading, writing, and numeracy skills, to parents, schools, and school districts. Besides the school ranking also depends on this, and the school gets 0 (zero) for every student that does not take the assessment.

4v. Assemblies, Programs, and Special Events:

Past events:

The Annex Thanksgiving celebration was a very special occasion for celebrating gratitude and being thankful. A “table” was creatively laid out and the students of the Annex and staff shared a whole “turkey dinner”. Firefighters joined the celebration, and the Principal expressed our gratitude to all the people helping in our community.

Earthquake drill: it worked out well even it was scary for some of the students.

Hatchery (field trip): division 5 (Ms. McHugh’s class) showed in-depth knowledge about the topic as well as about indigenous populations.

Pumpkin patch (field trip): grade 1.

Current programs:

Sports Programs for grades 6 and 7: ongoing with Mr. Gomez and Mr. XXX as volunteers.

Breakfast program: ongoing with grant.

Rotary coats: it has shown to be very useful, providing 15-20 families with coats.

Boots for the winter and shoes will be available.

Upcoming events:

October 31st: Halloween Assembly.

November 21st: Santa’s photos, volunteers are registered.

November 21st: Family night free tickets, WE day charity (**WE.org/WECareVancouver**).

December 3rd? Gift giving store: donations will be collected by November 30th. The letter is ready to be distributed; each student will choose an item for a family member from the “store”.

Last day of school before winter break: Pancake breakfast. Firefighters will be helping out as well as volunteers.

Note: as for the cupcake sale, it will be organized when school year resumes in January-February.

5. Financial report: Lindsay McFadden, treasurer

Current balance of the account: \$4,040. Then, the account is in good fit to pay for the Kiosk.

Current balance of Gaming account: \$1,275.

The treasurer will check whether a raffle of Canucks tickets will impact or not the gaming account.

6. Other activities for parents and students: Shahzyah Juma, Community School Coordinator

Food classes started and will be running until November 15th. 8 adults are involved, and the registration is closed.

The after school programs (young Rembrandt, mad science, badminton, multiple sports, basketball, babysitter) are very well attended. As it was mentioned before, in order to lower the cost of these activities, 40% is subsidized, and in some cases full subsidy is given.

Upcoming courses will include BCIT nurses, escape rooms, Robotics among others.

Helping Children and Families Association with the support of Payless shoes, is donating gift cards to Burnaby Schools, in order to help children in need of shoes.

As for boots, previously mentioned, they will be distributed on site as well, according to needs.

Healthy Kids Fair (for families with babies to 5-year-olds): 3 are being held throughout the year at the following Community Centers: Cameron (March 5th), Edmonds (October), and Bonsor (June).

Thursday mornings (9:15-10:30), starting on November 22nd: all parents are invited to join our Community School Coordinator to have coffee and connect. All inquiries about the school, resources and more, are welcome.

Our Coordinator can be reached in person on Thursdays, and by email: shahzyah.juma@burnabyschools.ca.

7. Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 18:24 pm.
- *Next Meeting:* Wednesday, December 12th, 2019 (from 17:00 to 18:00 pm)