

ECOLE ROSS ROAD SCHOOL

2015/2016

PAC GM MINUTES

October 21, 2015-2016 - Library

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are "Unapproved"

Here's why: As we move with technology and the new pace of life, we are making changes to how and when information is shared with our parent population. Ross Road PAC now has fewer General Meetings per school year than we have had in the past, and we are communicating much more via internet and email. Moving forward, we will post minutes from General Meetings on our website BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND ACCEPTED at a general meeting. Therefore, these minutes are NOT the final version and some content may change during the next PAC General Meeting.

Attending	Bettina Harris	Mike Pretorius
	Janice Sardari	Tamrah Corben
	Caroline Clarke	Christie Lutz
	Sean Burke	Jen Nutall
	Joulia May	Greg Thorpe
	Sarah Dennis	Caroline Leonard

Regrets Cheryl Schreader Collette Anderson

Administration

Carla Orr, Principal; Susan Owens, Vice-Principal

Agenda

Argyle Rebuild

Principal's Report

Vice-Principal's Update

Approval of Minutes from the AGM, 27 May, 2015

Introduction to the PAC Executive
Volunteering - How to get involved

Events: Safeteen
Jesse Miller
Tennis BC

Treasurer`s Report
Voting on spending for batteries

Donations

Suggestions and Ideas

Canadian Parents for French

Meeting called to order: 7:06pm

Argyle Replacement Plan

Presented by **Franci Stratton** - School Trustee and liaison for the Argyle family of schools.

FS confirmed that the Argyle rebuild has been on the ministry plan since 2005 due to the need for seismic upgrades. The rebuild is the top priority for the district.

In **2012** the Ministry designated **seismic funding**. The funds allocated are **39.5 million**.

For an extra **7.9 million** the district can build a new school but the district has to find the cost difference.

The district investigated the sale of surplus property. The Board of Education went ahead in identifying schools that will not be needed in the future and made sales accordingly.

After public consultation, the district sold **Keith Lynn School** and **Mount Royal Elementary**. Intend to sell **Ridgeway Annex**. The fourth reading takes place this Monday, 26 Oct, 2015 in front of city council.

Financial requirements have been met, **as long as the Ridgeway sale goes through**.

The Board hopes that the project agreement will be signed by the end of this school year.

Estimates suggest that the building process takes four years from design to build so the **school would open 2019**.

Cost has escalated to **\$51.5 million** to allow for extra capacity. The sale of property can cover this cost increase.

The hope is that the Ministry won't order a seismic upgrade and that the rebuild will proceed.

Questions from the Floor:

Is the only opposition to the rebuild due to cost?

FS: Opposition stemmed from the district's decisions to sell property. Otherwise there has not been opposition to the rebuild.

Where will the kids be placed during the rebuild?

FS: The kids will remain in the school and the new school will be built on the playing fields. That does present complications in terms of neighbourhood impact, which will have to be addressed prior to the rebuild.

Does the district have the funds or not?

FS: As long as the Ridgeway sale goes through the district has the funds. It is at fourth reading, which is usually little more than a formality. Treasury has no reason to turn it down that FS can see.

Can you speak to the parcel of land around Braemar school, which has been an issue?

FS: The school district saw a piece of land which was not needed by Braemar school, now or in the long term. It could cover extras, such as an artificial turf field. The sale would produce **2.4 million**.

FS: A small group is opposed to the sale. They have raised environmental issues and issues related to traffic. The building project has presented changes to address traffic issues and a permit to build 4 homes. The land would never be cleared for school use.

Is this information posted anywhere?

FS: Information is available on the school district website **sd44.ca** land, learning and liveability update.

Will there be an artificial turf field?

FS: The Ministry provides funds for a gravel field only. The district wants more all-weather fields. Will need to be funded in addition to the rebuild budget. Money from the sale of the Braemar land would contribute funds.

Questions can be directed to Franci Stratton:

fstratton@sd44.ca

Principal's Report

Reminder to all parents that they can contact administration about Argyle.

Introduction of **Susan Owens**, new vice-principal.

Susan thanked the school community for a warm welcome and outlined her responsibilities.

She taught in Langley for many years and is continuing to teach at Ross Road.

Update

Thank you to parents for the **projectors**. All classrooms, plus the music room and the library, have projectors and new screens. The teachers greatly appreciate having them.

Thank you to the parents who offered to buy new cross country and track and field in smaller sizes.

Appreciate all the volunteering that parents provide.

Student vote. The four Federal candidates came to speak to the students prior to the election. Government is part of the Grade 5 curriculum but all the intermediate students have had some discussion recently. Ross Road ran a student vote. Organised by Angela Tancon and Marie McCallister. The Green party won!

The space at the back of the school is currently being rented to a **film production**. They are donating money in addition to rental fee of which the school retains 25%. It has been a positive experience and it has been good for the children.

Monday Message. The newsletter has ended but the MM is intended to replace as a communication to parents. Parents appreciate the update. There have been some issues with the new computer system.

Driving and Parking. Please follow the one way rules and the parking restrictions. Important for our neighbours on Allen that it isn't used as a turning circle.

Band. Karen Koch is off until Christmas. John Rogers is filling in temporarily. There is now a posting for the position until Christmas. John is applying.

Vicki Thomas will be off for medical reasons for several more weeks. Trying to keep TOC consistency.

Questions

Nut aware issue. *Can we share again with the school community the need to be nut aware?*

Carla will include in the Monday Message a reminder about school nut policy.

Nuts cannot be taken into shared spaces or classes with children with allergies.

Is there a reason RR doesn't have after school care?

RR does not have the space to offer after school care. Other schools have a dedicated area.

Is it possible to get another classroom? I would rather pay to send my child to care here.

After school care is run privately so it is separate from the school district so the school would not initiate.

Vice-principal's Update

Student leadership. Important, especially at the grade 6/7 level. Several students participated in **WE day**, having raised funds for North Shore Search and Rescue.

Grade 7s and 6s are lunch time monitors in the primary classrooms.

Grade 7s and 6s are also assisting with valet.

Classroom ambassadors are being asked to help with set up for events, also taken from older grades.

Grade 7s have the opportunity to play basketball again but some parents are working with grade 6s who are interested.

Volleyball and track and field upcoming.

Questions

What's going on with all the stuff on the stage?

SO: The stuff on the stage is because of a district program called clear the clutter. Designed to clear unwanted/broken clutter from schools. Currently looking at what is salvageable or needs particular recycling. There is a delay in the district collecting the unwanted items.

Approval of AGM Minutes

MOTION proposed by Janice Sardari. Approved by Jacqui Stebbings. 50 ayes. No abstentions or objections.

Please check the website for previous minutes or PAC information.

Introduction to the PAC Executive

Full list of PAC executive members is available on the website
The PAC funds a number of things. Please see the website for full list.

Welcome back coffee. Two coffee meetings were conducted. One for all parents and one for Kindergarten parents. Successful on both counts.

Christmas Craft Fair. Organised by Justine Simmons and raised approximately **\$12,000**.

Spring Carnival. Organised by Tamrah Corben and raised approximately **\$10,000**.

Both events are very popular with students, as well as providing funds for the PAC.

Munchalunch - the program is under way. Thanks to Kim and Wendy. An important fundraiser for the PAC.

Family photos. Thanks to Caroline Leonard for organising. **\$720** raised this year.

Card project. This project is popular with parents and is underway. Thanks to Deborah Clegg.

How to get involved?

We need help with the following roles:

i) Valet Service. Need help in January 2016.

NB Carla Orr said she is obliging older students (grade 6/7s) to help volunteer with valet. 8:25-8:45. Asked parents of children in those grades to support.

ii) Environment Club Coordinator

iii) Christmas Event Coordinator

The Christmas Craft Fair can be scaled back or be quite different from previous events. Open to all ideas but need a volunteer to oversee.

Christy Lutz has already volunteered to do the raffle baskets.

iv) Parent Social Coordinator

Q can we host events in the school?

If there is no alcohol that can happen. North Vancouver has a policy of no alcohol on school property.

Can we sell tickets to events with alcohol if they are off school property? If not it makes it very difficult to sell tickets.

Carla to confirm but cannot see an issue.

Events

Safeteen

Wed Nov 18th, 2015. Anti-bullying and violence prevention program started in BC. For children in grade 6/7.

Endorsed by the BCTF and several school districts.

Helps teens develop skills to cope with challenging situations.

Great feedback from previous workshops.

3 hour workshops presented in gender separate workshops.

PAC wants this to continue every two years.

Tue 17 November 7:00pm Parent night. Opportunity for parents to hear about the program.

The cost has increased due to additional students coming to RR over the summer.

Total cost is \$2,336. The PAC couldn't justify that sum of money for 2 grades. Lene undertook to find funds.

\$1,575 donation from Polygon Homes.

A RR parent donated **\$500** anonymously for the program.

This left a shortfall of approximately \$250 which the PAC is contributing from the speakers' budget.

Jesse Miller will be presenting on how students use and communicate over social media websites and applications with the sole purpose of producing smart, aware and ethical social media participants who communicate an effective and positive message and build an online reputation that will help students into the next stages of life.

Tennis BC

This year is a sports theme. \$5000 has been allocated to fund. The tennis program will take place over three weeks April 4-22, 2016. Each class will get 4 sessions as part of the curriculum. The event will take place in the gym.

Treasurer's Report

Tamrah proposed the **MOTION** to vote in the **Treasurer** - Bettina Harris - seconded by Lene Burgmann. 50 ayes. No objections or abstentions.

Full details of the Treasurer's report are available on the website.

Spending was voted on at the GM May 27, 2015.

Income statement

Food Days raised \$20,000. Now our biggest fundraiser.

Gaming grant funds are an amount per student.

PAC Purchases

Items voted on in the AGM for spending:

Ipads for LAC

Ipads for cart

Laptops for cart

\$5000 for the tennis program

Gym mats

Food day bins

Track and field uniforms

Sport equipment

MOTION proposed by Tamrah to purchase 14 batteries for laptops at cost of \$595.68. Vote to allocate **\$600** to fund the purchase. Seconded by Joulia May. No abstentions or opposition. 50 approved.

The district assessed the laptops and confirmed it is worth spending.

Donations

A Lynn Valley resident donated **\$500** in memory of their grandmother who has 5 great-grandchildren at Ross Road. They did not have any wishes as to how the money should be spent.

PAC Exec has suggested to support the sport program this year by purchasing more **soccer balls** for the classes with the above donation.

Grade 4/5 children raised **\$112** at a bake sale to raise money for sport equipment which can also be used to purchase the soccer balls.

A parent donated the cost difference for the Safeteen program.

Suggestions/Ideas

How to spend the funds above?

Presenters and speakers?

Programs?

Please email rossroadpac@gmail.com with your ideas, suggestions and feedback.

Play First

Program that some parents really support. The idea is to introduce recess play before lunch to help kids eat a more complete lunch and be able to focus more in the afternoon. PAC in liaison with the school administration.

Biggest road block for the primary classrooms. While the children are playing the teacher cleans up and preps for the afternoon for 1pm start. Teachers concerned that they cannot adequately prepare the classroom for afternoon lessons.

Teachers open to exploring how it is addressed in other schools.

Parent suggested that parent volunteers could help with the clean-up.

Idea is that children will sit more calmly if they run around first and then eat.

Q What happens if the children are still eating at 1 when school starts?

At Ridgeway they moved music appreciation to the start of the afternoon to give a few more minutes and children will be accommodated. There are ways to address issues.

Canadian Parents for French

Update from Lisa Birrell.

The CPF is a National non-profit organisation. Lisa represents the North Vancouver chapter.

The mandate is to create extra French activities.

Concours d'Arts - National Competition

French Film Festival

Grade 12 grad breakfast. Grade 7s from French invited also.

Jeunes Artistes - A bilingual competition that is open to all students.

RR is eligible for a **\$400 school grant** which is awarded where there is a CPF representative. RR can apply to put the money toward an event that the school puts on for all.

Maybe the PAC could match the donation?

CPF is conducting a membership drive.

Lisa will be stepping down. RR will need a CPF rep in 18 months.

Verbathon - game available for kids to support French. Maybe some PAC funds could go towards buying more games.

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The calendar of events is available on PAC website

www.rossroadpac.ca

Please sign up to receive emails. Thanks to Greg Thorpe for his lively email updates.

PAC asks each class to send two representatives. Great to see so many parents in attendance tonight.

The date of next meeting will be in February. It will be posted on the website.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:54