

**Norquay Elementary**  
**PAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Dec 13, 2022**

- Welcome and introductions
- Attendance
  - In-person: Stephanie Keating, Christina Lui, Annie Wong, Michelle Yuen, Steven, Hannah Tan, Shawna, Deena, Maggie, Ms. Ba, Ms. Ong
  - Online: Sue Ann Selman, David Yap, Letti Kwong, Holly Ma, Nana Hamilton, Nancy McLean, Nel Chand, Will Valley, Shelly Singh, Jason Yuen
- Approval of past minutes Nov 15, 2022 → Approved
- Admin Message (Ms. Ba/Ms.Ong)
  - Themed celebration of “Light!” - March 9, 2023
    - Feature different cultural groups, opportunity to learn about the cultures of their friends and teachers
    - Vision is to have every class partner up or by themselves to present a celebration of light - could be moon, sun, fire, candles etc.
    - Would like to ask families to bring their input if they have traditions or cultures that celebrate light. We would like to include families so its not just the school presenting something, will have their input
    - It is up to how the kids want to present
    - Contacted Indigenous education worker, staff/teachers.
  - Deena: Date chosen March 9 so it is central to the school year and just before Earth Day when lights are turned off for energy savings. Also it is a nice time of year that is not as busy. Want to look at how everyone has more commonality. The VSB is also interested in this. The communications and management would like to come. They love the idea. Lots of ideas about having student MCs. They are already doing this at assemblies. One of the staff thought about introducing a dance from her hometown.
  - Ms. Ong: We each have a story. This is an opportunity for students to teach us what they do at home.
  - Ms. Ba: Also an opportunity for teachers to share their stories to help students see them as people and not just a teacher figure.
  - Nana: Is this during the day or in the evening?
  - Deena: We plan to do multiple shows. We want family involvement.
  - Nana: I want to bring up the ideas from our last meeting about tagging on a celebration of our 110th birthday, maybe we can do some fundraising with a silent auction and leave the carnival separate.
  - Deena: I think we should be mindful of how many big events we do in a year. If we plan to do a carnival in June that may be challenging. We may be able to incorporate 110 years. The purpose of this event is to highlight the kids' performance, fundraising should

be secondary. Someone asked about parent volunteers - this is a school initiative and it is something for parents to enjoy. We will take in everyone's ideas.

- Ms. Ong: This year we are celebrating light. Next year we could be doing colour. The point is to bring the community together and highlight our "hive mind". We just would like to pick your brains and for parents to share ideas with kids and have the kids bring those ideas to their classroom. We hope to create a legacy. We are not looking to have the parents volunteer.
- Ms. Ba: Classroom teachers can discuss if they want to collaborate together.
- Deena: Similar to the Remembrance Day Assembly there was some collaboration. Kids get excited when they learn other people may do similar things.
- Hannah: We can send an email to class reps to share this news.
- Deena: We will continue to bring this forward in the newsletter.
- Shawna: Is there an opportunity for kids to perform with kids in other classes? It is around the time of Persian new year.
- Deena: Definitely, and kids who are not Persian may want to join in.
  
- Maggie: Resource team is making a request on behalf of the entire school for noise cancellation headphones. One teacher has purchased a set herself and is lending it out. They are requesting for a class set, would maintain and sign out to different groups. They think there could be a greater need but will start with a set of 30.
  - Annie: That would need to come from the general account.
  - Jason: Would everyone like to vote on that today?
    - Vote → Approved
  - Steven: Do we have a set already? Maggie: Yes but belongs to the teacher
  - Annie: How do we clean it?
  - Maggie: It goes over the ears so easily cleaned?
  - Annie: Who will purchase?
  - Maggie: Probably Laura Godfrey, the resource teacher who is requesting.
  - Letti: What are the other asks for funds?
  - Deena: We currently don't have any other asks. We do have an issue with a hole in the volleyball net, there may be an ask for that.
  
- Treasurer's Report (Annie) - see attached
  - Bank reconciliations up to date.
  - General Acct - 33K
    - Dpac gave us money of \$977.96 with hope that it will be used to strengthen the engagement of parent community by organizing community building events, provide virtual parent-focused guest speakers/workshops, providing food and childcare for PAC events.
    - Deena: We can have the babysitters be some of the student leaders so they don't need to be paid and can be part of their service. Can give them a pizza party at the end of the year as one idea.

- Gaming Acct - 48K
  - The big project would be the natural landscape project
- Jason: Would the volleyball nets be eligible for gaming grants?
- Annie: I've asked this before and if used during school hours and it doesn't qualify.
- Deena: A volleyball net is about \$600. The benefit is that the parents can watch the game.
- Christina: Can we just vote on it now?
- Deena: The cost is \$617. I suggested a cost share, \$500 for general replenishment of equipment. The main thing is they want to host games which we can't now.
- Steven: Can we patch?
- Shawna: I used to play volleyball and that isn't really possible.
- Hanna: Let's vote.
  - Vote → Approved for \$700
  
- Garden Update (Jason) - see attached from Val
  - Ongoing fundraisers is Just Mulch
  - There is a garden instagram feed "@norquaygarden"
  
- Updates
  - Events
    - Mount Seymour Ski/Snowboard Lessons start first week of Jan 2023.
    - Reach out to PAC if you can or need to carpool - norquaypacteam@gmail.com
  - Tea Fundraiser through Munch a Lunch. Please check the website.
  - Hot Lunch
    - Christina: Can we have a more robust discussion about this?
    - Hanna: There are a lot of feelings amongst parents about this given we've had it for years
    - Deena: Our responsibility is to bring forward what is happening at the district level. If you would like a more robust discussion, perhaps you don't need us [Maggie and Deena] here.
    - Hanna: We do need some guidance from the school. There are a lot of different opinions.
    - Steven: Part of the reason I'm here is to have a better understanding. Is this a directive or guidance?
    - Deena: The district is pushing forward with equity. We don't want to bring in-equity during school hours, one kid has and one kid does not, because of money. I understand this is a fun activity of breaking bread together. Lots of people don't have as much as they did a year ago, the food bank is needing more donations. Maybe there could be a fundraising event where people could bring donations in for pizza and if there's extra money it could be donated to the Food Bank.

- Christina: I think it is rather paternalistic to say that we should not be offering something of choice assuming that someone of less means would not choose to purchase. I am a professional fundraiser and it is a very different lens. I feel some things are conflated and some assumptions being made about how harm is done. I think there are some issues around choice. I am not sure how to apply this framework.
  - Deena: I can do a workshop on equity if you would like that. As for the choice piece, I do know that kids cannot choose to purchase it.
  - Maggie: There have been conversations around the stigma about how the foods is packed. Other kids recognize it. We can't stop providing it. That isn't as much of a choice. We do have an ability to decide what we bring in though.
  - Deena: I phoned other schools and they don't have the same socioeconomic issues that we do. We have two district programs and the catchment population. If it is about having a hot lunch can we do it in an equitable way? If it is about fundraising that can be done at other times?
    - Since we have the funding this year from the district we can try something where we have a school pizza day and ask for donations and see how much comes in.
  - Shawna: If you want a hot lunch we could take orders and it may be a breakeven event or you may have a profit.
  - Deena: I've been a classroom teacher before. It's very hard to manage seeing some kids have it.
  - Hannah: I think we have come to this point where we aren't using hot lunch as fundraisers anymore. I think we should set up a working group and have a separate meeting time.
- Lunar New year Festival
  - Jason: Is this a go?
  - Hanna: We were waiting to see what was happening with the Light festival. I think, correct me if I'm wrong, but this is a tradition in the school. I think one of the things that is special about the school is the EMB program.
  - Deena: There is an event for students on Jan 10 with an organization that will be coming in. It was up to the teacher who wants to be involved.
  - Michelle: I think we should pass this year given the Light event is a pretty big event and the Lunar new years event is meant to be a community event as well. End of January is pretty soon too.
  - Jason: I think we should keep it to Fall and Spring - the Halloween event and Carnival.
  - Annie: We also have the Welcome Back Breakfast Jan 13. We have secured Save ON Foods donating juice boxes, Starbucks donating coffee, plates
    - We need volunteers.
    - We need PAC to approve funding - \$600 is safe.
      - Voted → APPROVED

- Deena: We cleared out the furniture in the cafeteria. We also invited the Van Tech Band to come back. I will confirm with them.
  - Hanna: Can we expand into the gym?
  - Maggie: yes.
  - Discussion
    - Seating 8-9am
    - Volunteers come 7-7:30am
    - Deena: If there is advice to limit numbers we can do things in shifts.
    - Can set up night before. Need 20+ adults. Currently 6-7 committed
    - Hannah - will send out email blast
    - If interested in volunteering parents please contact norquay pac.
- Carnival (Hannah)
  - Set for June 9 3-7pm, booked Pony rides, bouncy castles. I don't know if I can book the big rides, they haven't gotten back to me yet.
- JNEA
  - Nana - I reached out to the generous alumni donor - He would be open to giving a motivational talk to teachers. It would be 2-3 alumni together. I connected with Deena and Maggie. They liked the idea. They first need to put us in touch in PD chair who organizes all the events in the year that isn't coming from the admin side. We can have a small meeting group with the admin and teachers and looking for a date in April. He put me in touch with the alumni agency, she suggested shooting for \$110,000 given it is our 110th anniversary. Having a target goal is not a bad idea as we can post it on our facebook site. He also raised the point about raising money for a legacy fund. Deena has experience but needs to reach back to the VSB as it is more complicated at the elementary school. Our photos for the alumni Eileen Sue and David as we need formal approval.
- Jason: would like to nominate Hanna Tan to be co-chair.
  - Voted → Approved
- Jason:
  - Will leave the discussion for cross walk safety update to the next meeting
  - Reminder instagram handle for Norquay is: "@norquaypac"
  - Email [norquaypacteam@gmail.com](mailto:norquaypacteam@gmail.com) if interested in joining hot lunch working group.
- Next PAC Meeting Jan 17, 2022

Meeting Adjourned ~19:15