

SPUL'U'KWUKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Present: (via Zoom online)

Attendance:

Present:

- Elaine Stapleton (Principal)
- Jenny Slinn (Vice Principal)
- Phoebe Li (Chair)
- Henry Fung (Vice-Chair)
- Nicole Zhou (Treasurer)
- Crystal Wu (Secretary)
- Victoria Kwa
- Annie Qiu

Absent:

- Marco Li (Treasurer)

1. Land Acknowledgement

- We would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the First Peoples of the hən'qəmin'əm' language group, on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

2. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:33am, by Chair Phoebe Li

3. Amendments/ Approval of Agenda

- MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. Moved: Crystal Wu / Seconded: Henry Fung /Carried.

4. Review/ Approval of Minutes

- MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of November 19, 2024, as presented. Moved: Nicole Zhou / Seconded: Crystal Wu /Carried.

5. Reports

a) **Administration** (by Principal Mrs. Elaine Stapleton)

- i. At the end of November, a person made a Facebook post saying that a sick bird was found near our school and was infected with avian flu. I contacted the SPCA and met with an officer who told me that was not the case, and the bird had been collected and sent for testing. I received word that the testing results came back to confirm the bird did not have avian flu. The bird had a fungal infection that caused it to become ill. As always, we remind students to stay away from wildlife and to report any sick animals.
- ii. The **snow geese** are back and the school district has consulted with Vancouver Coastal Health. The Health Officer provided the following general advice for the school community:
 - Avoid exposure as much as possible and practice good handwashing.
 - Students and staff should refrain from touching geese droppings; if contact occurs, wash hands immediately. Soiled hands should be kept out of mouth and hands washed after exposure, especially before eating.
 - In general, students should be advised to wash their hands upon return from the playground.
 - Accommodation may need to be implemented so that soiled footwear doesn't track into schools and classrooms.
 - If droppings are tracking inside the school, cleaning frequency of soiled areas may need to be increased.
 - Playground toys and equipment soiled with droppings should be adequately cleaned.
 - Students should not touch dead or sick birds; these should be pointed out to staff who can then initiate appropriate actions to ensure timely cleanup.
- iii. We are fortunate to have several **presentations** for students this month:
 - a. Living Rhythm – rhythm, music, and tap (Jan. 13)
 - b. Dancers of Damelahamid – Indigenous dance company (Jan. 16)
 - c. Lion Dance – Jan 24
 - d. Dufflebag Theatre: Three Musketeers (Jan 31)

We would like to thank PAC for funding one of our performances!

- iv. The **Gr. 7 Farewell Committee** meeting for parents will be held on Tuesday, January 28th from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Parents of Gr. 7 students are invited to meet with us to discuss the Farewell for this year and to begin to plan for the event. Gr. 7 parents will be emailed a Teams link to join the virtual meeting.
- v. The district is hosting an **Online Long-Range Facilities Plan Open House tonight** from 6-8pm. You are invited to learn about the plan and provide input to the district that will help to shape the plan. Please see the attachment for the registration QR code.
- vi. A pair of teachers is planning to create a **pocket forest** on the north side of the school, to the west of the new childcare centre. The idea is based on the “Miyawaki” method of reforestation. The purpose is to create a small, dense forest using native plants. These forests have proven to be more diverse and stable than plantings that are not native to the area.

To begin the forest, a series of fundraisers will take place this year to raise money for clearing the site, purchasing topsoil, and buying appropriate plants and trees. The forest will grow over time, based on the amount of money raised. The teachers are hoping for PAC support to help advertise the fundraisers, solicit donations, and organize volunteers for digging and planting.

The PAC Chair expressed support for the pocket forest project and said PAC will offer help when more details become available.

- vii. **Kindergarten registration** for September 2025 began in November. Families are encouraged to register any time during the priority 1 registration period (November – January) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications completed any time during the priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions via emails from the school by February 7, 2025.
- viii. All Gr. 7 parents received an email yesterday to remind them of the **High School information sessions**. The session for Burnett is on February 13th. Parents should read the email carefully, especially if they live out of catchment for Burnett.

b) Finance (by Treasurer Nicole Zhou)

i. **General Account**

- Opening Balance: \$27,004.29
 - Paid bank monthly fee of December 2024 and January 2025: \$12
 - Paid regular transaction fee: \$2.50
 - Reimbursement to Nicole for purchasing the gift cards of Holiday Poster Contest's prize: \$410
 - Reimbursement to Hot lunch Coordinator Terris Tsang: \$238.66
 - Paid \$567.35 to Fresh Slice
 - Paid \$510.50 to Hot lunch vender Carino Catering
 - Deposit \$8,239.34 from Munchalunch
 - Deposit \$208.30 from Hotlunch
- Planned expense: \$0

ii. **Gaming Account**

- Opening Balance: \$3,291.76
 - Received bank interest: \$12.54
- Planned expense: \$0

iii. **Fundraising Account**

- Balance: \$0

c) Chairs (by Chair Phoebe Li)

- i. **Washroom Cleanliness** – The previously raised issue regarding washroom cleanliness has been effectively addressed by the school administration, resulting in noticeable improvement and no further concerns.
- ii. **Heat Issue in Classroom during Summer**– Concerns about classroom heat during the summer months were raised. There is insufficient relief even having the windows opened. This issue has been brought to the district PAC meeting, and trustees have added this information to the school's application project. Parents will advocate for air conditioning installation to the district during the **Online Long-Range Facilities Plan Open House** tonight.

6. Other and sharing:

- a) **Dragon Dance** – The vice chair mentioned having a friend who performs Dragon Dance at a more affordable price. Unfortunately, the performer was fully booked this year. For next year, if we plan to include a Dragon Dance performance for Chinese New Year, we can consider contacting this person earlier to secure a booking.

- b) Pickleball Program** - At the beginning of the school year, the vice chair suggested arranging pickleball sessions for students. However, the pickleball coach did not provide the necessary information, such as insurance coverage, making it not likely to organize the activity this year.
- c) Information about the construction of the New Childcare Center** - The vice chair asked the school for more information to share regarding the new childcare center, including the size of the school area that will be occupied and the timeline for its construction.

Site Location: The school administration reported that the new Ministry Childcare Centre is located on the north side of the school, which is currently fenced off. The location is away from the playground side, which will bring no impact to the existing playground. While a portion of the grass area traditionally used for soccer will no longer accommodate the sport, and students will go to the field to play soccer.

Childcare Centre: The center will add 25 more spaces for childcare in our neighborhood and this is a ministry initiative and because of that it must be built on school property. The centre will include a dedicated play area for childcare use.

Construction timeline: Over the winter break, the Contractor completed the excavation work for the foundation. The modular building will be constructed off-site and it will be brought in as three sections and then be assembled on-site. This will minimize on-site disruption and therefore cause less impact to the school.

Safety Concerns: The project developer has prioritized student safety, coordinating closely with the school to minimize risks and disruptions. Safety measures include maintaining fencing post-construction to separate the parking area and childcare centre from our student zones.

- d) Safety Concern: Nail Found in Shoe** - A parent has brought to our attention a safety concern regarding their child, who recently returned home with a nail lodged in their shoe. Fortunately, the nail was short and did not cause any harm or puncture the shoe.

While the origin of the nail is unclear, it may be related to construction or maintenance activities near the gardening areas or fence. The school will keep an

eye out at the school areas to ensure there are no loose nails. Thank you to the parent for promptly bringing this to the school's attention.

7. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 9:30am

8. Adjournment at 10:05 am