

PAC General Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2018

Suncrest Elementary School

PAC Website: <http://suncrestpac.weebly.com/>

Volunteer Event Sign-up: <http://signup.com/go/7PzqYW>

Minutes:	Rozsika den Haan	
Chairperson:	Robyn Stubbs	
Attendees:	Bill Patara	Sandra Benholm
	Ashley Sandquist	Rozsika den Haan
	Robyn Stubbs	Mary Ann Mulhern
	Laura Levera	Julie Clark
	Adad Hannah	Tammy Latinac
	Leanne Sung Bennett	Melissa Seymour
	Stephen Stubbs	Vanessa Laron
	Dave Hicks	Corina Kuban
	Vicky Bal	Tammi Kitching
	Peter Dubinsky (SD41 Director of Education)	

Topic	Details	Action Items / Votes
Call to order	9:05am	
Adoption of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No amendments. 	Adopted by Ashley, seconded by Bill.
Peter Dubinsky, Burnaby School District, Director of Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Driussi sends regrets as she is absent due to a family obligation. Ms. Mulhern introduced our guest. Peter Dubinsky has 25 years in the Burnaby School system: 20 years as teacher/principal, and 5 years as head of instruction in North Burnaby. He is new as head of instruction in South Burnaby this year. Peter Dubinsky came to share insight on the portables and to answer any questions parents have. <p>Reasons for Portables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portables are placed on-site across Burnaby, and the District tries to minimize portables, but sometimes they are needed for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To address capacity issues To deal with high enrolment To avoid having to divert kids within the catchment to other schools To accommodate additional district programs, such as MACC, etc. They can be removed if they are not needed anymore <p>Portable Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot attach water and sewer to portables because it is too expensive They cost approximately \$150,000 There are sometimes modular classrooms which are an initiative for kindergarten classes. They are hardlined in, and they stay when installed and were a pilot provincially funded. District recognizes there are concerns over air quality, heat and conditioning, but they send out health and safety if there is a concern. <p>They will not put kids in an unsafe environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes portables get refurbished or things are replaced, such as carpets. They are constantly monitored and managed. Peter said that part of the collective bargaining agreement for teachers has a clause about portables, and that once teachers have 2 years there, they have the right and option to move out of the portables. 	

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	<p>If there are Concerns about Portables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a formal process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. First point of contact should always be the principle. Any concerns parents have about things like air quality and safety need to be taken to Lori. 7. Then the health and safety committee at the school meets and looks at and/or address any issues. 8. After that concerns and/or issues are forwarded to the district. <p>Question & Answer Period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q - Is there a quota for how many parents need to mention things? • A - It is a good question, it depends on the concern. They look at each concern and situation. If, for example one parent brings up that their kid is always cold, it is different if 8 parents bring up that their kids are always cold. Some things can be addressed by the health and safety committee at the school, and if they need to call in someone from the district to fix the heating or do something otherwise, they will. <p>Question about Door Safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q - The only access to the school is through locked doors through the front door. Is there an automatic lock, or are doors always open? • A (by a parent) - There is no outer door knob. • A (by Mary Anne) - Portable 1 and 2 always has the door locked. Portable 3 is usually not locked because it is older children, because it is grade 7 classes. The reason is because kids come and go quite a bit and it is disruptive. But when the teacher is not there, then the door is locked. • A (by Peter) - If there is a younger primary class or other concerns, then it would be addressed or the locks changed. Who goes in a portable is a school based decision. There is a protocol for when kids go in and out, for younger kids it is usually buddies. The concern or risks are different, yet the same for every school. <p>Connecting Portables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q – Could the district look at connecting portables physically to schools to avoid or alleviate many discussions about segregation, external walks, bathroom access, issues with who wants to move and teach in a portable, etc. since it would just be another wing of the school. Like Maywood. • Answer: It’s about distance, green space, bylaws, landscape (ie hills), so not always possible. • Q – What about connecting classes in portables back to the school community? Is there anything that other schools are doing to reconnect the classes in outdoor portables to the rest of the school? • Answer (Peter): It’s not always about the physical distance. Edmonds as an example. You could be in one wing, but still be connected physically, yet feel far in that wing from other classes. • It’s really about mindset. Sperling has a lot of portables, but the teachers and parents have put things in place to make those portable classes connected to teachers, students and the school. Some examples are buddy classes. • The community of a school is built in the hearts and minds about the school. It’s about what it means to be a school and community and how to connect parents and get them involved. • Next week Peter will be here at Suncrest to do a Pro-D about classrooms, social emotional learning, making use of more than just the classroom and other facilities of the school, etc. <p>Portable Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q - What is the capacity to portable? • Answer - It’s the same as a regular classroom, maximum 30. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district is bound by class size and contract limits, and this applies to portables as well. • Some of the nicer things about the portables is that it has open space. If there are rows, the space will be limited, whereas if it is organized in groups, there is more open space and room to move around. <p>Portables vs. Physical Renos/Additions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q - What is the cost to add classrooms? • Answer: It is approximately \$150, 000 per portable, but much more for a building addition. • Building additions is a topic that deals with capital costs. That is a capital project that the ministry deals with, not the district. The ministry approves whether or not there is upgrading or school improvements. • If, for example Burnaby is projecting lots of growth, there is an application made to the ministry, then it goes back to the district. There is about 7-10 programs only that have building additions. It takes years to approve and move forward with a project like that. <p>Growth Trends & Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: There are elementary schools not being used such as Hillview down the hill. What plans does the district have to utilize those spaces rather than portables? • Answer: That will be looked at when Burnaby analyzes growth trends. They would look at school border lines, if they need to shift, if they need to add something or not. • Question: Are they looking at this area to build or change things? • Answer: This neighborhood isn't on the radar right now. Unless your kids are in kindergarten, then there's not a likelihood of capital growth in this area. • Questions: If parents have concerns about the school being too full, where do parents go? • Answer: We are not turning kids away. There is a data manager who looks at growth and trends. There is nothing showing that Suncrest is near growth or capacity, there is nothing on the radar for Suncrest. There is still room for new students. • Question: Is there plans for any more plans for portables in the near future? • Answer: Not that they foresee right now. • Question: What about siblings in catchment vs. siblings in MAAC or out of catchment? • Answer: There is a regular screening program. The sibling doesn't automatically get into the program. If they are out of catchment, then they have to follow the regular process to get into the school and aren't guaranteed to get into the school. <p>Allocation of Classrooms & Portables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District wide the principle is responsible for the distribution of classrooms. It is done yearly when you develop the organization of the school. So there are shuffles that change from year to year. Portables depend on the school, and the plan that the school has. Some teachers choose not to change classrooms from the portables and stay, and some opt to leave portables and come into the school building again. • Contractually the school board has to accommodate teachers moving out of the portables every two years. They are bound by the collective agreement. • Q: If teachers are here for a while, do they have seniority for classrooms? • Answer: There is no seniority for teachers in a school for the allocation of classrooms. If you have been at the school for 1 year or 15 years, there is no seniority within the school for classroom allocations. How it is handled, is school level by the principle. Collective agreement has no provisions 	

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	<p>about how it is chosen who goes to the portable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question - how long has the grade 7 teacher been in the portable? • Answer - Mary Ann has been in there for 3 years. • Chair - It is a collective agreement right to move out after 2 years, and she has that right, regardless of any reasons. • Mary Ann: No one usually volunteers to be in a portable. Generally what happens it is a new teacher coming in, because it has to do with moving all your “stuff” which is a lot of work. • Peter: For Suncrest to minimize disruption to the school, the decision was made to have the new teachers move into the portables. • Question: Before and after school care classroom is empty during the day. Seems like a waste. Is it possible to use the before and after care classroom for other things? • Answer (Mary Ann): The before and after school care is used during the day for learning support. • Q – For teachers that have to move, what about their things and having to get rid of things to make enough room to transfer classes? Some have built up libraries, class supplies, games, etc. • Answer (Peter): For storage of teachers who may have to move, and have a lot of things, the district will make sure that teachers get the storage space they need for their things, such as storage shelves, more storage somewhere else in the school, etc. • Q – So anyclasses can go into the portables? • Answer (Peter) - Collectively as a school it was decided that it would not be a good decision to have kindergarten students move into there. <p>Wrap-up by Chair (Robyn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration is working with teachers and are collectively working towards making a good decision about who is in the portables. • Request of Parents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Talk to the principle, rather than letting things brew. ➢ It is the parents’ duty to instill a positive attitude, and to prepare kids for positive attitude to portables in order to build community within the school and community. • Requests of School Administration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Newsletter to be sent out informing parents of what is going on regarding portables and potential upcoming decisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ why portables are there ▪ collective agreement facts about 2 years and right to move ▪ how many classrooms may move ▪ how much movement is expected, even if it is not known • Requests of District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Parents have been left in the dark, there has been lack of communication, and this community is very close knit and parents are very involved and active. ➢ Request for more communication from district and administration to reduce rumors, misgivings, etc. <p>Final Comments from Peter Dubinsky:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Generally more communication is preferred when they deal with portables or changes to the school, and they try to do that. ➢ He appreciates the comment about parents instilling positive attitude to kids about a new learning environment. ➢ It is usually the parents that tend to instill anxiety or concerns, when the kids are usually fine with varying learning situations. ➢ Having said that, parent concerns need to be addressed, and he is open to chat, but first contact should be principle Lori Drussi. 	

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Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a lot of changes from a month ago. • Hot lunch program is ever changing due to constant orders. Munchalunch doesn't reconcile the same way so requires a bit more work. • Movie night license has been paid, and is a profitable event, so every movie night from here on will bring in profit. • Only 7 teachers have claimed supplementary resources. • Tennis program is paid for. • Sports day is June 15th, and will be arranging pizzas for a fund raiser, and concession at sports day. • Movie night April 27th for the last fund raiser. • There are some funds to be held for the playground and emergency container. 	Request to have the remaining 6 teachers submit requests by end of APRIL.
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rozsika has sent out requests for quotes from several companies regarding playground structure options and costs. • A request was put into district to survey the land to see what equipment could potentially fit. • Some quotes have come back, so PAC will continue to follow the decisions made in the following process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stage 1: Get quotes for a some playground structures and layout information ▪ Stage 2: Get approval for playground structure(s) from school board to see what structures are allowed or can fit ▪ Stage 3: Narrow down playground choices to 3 choices (based on stage 2 approved structures) ▪ Stage 4: Survey intermediate children and have them vote on 1 of the choices ▪ Stage 5: Get a committee together to fundraise the amount that the structure costs that exceeds our set aside amount. • Just got an email that Chris McAuley, Assistant Director of Facilities, will be at Suncrest on May 3 to view our intermediate playground. Rozsika will meet with him. • Further information will come at the May PAC meeting. 	If parents have questions/concerns about the current playground, please email the PAC and Rozsika will take those concerns/questions to the district representative, and see if they can be addressed, if possible.
DPAC Report (Ashely Sandquist)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashely will go to DPAC to advocate for playground replacement and funding. 	
Chair's Report (Robyn Stubbs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May meeting will have Louise from Burnaby Parks & Rec come out to find out which programs parents and children would like to have upcoming. • May 28th will be an evening meeting. • Request about having meetings to be 7pm rather than 6pm to accommodate working parents. • Bill will be nominated as treasurer and Ashley will be nominated as DPAC. • The PAC needs to have a chair and a treasurer in order to apply for the gaming grant. • If there is going to be hot lunch next year, we need to have a hot lunch coordinator. There needs to be 1 parent at least to be there for the hot lunches. Whoever decides to be the coordinator can choose whatever food they wish. We are not committed to fuel next year in any way, we can try another company. 	
Principle's Report via Mary Ann Mulhern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori has gratitude for the fruit and veggie program. • Thanks to all the parent drivers for the track meet, and for the support in the stands. • Thanks for help in the library and book fair, it helped raise over \$3000 • Thanks for the help with costumes and lines for the school musical. • Staffing changes: Ms. Lum is leaving, that is all they know of for staffing changes at this point. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School organization: for September the plan is for 13 divisions and 291 students so far as they know; no information about how many will enroll for the kindergarten since enrollment is ongoing. • After April 26, guidelines for class learning environment request to the principal will become available. • Cyber safety specialist will be here on Wednesday April 18th. • Upcoming events: please visit the online calendar • April 17, Art starts • April 20, Picture Day for class photos and panorama • April 23, Pro-D day • May 1, track awards meet • For the school concert, no class assignments have been assigned yet. • Vancouver grant for water fountains. If the dollar amount from the grant is secured, we can go ahead with it. Call went out for volunteers to complete the grant. No volunteers to write the grant, so idea is dropped and will proceed no further unless someone volunteers to do so. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30am 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 18, 2018 evening (time to be determined). 	