

Armstrong PAC Meeting - November Minutes

Date: November 19, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:00

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Introductions

Parent Education: Burnaby Block Watch. Crime Prevention: Reporting to Emergency vs Non-Emergency Police”

New Business:

1. Principal Update
 - a. Facebook page called Burnaby Families
 - i. Info about free events in Burnaby
 - ii. Upcoming event: Christmas tree lighting at Edmonds
 - b. Volleyball wrapping up, basketball coming up
 - c. Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum
 - i. Taught four times a year in school
 - ii. Good parent resources on the website
 - d. FSAs (Grade 4s and 7s) are completed and marked
 - i. Booklets will be coming home shortly
 - ii. Goal for next year is to be more proactive to dispel a lot of the myths around the FSA and what it helps inform.
 - iii. FSAs provide another data point to know if the kids are learning/developing their grade-level skills. Helps inform planning and resource allocation at school, district and provincial levels.
 - iv. Request that when parents get the booklets back, do not use this information punitively, the results are intended to provide information about overall skill acquisition and are not intended to serve as a summative assessment of what has recently been taught. Of note, kids should have already been exposed to the concepts on the FSAs by the


time they are administered. Identifying gaps in learning helps the school identify group and individual learning needs

- e. Primary Winter concert: Divisions 10-21
 - i. Afternoon dress rehearsal, Tues Dec 9th, 1:30 (no tickets)
 - ii. Evening show, Tues Dec 9th, 6pm (tickets)
 - f. Communication
 - i. Working hard to keep the website updated
 - ii. If info is missing for an event, then it's not confirmed yet so will not be posted on the website
 - iii. Please encourage people to use the website as a resource
 - iv. Certain things, such as assemblies and bake sales, are communicated out by the teachers
2. Head Teacher Update
- a. Boys Volleyball - Competitive tournament this past weekend. The kids did great! They played well and were very respectful
 - b. Girls Volleyball - Competitive tournament next weekend
 - c. Basketball - have 2 coaches relatively new to basketball, seeking volunteers to help coach. Usually for students in grades 6/7
 - d. Gr 7 hoodies - ordered and coming in Dec
 - i. Will be up on SchoolCash Online for payment soon. Hoping the grade 7 fund can support those with financial difficulties
 - ii. Entrepreneur Fair - coming soon! Grades 6 and 7 sell their homemade products at a fair in the gym costing \$1-\$5
3. DPAC Update
- a. Chair of the Board of Education, Trustee Kristin Shnider, presented a higher level update regarding the budget and advocacy of the Board. DPAC executive requested she provide a post-budget presented in May which was then approved by the Board
 - b. Grade 7 elementary band program
 - i. Decision made in May to cut the program
 - ii. Board of Education passed a motion for their staff to investigate and look into a "user pay option" which would be a cost associated for participation in a future band program. This brings forward equity issues. Ongoing work by district staff in charge of visual performing arts

- c. Presentation on AI use in the classroom. The presentation is posted to the DPAC website. Gave an overview of use and parameters for AI in elementary and secondary school students. Interested to hear from parents on thoughts, concerns, experiences, suggestions
- d. Presentation on ongoing updates on DPAC's constitution and bylaws, which have not been updated in 20 years! It included a high level education on constitution and bylaws, review of the timeline of completed work, and next steps
- e. All DPAC committee updates and reports are available online and all are encouraged to look as they are detailed and highlight important topics/concerns in their respective areas.
- f. Some committees have openings - parents are encouraged to participate!
- g. There is a parent-feedback survey to gather feedback from PACs to support effective collaboration between parents, schools, and the School District. Survey is open until December 15, 2025

SD41 BURNABY DPAC PARENT ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

SURVEY SCAN CODE



YOUR VOICE MATTERS! PUBLIC SURVEY FEEDBACK

The Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) invites you to take part in our 2025-2026 Parent Feedback Survey, created to better understand how current funding decisions and district priorities are affecting families and school communities across Burnaby.

- Identify common challenges and opportunities across schools.
- Strengthen our advocacy with the Burnaby School District and the Province.
- Ensure parent voices directly shape DPAC's priorities for the year ahead.

[HTTPS://DPAC.BURNABYPAC.CA](https://dpac.burnabypac.ca)
DPACINFO@BURNABYSCHOOS.CA

4. Budget Update
 - a. Neufeld Farms: \$1524
5. Past Event Updates
 - a. Family Games Night

- i. Had planned for 150 people, but approx 50 people attended. Could expand up to 75 in the future without making major changes to plan/layout
- ii. Family social nights are currently budgeted for \$1690, and typically bring in \$1400. If we hold 3 social nights this year each event would cost around \$563 and bring in \$466. Games Night cost \$386.47 and brought in \$462
- iii. Good feedback from participants
- iv. Feedback for next year: monitor expense/income for remaining two social nights and adjust budget.
- v. Thought for the future: consider social nights as a way to give back and foster community, rather than treat as a fundraising event

b. Pumpkin Patch

- i. Pick up from Choices was unpredictable, but the store was very supportive and helpful (pick-up depended on pumpkin delivery)
- ii. Children were very happy
- iii. Mr Vuong had a class make a thank you card
- iv. Suggestions for next year: make plan with Choices for planning unpredictable delivery schedule, pre-setting number of pumpkins

6. Upcoming School Events

a. Pancake Breakfast - December 5

- i. Sandra, VP, is taking the lead
- ii. Firefighters will be supporting this year
- iii. Watch for communication on volunteering!! Or, send an email to the PAC gmail account if you'd like to volunteer
- iv. Pajamas encouraged, send a plate and a fork in a ziplock bag

b. Fun Lunch - January 23rd

- i. Emma to contact White Spot

c. Social Night - Thurs Feb 26th

- i. Games Night?
- ii. Art Night?
 - 1. Individual projects vs creating one project together
 - 2. Option posed of parents-only night
- iii. Noticed that social nights trend towards the younger kids
- iv. Idea put forward for a murder mystery or escape room

- v. Email PAC before the end of December with ideas, preferences, etc
- vi. Will be a poll to assess interest of games night vs art night

7. Upcoming and Ongoing Fundraising

- a. Purdy's
 - i. OPEN until Nov 29th. Pick up is Dec 5th
 - ii. Check your email!
- b. Yearbooks
 - i. Signed up with Photo Espressions
 - ii. We have a yearbook group that will meet and discuss roles soon
 - iii. An email will be going out to teachers to collect and then how to submit teachers' photos
 - iv. Yearbook will be about \$20 and similar to the one we did about 3 years ago
- c. Ongoing Fundraising: PAC donations via MunchALunch, Mabels Labels, & Lougheed Mall Cobbs Bread. Please consider donating to these!

8. New Items

- a. Intra-District Memo regarding Policy #1: Foundational Statement
 - i. The Board of Education has released a new statement, potentially replacing the previous one from 2021
 - ii. If you are interested in providing feedback, please review and email the school board directly
 - iii. Feedback due by today
- b. Armstrong School offers families the opportunity to donate extra funds to allow students facing financial barriers to attend class activities, like fieldtrips. PAC will also be include this option for fun lunches, event tickets, and similar activities that PAC hosts
- c. Changes to PAC babysitting
 - i. Due to larger numbers of attendees at PAC meetings and increased number of children requiring babysitting, we now require people to RSVP about babysitting to ensure we have enough babysitters. We are borrowing space from teachers, so require all children to follow school

rules and listen to the babysitters, as well as clean up the space to leave it as we found it

9. Social Media:

- a. Private Armstrong Facebook and Instagram groups. You will be asked security questions to ensure we retain our privacy. Please join the groups and encourage your friends. No pictures of kids will be posted.
- b. WhatsApp volunteer group
 - i. Add your name and number to the sign-up list or request via email
- c. Questions, ideas? Connect by email armstrongschoolpac@gmail.com

Call for Motions:no motions

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 6:30-8:00

Meeting Adjournment: