

Armstrong PAC Meeting MINUTES

Date: January 21, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:00

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Introductions

Special event: Hellcrust Pizza in New Westminster has generously donated pizza to tonight's PAC meeting. Thank you, Hellcrust!

- Cost for PAC to purchase for \$5.99, so would have to charge around \$8.50 to make same amount through the Fun Lunch Program

Parent Education: Special Olympics. Please welcome Special Olympian Bridget Colvin and her mother & coach Debra Colvin! Burnaby is home to over 150 Special Olympic athletes participating in a wide range of fall and spring sports. Also offered are youth programs Active Start (ages two to six) and FUNdamentals (ages seven to 11). Debra Colvin, mom to athlete Bridget, has been a volunteer SO coach for over two decades.

New Business:

1. Principal Update
 - a. Great start to second term
 - b. First week back looking at local indigenous winter customs
 - c. Learning about Martin Luther King Jr, leading up to Black Excellence day
 - d. Finished an announcement series on unconscious bias. Will continue unpacking unconscious bias into February
 - e. Lunar New Year - different ways those families that observe celebrate with their family
 - f. Literacy week is next week. The week will end with a spirit day to dress as your favorite book character
 - g. Reminders:
 - i. Make sure kids dress for the weather!
 - ii. Emphasizing kids go out every day. Only had 3 indoor days d/t excessive rain. Kids need to be outside so make sure they are dressed properly and have a change of clothes

- iii. Parking lot: reserved for staff only. Becomes a safety issue if being used for dropoff/pickup
 - iv. Basketball season right now
 - v. January assembly, you will receive an invitation if your child's class is performing
 - vi. There was an eagle in the trees by the portable - was a pristine blue sky day. So many children got to see it 😊
- h. Question regarding salt on the ice as things are slippery:
- i. Changes in custodian schedule, Jen is unsure if it is morning or night staff to do the salting
 - ii. Main pathways were salted earlier this week
 - iii. Please email Jen if there are high traffic areas requiring salting
2. Head Teacher Update
- a. If any grade 7 parents want to be a part of the grad committee, please email Jeffery Vuong
3. DPAC Update
- a. SD41's Secretary Treasurer presented a high-level overview of the budget process in order to provide further context for further discussions
 - b. Reviewed results of the 2025 parents/guardians regarding what topics were important to them. Five high-level themes identified:
 - i. Worries that provincial funding isn't keeping up with needs, especially with rising costs
 - ii. Ongoing staffing shortages that affect student support and overall learning conditions
 - iii. Challenges with school space and facilities, including overcrowded classrooms and reliance on portables
 - iv. The effects of recent program cuts on students and families
 - v. Uncertainty among parents about how and when their feedback can have the most impact
 - vi. DPAC is discussing what to do with this information. Please email ARmstrong PAC or speak to our DPAC rep if you have ideas or would like to volunteer
 - c. Findings re Grade 7 band will be presented next Tues, Jan 27th at the Burnaby School Board meeting. Please attend if you are interested. If you would like to

ask a question, please email SD41board@burnabyschools.ca by 8:00am on Mon Jan 26th

- d. Armstrong PAC is looking for a new DPAC rep! Interested???? Please reach out to the Armstrong PAC email
 - i. Commitment: 1 meeting per week, approx 2hrs. Need to report back to this PAC, likely another hour commitment. Attend monthly Armstrong PAC meetings to provide an update, 1.5hrs
 - ii. Meetings at Burnaby Central High School, 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm.
 - iii. Thank you, Doug, for your support! And we wish you the best as your daughter moves on to high school
4. Budget Update
 - a. Went over budget on welcome back tea, but have been able to use
 - b. Field trip budget: \$12/student. Received reimbursement of about \$1000, teachers still have about \$4000 to claim under this fund
 - c. Pancake Breakfast: budgeted \$1400. Total spent: \$500. Have approx \$900 excess this year
 - d. Community Charitable donations: \$300 to the Burnaby Fire Fighters
 - e. Likely will go over budget on bank charges. Two accounts are charged \$2/month so will go over the \$25 budget
 - f. PAC Donation as Dec: \$788. Had budgeted \$4000 based on last year's fundraising in this category
 - i. Spread the word! Reminder that anyone can donate to PAC at any time! PAC emails can include a reminder.
5. Past Event Updates
 - a. Pancake Breakfast
 - i. Thank you to all the volunteers!!! Was a very successful event!
 - ii. Firefighters were very impressed with the organization. Firefighters provide food, condiments, plates, napkins, etc.
 - iii. Firefighters can likely only do each school every 2 - 4 years - Jen to confirm
 - iv. If possible, would be good to know if Firefighters are available before budget is made for the next year (May/June)

- v. Potentially look into other charitable organizations for non-firefighter years (e.g. Legion)
 - b. Purdy's fundraiser
 - i. Made just over \$1400
- 6. Upcoming School Events
 - a. Fun Lunch - January 30th. Confirmed as White Spot.
 - i. **We will need volunteers** on the day to distribute pizzas to class rooms.
 - ii. Orders are due TOMORROW
 - iii. 180 orders in as of now, which is 77 orders LESS than last year
 - iv. Will do one more email/text chat reminder tomorrow
 - v. Reminder that you can do multiple orders together to do all of your children's orders at once
 - vi. Remember that you can donate when on Munch-a-Lunch
 - 1. Email Jen if in need of financial support for your child to participate in fun lunches
 - b. Family Social Night - Feb 26th. The following is to be determined by tonight:
 - i. the type of social event: Games Night
 - 1. Please email Armstrong PAC if wanting to volunteer
 - ii. a point person: Kate and Jess
 - c. Hellcrust Pizza has generously provided pizza for tonight's meeting! Please evaluate, along with the price list, as a potential supplier for March or June's fun lunches.
 - i. Open to trying for a future fun lunch - slide-outs
 - d. Family Social Night - April 24th. The following is to be determined by February's PAC meeting: *Decision deferred*
 - i. social event ideas:
 - 1. Art Night - class of 24 participants max, maybe do 2 back-to-back. Through the Shadbolt Centre. Low opportunity for community building as a social night. There would also be an age-limit of at least 5 yrs old
 - 2. Cake Decorating/Cookie decorating class - Faith
 - 3. Painting Class - Roberta
 - 4. Science Night - Jocelyn
 - ii. a point person - *decision deferred*

7. Upcoming and Ongoing Fundraising

- a. Gardenworks: Campaign starting Feb 2-13. Advertisement to start soon.
 - i. Gift card campaign like last year
- b. Yearbooks: update
 - i. Working on next steps, will be connecting with teachers soon to upload photos
- c. Spirit wear: We are looking for a volunteer to call three pre-selected spirit wear companies and compile quotes for review.
 - i. Zana volunteered - thank you!!
- d. Spring Family Photo Session:
 - i. Confirmed for April 1 and 2
 - ii. Will do 1 night of spring background, 1 night of neutral background
 - iii. Sandra running. More info to follow.
- e. Nellie's laundry and dishwasher soap
 - i. 20% of sales through a link
 - ii. Shipments sent directly to your house
 - iii. Emma to run campaign
- f. Ongoing Fundraising: PAC donations via MunchALunch, Mabels Labels, & Lougheed Mall Cobbs Bread. Please consider donating to these!

8. New Items

- a. Robin Shipway, Member at Large, tendered her resignation Dec 12, 2025. Thank you Robin for your service!
- b. Potential Playground Grant available
 - i. Ask for Armstrong families to assess the playgrounds, what sort of life is left in the equipment, what is missing, what is used/not used
 - ii. Would likely take a couple of years to plan
 - iii. Email Armstrong PAC with ideas/comments

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

Q&A Period:

Call for Motions:

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 6:30-8:00

Meeting Adjournment: 8:14