



# Fraser River Middle School Parent Advisory Council General Meeting

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**November 3 2025 7pm - Meeting Minutes**  
**Location:** Zoom (online) and Learning Commons

**2024 - 2025 Executive**  
Chairperson: JC Valeros  
Treasurer: Temitope Adewale  
Secretary: Andrea Arnold  
DPAC Rep: Laura Kwong  
Member-at-Large: Carla Willems

**Guest speakers**  
Principal: Chris Evans  
School Board Trustee: Cheryl Sluis  
NW Youth Rep: Ana Campos Santin

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**Call to Order**

JC Valeros

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**Attendance**

- All executive members and speakers in attendance
- No parent/caregivers in attendance

JC Valeros

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**Approve Agenda**

- Motion to move DPAC representative report to follow School Trustee's report

CARRIED.

Andrea Arnold

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**Approve Minutes**

- Approve September 22 AGM Meeting Minutes

CARRIED.

Andrea Arnold

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**School Trustee Report**

Cheryl Sluis

- October meeting:
  - Literacy presentation about logistics for Kindergarteners and Grade 1s that ministry announced a few months ago. Ks and 1s will be screened three times over time; kids will be grouped for those literacy needs. Facilitators providing support to team.
  - Education Plan - board approved in budget. Database that collects info about assessment learning. 71 divisions who have completed first screening. 110 teachers have been trained to use the literacy tool. Learning more about what mandatory screening can and can't do for us.
- Last Board meeting:
  - capacity and planning for 5 to 7 year planning. Number of strategies to help with short term planning (5/7 yrs) include reconfiguration of grades, portables, schools of choice, and possible conversion of non-instructional space
  - Prioritizing K to 8 student spaces. Prioritize NW students, next catchment, following by neighbouring catchment. Minimize portables, expand outdoor space. Non-instructional uses of spaces will be reallocated as school permits

- Early French grades reallocated to Spencer for 2026 - 2027. Programs of choice review, one strategy proposed. MOre french at one site, the stronger the program will be. Number of logistics - transportation and childcare - are being worked on.
- Other strategy, not for 2026: grade reconfiguration. Move grade 6 back to elementary, grades 7 to 9 to the middle, then grades 10 to 12 in the high school. High school spaces significant issue with 2400 students to date. No immediate changes on that front. Will be approached on a phased approach, a likely possibility in future. If changes are coming, 10 month notification period (nov notice for sept start)
- Update to School Act: allow schools to provide daycare to kids, including infant and toddlers. Allow districts to recover costs. Tabled changes.
- Board passed policy in October: evaluation of educators. Purpose is to provide CPI and constructive feedback, uphold professional standards for BC schools and school act. Associated admin procedure also published to support policy.
- Road safety at Qayqayt: approving curb around Royal Avenue, above Elementary school. Looking forward to advocacy to convince City to fix this.
- Student affordability fund: motion to advocate to sustained funding. Discontinued after this current fiscal year. Writing the minister of finance, childcard, MLAs to encourage continuation.
- Discussion about e-scooters at meeting last week. They are currently illegal in NW for riders of any age. Some districts/municipalities that have made them legal, we are not one. Same as Surrey. E-scooters are not allowed on school grounds in Surrey. Looking at aligning policies/messaging with City of New Westminster.
- Joint City and school working group. Recent meeting takeaways - ask City to identify capital priorities, so we can jointly advocate at provincial level.
- SOGI Committee: 2 meetings so far this year
- DEIA: discussion groups available for teachers

Question: September meeting mentioned possibility of trustee speaker switch. Is this happening?  
 CS: If it happens it will be at end of November Board meeting.

## DPAC Representative Report

Laura Kwong

- DPAC has been busy - latest event was a short DPAC meeting then workshop:
  - Meeting included quick highlights of School Act amendment and capital planning with Mark (Superintendent)
  - Over 30 attendees PAC members from across the district
  - Working relationship with admin, social media, what is/isn't advocacy/Treasurer 101/ Constitution & Bylaw writing workshops
  - Well received - feedback indicates we can do this every year
- Participated in coordinating committee meeting - October Board items will appear on next agenda
- Subcommittee - washroom signage, meeting next week - align with accessibility committee and signage in schools to align with Accessibility standards update
- Tomorrow night, Screenagers documentary film at NWSS - explores youths relationship with technology. First made in 2015. This is an updated version. Starts at 6:15, doors open at 6pm
- Next DPAC meeting on November 20th at Fraser River Middle School
- Participated in evaluation process for Superintendent
- Did speak to the board on impact of french immersion conversion to Herbert Spencer.

## New Westminster Youth Services

Ana Campos Santin

- Monday, Wednesday drop-ins - numbers lower but consistent groups of kids attending
- Last Friday was cancelled (Halloween)
- Youth Swing! Age 11 to 16 - mid-November

- Youth Skate - November 22 Moody Rink
- Merry and Bright makers - learn how to make small gift
- Fridays are very busy, with new faces

See: <https://www.newwestyouth.ca/> for upcoming activities.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/newwestyouth/>

## Principal's Report

Chris Evans

- Sarah Bester runs the GSA club/Art club - 30 to 50 students. Wants to expand with an artist in residence program with local/indigenous artist
  - Each artist would be an honorarium - 200 to 250 dollars each
  - Already secured some funding, looking for any help from PAC.
  - \$1200 set aside for clubs in this year's PAC budget, so a portion could be used to support.
  - How to display kids art around the school also being explored
  - Have the artist guide them through an activity
- Librarian: short story contest just finished, bringing in speakers
  - Looking at Talent Tuesdays - starting tomorrow, every lunch hour have 30 to 40 kids in audience
- November Remembrance day celebration coming up next week.
- Premier is coming to FRMS, 9am on November 13th at the gym, with minister of Infrastructure, trustees in attendance. FRMS band will play one song. Media only event.
- Volleyball tournament going on right now, 2 days at every school, alternating schools. Will do one for basketball.
- Some kids want soccer but need soccer coach.
- Currently 730 kids registered and we are getting new students in
- For December agenda, add parent/caregiver review of MountainWest school photos. PAC Chair to put form together for survey.

Question: Board has passed motion around investigating gaps in sports opportunities for gender?

Answer: Every team has non-binary members and coaches, time available based on coach availability.

## Chair Report

JC Valeros

- Didn't hold a PAC executive meeting last month, but hope to have one before December meeting
- Attended DPAC meeting workshop - C&B workshops and admin relationship building attended

## Fundraisers

- Spiritwear: 114 orders/ 390 dollars raised
- Neufeld farms: raised 1300 dollars at 7pm today (ordering closes today)
- Readathon fundraiser - wanting to speak with new librarian.
  - Librarian will support, confirmed by Principal Evans.
  - PAC to figure out who will speak to the new librarian.
  - Hoping to raise money for the ELL devices through readathon proceeds.
- Babysitting course - currently booked with First Aid Hero, but we received another service, less cost. First Aid Hero - charging 73.50 student including tax; other company, 39 per student and can do Pro D Days. Will reach out to new company - available on Feb 17th ProD day

## Parent Education

- Parent education workshop opportunities: Leia Lith, public school health nurse, can present on a mental health literacy workshop. Tie in with PAC meeting.

- Parent sent email re: workshop at Glenbrook - speaker was Paul Davis, educating kids/parents on social media and online safety. School covered costs at Glenbrook. Principal Evans suggests a local resource, as Paul may be cost prohibitive.
- Received email from Mr. Silverman (band teacher) - they have a winter concert on December 22nd.
  - PAC volunteers needed for serving coffee and treats, and purchasing treats.
  - Whistler trip - 1 night trip. Immediate expense is 750 dollar deposit. PAC may be able to help with proceeds from Neufeld.
  - Mr. Silverman will be running other fundraisers for Kiwanis Music Festival and 5 new mini pianos, 550 dollars. Band will be doing own fundraising.
- Received questions from school office re: communication.
  - Would Parent community prefer monthly, or shared when brought to attention?
  - Would a phone call reminder add for ProD Days be helpful to parents?  
School admin will trial phone call reminders for November (2 days).
- Created PAC shared calendar, will sent out next email to FRMS families, includes ProDDays

### Treasurer's Report

Temitope Adewale

- Change of signatories completed this week at the bank
- Gaming grant came in
- No changes to accounts otherwise

### New Business

Carla Willems

- For Dec 11, PAC will host a Winter event/fundraiser. Ms. Fung's entrepreneurial fair will be scheduled for Spring
- For Dec 11, Games night and craft fair. Winter season fair.
- Ideas:
  - Entry by food donation
  - PAC can do a write up to send to Chris, to circulate with teachers
  - Fair/movie night (Chris) - fair in front of gym,
    - Gym has the movie
    - Raffles - will need gaming licence, need 10 days prior to event
  - Lena said we can do raffle through SchoolCashOnline
- PAC executive will move forward with planning.

### Adjournment

JC Valeros

**Motioned:** JC Valeros **Seconded:** Andrea Arnold. **CARRIED.**