



Fraser River Middle School Parent Advisory Council General Meeting

February 2 2026 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

Call to Order

JC Valeros

Attendance

JC Valeros

- All executives in attendance
- Cheryl Sluis absent
- 11 parents/guardians online

Approve Agenda

Andrea Arnold

- No changes motioned

Motioned: Andrea Arnold. Seconded: Laura Kwong. CARRIED

Approve Minutes

Andrea Arnold

- Motion to approve December 1 meeting minutes

Motioned: Andrea Arnold. Seconded: JC Valeros. CARRIED

School Trustee Report

JC Valeros (C. Sluis submitted by email)

Long Range Facility Plan Update

2 motions approved:

1. That the Board of Education permit staff to investigate site intensification strategies of existing owned property to meet capacity needs of the District which includes investigating the construction feasibility of multiple sites across the District for which capacity can be added.

2. That the Board of Education support in principle the permanent grade reconfiguration across the District from K – 5, 6 – 8, and 9 – 12 to K – 6, 7 – 9, and 10 – 12 and direct staff to engage the community on what considerations the District should make as part of any future transitions. Since then, we have also communicated with parents in the district about an optional stay at elementary school for some schools. This is being offered at Lord Tweedsmuir, Connaught Heights (both of which feed into an already very crowded FRMS) and Howay. Note that this is completely optional. From a

pedagogy perspective, this is a sound decision and supports our long term efforts of permanent grade reconfiguration.

We have also begun the process of updating our Long Range Facilities Plan. And we have identified and will continue to identify opportunities for engagement by parents and families. The first opportunity will be a survey.

This will open in February so please pay attention to emails coming from the school and district. There will also be a second engagement opportunity in May. More to come on that.

Budget Process timeline approved

- Budget survey will be open starting February 16 th to 27th. Please consider sharing this message across the parent community. We value all feedback and contributions.
- Board will hear from partner groups at our Open Board Meeting on March 10 th .
- We are in a stronger financial position than the previous year, however, the provincial government's challenging fiscal outlook signals that funding allocations in the year ahead will not fully cover all expenses, placing increased pressure on operating budgets. We will proceed cautiously as we plan for the upcoming year to ensure financial stability. And our strategic plan will serve as a compass, guiding how we set priorities and allocate resources.
- E-scooters. Messaging sent prior to winter break about the District's position on e-mobility devices.
- Next steps include an AP Seamless Day Kindergarten As you know, with the removal of pilot funding, the District has been forced to shut down this important program. WCASS is supportive of operating these 24 spots so it looks like we won't be losing these important child care spaces.

Capital updates

- Queen Elizabeth addition is progressing well; the structural steel is nearing completion with some roofing work to begin in the coming weeks with a concentration on getting the building to lock-up.
- NWSS Memorial Park: the landscape contractor has mobilized on site and has taken delivery of all the substrate soil and is beginning the final placement around the site. Civil and drainage work for this project will now begin.
- New Simcoe Elementary School: the district recently received the approval to proceed with the construction of a new 605-seat elementary school adjacent to the Fraser River Middle School. The design has been presented to the City;s design review panel and is currently in the development variance stage with city staff. A naming committee is in the process of being formed to create a permanent name for the new facility.

Advocacy work

- Letter to City regarding Royal Avenue Safety and Security Concerns (curb is short and there is potential for traffic from Royal to come down the hill onto the playing field / into portables on the field)
- Letter to Translink for more buses (EFI)
- Letter to Ministry requesting that ELL data be included as a distinct category with the FESL reporting AND request funding extend beyond the current 5-year cap to ensure equitable and sufficient support for all ELL students District is submitting a motion to the BCSTA (BC School Trustees Association) to permanently re-instate and sustainably finance the Student and Family Affordability Fund. We hope to get support from other districts so that the BCSTA can leverage their power and authority to advocate to the Ministry. This funding is used for student necessities such as school supplies, school fees, and class trips, as well as fees related to joining a school sports team or music program and the expansion of school meal programs. We believe that family circumstance should not dictate the limits of a student's educational experience in our system.

For questions, please send to adm.frms.pac@gmail.com and we will forward them to Trustee Sluis.

New Westminster Youth Services

Ana Campos Santin

FRMS After School Drop Ins

- Regular after school drop-in continues weekly Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
- New kids coming on Fridays - over 100 kids on Fridays. Doing tournaments and activities. Small dinner.
- Monday, Wednesdays are slower but getting there. Leaders in training on Wednesday, help plan activities on

Fridays.

New West Youth Centre

- Youth Day and Youth Swim in February
- Youth Swim after Valentines Day
- D&D monthly meeting up starting, will help kids learn the game

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

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

Principal's Report

Chris Evans

New Elementary School built on FRMS grounds

- One of the pieces we are waiting for - how many Grade 6s will they be getting.
- Beginning in June, construction will start on Simcoe Elementary.
- Annex has 2 classes that will need to come into the school. Will need to minimize the number of grade 6s.
- Options for kids in Connaught and Tweedsmuir to do a Grade 6 at the elementary school. 50% may stay at Connaught, Tweedsmuir, and LFI
- We won't move to the grade 7 to 9 format for awhile, no timeline on it.

Grade 5 preparation

- Focus on transition for Grade 5s right now - will drop by elementary schools to visit kids
- Grade 5 hockey tournament - FRMS will be hosting - another opportunity to familiarize with school
- Grade 5 will do tours - Grade 7 will tour kids. Open house will be planned for parents/caregivers.

Read-a-thon

- Alex the librarian is doing a great job in encouraging kids. Opened library during the nutrition break and lunch.

Lunch breaks

- Rarely call inside lunches, but occasionally if raining, they will open the bottom floor (near gym entrance)

Q: Will Annex be filled with other classes in future?

A: No, it will be torn down.

Q: Will both schools share the outdoor play area?

A: Yes, but will coordinate with other principals of the new school. Breaks and lunches will be staggered with other schools.

Chair Report

JC Valeros

Fundraising Update for Read-a-thon - Laura Kwong

- Half way mark. First time at FRMS, but some kids have done it in elementary school
- Running until Feb 9
- \$3,441 donated so far, 49,467 minutes read
- 174 readers with minutes
- Librarian Alex very supportive
- Every class is coming through every week in library

Winterfest update

- Thanks for everyone who attended
- Given timeframe, great support, choir did a great job

- **Number of high school volunteers - earned their volunteer hours**
- **Lot of student vendors**

This is the first PAC meeting for 2026, we didn't have a meeting last month.

Upcoming Babysitting workshop will be offered on Feb 17th - ProDDay

- Course for kids, all day workshop. \$65 per kid and includes lunch. Link will be sent out shortly
- Need minimum of 20 registrants, max 30.

Fundraising ideas

- 2 more Neufeld fundraisers - Spring Break and end of year summer - throwing idea out there
- Will also have Spring Spirit Wear fundraising in May for Grade 5s, have a chance to buy before start of school year

Sports Day

- Last year, took us 5 hours and minimal parent participation
- This year, maybe looking at something other than hot dogs. Maybe freezies instead or another snack.

Spring Fair

- In pre-planning stages - PAC and teachers are in collaboration. More details to share soon - roughly end of May.

DPAC Representative Report

Laura Kwong

- Met in January
- Guest presenters included City of New Westminster Lisa Hurdle and Urban Systems speaker

Phase 2 of the active transportation network plan

- A lot of sites around elementary schools, including:
 - Changes to Merivale Street. Proposing changes to intersection, looking at 2 way traffic from Merivale onto Royal. DPAC suggested to the City to reach out to crossing guards on that site for this proposal.
 - 3rd Ave across uptown. Making sections of 3rd Avenue one way, and widened sidewalk proposed,
 - Changes suggested for 7th street

Grade configuration plans

- Survey deadline to indicate preference for Gr 6 at elementary school or FRMS in April
- Families had lots of questions about options - e.g. clubs and exploratory classes available if student stays at elementary for Gr 6
- District is putting together Q&A

Long-range plan for school buildings being updated

- Site intensification will be built into plan, land acquisitions not being approved
- 2 middle school acquisition requests have been denied by the Ministry
- Engagement opportunities for PaCs, DPACs and public in future. In person and online forum options. Not sure when the draft plan will be available.

Budget consultation

- District survey coming out soon

Queensborough bus advocacy

- rally being planned by parents on a Wednesday coming soon

Treasurer's Report

JC Valeros (for Temitope Adewale)

Fundraising update

- Spirit Wear sales raised \$520.67
- Planning another Spirit Wear fundraising for spring/summer
- Winterfest made \$1,161.35 in sales (games and food). After expenses and some refunds, raised \$26.91 for the General account
- Raffle sales totalled \$629.00; after expenses, netted \$557.02 for the Gaming account.

Budget update

- Carla Willems mentioned applying for a Community Grant to be used towards the Spring Event

Motion to add the grant for Spring Event.

Motion: JC Valeros Seconded: Jerome (online parent/caregiver). CARRIED.

- E-Pens request from Grade 6 teachers. Will look at adding to budget in March
- Learned that actual carry forward amounts into 2025-26 year was not \$809, it is \$880 for the General account, and is now corrected.

Adjournment

JC Valeros

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