

Norgate Xwemélch'stn Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting Jan 15, 2024

Attending: Pedro, Bahar, Christna, David, Shima, Zara, Mohammad, Maryam, Lindi, Lola, Glenda, Starr, Elena, Kelly, Jeremy

Meeting began at 6:30pm

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Pablo)
2. Treasurer report (Pablo)
 - Christmas Market was a great success – almost \$2400 raised
 - This means we are near to out \$149 raised at the first fun lunch, over \$100 required to purchase our software subscription so that limited profit on this event only.
 - Criterion License – discussion about if PAC will pay for another membership for the school to access movies/shows. Upon discussion we have learned that teachers did use this subscription but we have not budgeted for a renewal. Its around \$400 per year. Movie nights require Norgate to have a legal subscription so should we plan a movie night we would need to have this license in place. Future discussion to follow on this with input from Kelly
3. Principal's report (Glenda/David)
 - Invitation to parents for feedback on reporting. After reviewing Term 1 report cards, were there any issues accessing your child's report? Glenda and the office can help anyone who had issues and can share notes of any issues.
 - Parent Speakers Series: Today's meeting was a success. It's the 1st of 4 sessions. Today's was about an IB Learners Profile. Next Monday (Jan 22) will have the District Princiapal from the Outdoor School Program (Cheakamus). It's a great opportunity to ask questions for parents whose children will be attending in upcoming years if you are unfamiliar with the program. Reporting will also be an upcoming subject of one of these series. The happen from the start of the school day (8:45am) and run for about an hour.
 - Thanks for those who were able to attend the pancake holiday party. It was wonderful to have community at the school before the holidays.
 - New Divisions (class splitting) has not happened yet. Strong Start had to move into the Kids Club space to open a room to allow for a new classroom to be formed in. The former Strong Start room is being repainted and prepared. A new teacher has been hired and will be starting soon.
4. Guest Speakers – upcoming
 - PAC has historically funded external speakers to come into Norgate and offer age-appropriate learning opportunities (like Body Science, Teen Online Safety, etc)
 - Salima Noone has delivered well received content in the past (parent and students feedback)
 - Safe Teen has had mixed feedback on that course.

At the next PAC meeting we will vote on and decide which program to fund this year. It will

5. Bringing the Persian New Year Celebration Noruz to Norgate – (Bahar, Zara, Shima)
 - Scale depends on Persian parental interest to assist bringing in the culture
 - Slightly concerned about not enough interest expressed, perhaps making classroom
 - Perhaps use the library for a display and classes can be cycled through when parent volunteers are available to discuss with classes
 - Also possibility for a pre-class morning session for parents to join
 - Will need to be on last week before Spring Break since it occurs during spring break
 - More work to be done developing before next PAC meeting, budget, volunteers etc?

6. Music Program?
 - Is it possible as the school grows to position ourselves for a music program?
 - Needs to come out of Non-Instructional time from teachers
 - Because Norgate is growing, we are gaining some Non-Instructional time through new staff, but not musical specialists. We don't currently have one, but acquiring one is somewhat challenging between seniority and specialization.

7. Parking

Community Facebook group contains numerous complaints about parking at the school, driving too fast, and other issues. Bylaw officers will likely be asked to follow up and issue tickets. Glenda had suggested dropping kids through the staff parking lot for breakfast club and now that there was a hit and run (!), we cannot allow for this to be a drop off route anymore. Please be more respectful of rules and bylaws.

8. Fun lunches
 - Orders are needed for Monday
 - help is needed with serving and cleanup
 - Lentil soup this time, hotdogs next time
 - Kelly needs to know when the kitchen will be needed (timing)

9. Spring plants fundraiser
 - Always a successful fundraiser
 - Norgate neighbours seem to enjoy this event (good community outreach)
 - Will occur before Mother's Day

Adjourned 7:45 pm