

Norgate Xwemélch'stn Community Elementary
Parent Advisory Council Meeting
November 15, 2022, 6:30pm
Virtual Through Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 212 863 706 778

Passcode: L8KdeR

PAC Executive: Stephanie A (Chair), Pablo L (Treasurer), Jeremy D (Secretary) Steve M, Glenda R. Lindi C., Kelly S., Heather U (Director Communications and PAC rep NS Safety Council) Lisa S., Jenny M., Cristina P., Rhonda P.

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement
2. Sponsoring Christmas Hamper (Stephanie)
 - we are sponsoring 2 families this year
 - online google form available and signup sheet in the office
 - office will transpose from signup sheet to google sheet
 - Stephanie has capitalised on pre-black Friday sales to get the big ticket/harder to get items ordered early and we will crowd-fund this
3. Air Quality Issues (Lindi/Steve)
 - Letter from families has been collected and asks for monitoring and checking on air quality of all DMNV schools
 - more than 60 parent signatures on this letter
 - AQ includes smoke, illness etc that are all to be considered
 - Glenda provided bg on how AQ considerations were initiated by DNV at start of pandemic and specifically how Norgate's hvac system works and how it is triggered
 - Currently not triggered by AQ measures but potentially could at all schools
4. Financial Report (Pablo)
 - we are in a good financial position with no significant changes.
 - Please contact Pablo treasurer.norgatepac@gmail.com if you would like a copy of the 22-23 budget or monthly reports.
5. Safe Walking routes:
 - PAC sent a letter to DNV regarding the proposed twinning of sidewalks along 15th ave, Redwood and a small portion of Sowden between Philip and Redwood. More discussion is happening through the Norgate Community Association.
 - There are a lot of concerns around pedestrian safety in general, especially with the change in weather and daylight. Students are encouraged to wear reflective clothing (or add reflective accessories to backpacks/jackets). RCMP had provided reflective feathers in the past. Heather will ask if RCMP can support a “safety blitz” at Norgate this year to

encourage positive safety behaviours and bring up these issues to NS Safety Council. Everyone is encouraged to report to the DNV all and any means to improve pedestrian safety, including parking enforcement, better signage and improved sight lines (hedge trimming etc)

6. PAC sponsored FUN events

- Skating party – update. NVRC continues to be short staffed and has re-confirmed they have no staff available to support a private rental of the skating rink.
- Christmas Movie – Grade 7s would like to host movie nights as another fundraiser. The first event (date TBC) would support the families we are sponsoring for Christmas. PAC will purchase a license for showing movies to enable this to move forward.
- Fun Lunches – Grade 7s to host some fun lunches this year. PAC has been unable to recruit a fun lunch coordinator
- Parent coffee mornings - Volunteers are being sought to organize some casual social get togethers for parents (and teachers/staff) in the new year. Jenny Morgan is willing to support this.
- Cristina and Lindi offered to organize the Meridian gift card fundraiser this winter.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who have stepped forward.

7. Principal's Report -

- Thanks to PAC for supporting new team jerseys for students competing in sports event representing Norgate
 - Reminder of student-teacher-parent conferences next week. The school is using a new platform to book meetings, if you encounter any difficulties please contact your classroom teacher.
- Question around intramural basketball – Glenda to follow up with Megan Friesen for an update on what is being planned for Norgate.
- Discussion around how sports and other extracurricular activities can help build community and increase sense of belonging for children. Extra-curricular activities are supported by the volunteer efforts of staff/teacher as well as the Community coordinator (Kelly). Significant background work is required to organize these events, especially when transporting students to other locations.
- Due to our small school size, we do not benefit from the economies of scale that other, larger schools can leverage to increase staff/teacher and parent participation; compounding this is the challenge of language barriers and a general overwhelm parents feel about the volume of email and other electronic communication through work, personal life and school. Ideas were put forward to send home paper notices and use a sandwich board to communicate with parents.
- Parents expressed appreciation of the lacrosse program that is currently being offered during school hours.
- The idea of a community needs assessment was also put forward. Please forward your input to Heather communications.norgatepac@gmail.com on the types of questions that PAC could ask to draft a questionnaire.

Cristina P is working with Glenda to spearhead a project to bring the immigrant community within our school into the broader school community.

8. Next Meeting January 17, 2023

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm