

Henry Hudson Elementary PAC - Nov 21, 2024, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Meeting notes ([previous meeting minutes](#))

Attendance

- VSB
 - VSB District Principal: Doug Roch
 - Principal substitute: Donna Emeno
- PAC Executive
 - Chair: Ryan K.
 - Treasurer: Ron M.
- Committee Leads
 - Fundraising Lead: Katelyn Z.
 - Activities Co-Leads: Diana M. and Emma L.
- Parents – Approx. 12

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Speaker - Ryan

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

Speaker - Ryan

- We are seeking a representative from Henry Hudson PAC to join DPAC
- This is an important role for our work with school board
- As an example, choir and band programs are as a result of DPAC work (Emma Higgins)
- Participation in executive not necessary, open to all parents
 - Opportunities available on various working groups (ex transport, health & safety, accessibility advisory, etc).

Please visit <https://www.vancouverdpac.org/> for details on programs

- Q: Time commitment?
 - A: Executive – attend monthly virtual meeting (last Thursday of every month) and liaise between DPAC and HH PAC
- Q: Duration of role?
 - A: Executive committee roles are renewed annually (aligned with school year) – unless vacant positions are filled by a new volunteer

- Q: Meetings are virtual?
 - A: Yes – virtually, 7:00-9:30pm

Vote on new member

Speaker: Ryan

- Call to vote for new volunteer member for the PAC Executive, role of Secretary
- Nomination for Nicolas Sirois
- Vote: Confirmed by all in attendance

Fundraising program update

Speaker: Katelyn

- Mitchells soup fundraiser complete - \$600 raised
 - Plans are to do this program annually
- Art sale program (Div 1) - complete

Community Fundraising Program

- PAC will share announcements as each program is launched
- Please keep an eye on Fundraising page for updates - <https://hudsonpac.ca/fundraising/>
 - [Mabel's labels sale on now](#) – good time to take advantage of the program
 - [Pedalheads](#) will be partnering for a donation program – launching shortly, more details to come
 - [Hot lunch program](#) – ongoing
 - Pizza day – ongoing, last of every month
 - Candy cane sales – starting December
- Auction fundraising program – looking for donation items to the online auctions

Grants Program

- Grant writing team has completed three grant applications – value of \$10K each
- Team is currently working to finalize an application for a \$100K+ grant

Direct Donation Program

- Drafted a letter which will go to all parents – seeking feedback
- Charitable donations are taxable (Dec 31st for 2024)

Corporate Donation Program

- Currently ramping up fundraising program
- \$500K is the goal – Purposefully ambitious to engage corporate donors approach
- Request document template for outreach to corporations – finalized
 - We will add to the PAC donation website page for access by any parent

- Easy – copy/paste with empty fields for adaptation to each request
- Includes details of recognition for different tiers (ex. plaque on school wall near playground)
- Template includes other details to support corporate engagement
- Additional comment from Doug: On site signage options can be available for donors – possibly for larger donations

Winter Fair

Speaker: Ryan

- Winter and Spring Fairs have been important Henry Hudson traditions
- Fairs were paused during pandemic but returned successfully in 2023
- These events are a great way to bring our community together

Speaker: Sammy (lead for Winter Fair)

- 2024 Winter Fair - Thursday, Dec 12th, 3-7pm
 - Kids market – *bring donations for kids to buy as holiday gifts*
 - Wrapping services
 - Musical chairs
 - Food concessions
 - Gingerbread house contest
 - Cookie decorations
 - Prizes – Gelato
 - And more!
- Volunteers needed – both for lead up and during the event
 - Comment: Grade 7 students would be great – need a list of volunteer roles
 - Jelena has a list downstairs in the office
 - Sign up list also on PAC bulletin board
 - Aiming to make shifts 45 min – allowing time for everyone to enjoy the fair

Construction Update

Speaker: Doug

- Basketball hoops installed in the gym

Phase 2 update

- Currently on schedule
- Demolition is underway
 - Main school building: interior hazmat complete – exterior started (scaffolding)
 - Portable hazmat complete - roof removed

- Gym hazmat complete - starting demolition next week

Upcoming

- Picnic benches in front, ordered and will be installed in a few weeks
 - Once phase 2 is complete, benches will be moved to the outdoor learning area
- Southwest corner: Higher fencing approved – adding permanent fencing
- Muddy zone: Originally designed based on city requirements.
 - Review requested and completed – muddy zone will be replaced with asphalt
 - Project office hoping to look at this soon. Requires two weeks preparation – which would close down zone for play.
 - Gravel base. Asphalt install requires 10C weather, challenging this season. Will likely stay as gravel for the winter season.
 - Notice will be shared when weather is permitting for completion
 - Parking will be impacted during update (blocked spots on Maple)

- Q: Can they do it over winter break
 - A: This has been requested. Currently being reviewed

- Q: Will there be more supervision?
 - A: To be determined.

- Q: Will the grade be fixed/levelled to ensure gravel stays
 - A: Asphalt will be for flat section, not including dip down to fence

- Comment: Concerns on gaps left in the planning – space that includes tiered design with lots of interactive zones. Leaves the kids with little elements to engage with. No seating for parents. Not an ideal area for

- Q: What was the time after initial completion when a school was fully completed with all the detailed elements
 - A: Will bring back comments to the project team on outdoor front space

- Q: Is PAC responsible for fundraising on these kinds of design upgrades?
 - A: PAC committees can absolutely augment (play structures, benches, etc). Seating will be the responsibility of the district.

- Q: Is HH one of the few schools who have operated while project was developed?
 - A: Yes. There were a few others but it definitely adds complexity (other similar schools - Maple Grove, Quantis). Schools with upgrades to building had a different approach. Tennyson was split to three other schools.

- Q: Are there ways to avoid simply replacing the grassy zone with asphalt?
 - A: Asphalt is only for the flat square zone that has the mud.

- Discussion:

- Communications will be shared with details, including schematic
- Landscape Architect in house is looking at the vision
- School aids are directing kids not to go in mud
- Open house with landscape architect – To be confirmed
 - Looking at new year. Includes schematics for final new design.
- Q: Are the dips meant to be for drainage?
 - A: No, they were relating to arborist directions. Swails in phase 2 will be on the other side of the field. Swails zones will have gates which open for children to explore

Parking, traffic and safety

- Addition of accessible drop off zone. Parking for 30 min for those with a physical disability.
- Tough weather season starting – be kind, be mindful. Avoid dangerous habits/behaviours
 - Parked the wrong way in the permit zone.
 - Double park drop off
 - Crossing not at the light on Cornwall
- Q: Can time for crossing Cornwall be extended? And frequency increased?
 - A: Yes, the request has been made to the city. Their discretion, can be a long process.
- Comment: Recommend putting comments regarding traffic issues into the Van Connect app (or 411).
 - Other ideas: Walnut cross walk, and outcrop at corner of Maple

Takeaway: Parents interested in participating in a working group on these topics are encouraged to form a sub committee – PAC can support

Playground

- Working with Habitat (<https://www.habitat-systems.com/>)
 - District works very closely with Habitat so they are a good fit for these projects
 - Dave from their organization will come in for a future PAC meeting
- Initial plan share
 - Needs to include neurodiverse and physically accessible options
 - We will share initial options with broader parent group for input
 - Renderings will be updated based on feedback
 - Floor will be mix of synthetic grass, rubberized floor, wood chips.
- Q: What about swings
 - A: Possible but requires a lot of space – sacrifice for other units in the playground
- Q: Pricing estimates?

- A: Current model in initial plan is approx. \$300K.
- Example of possible costs borne by district – installation and borders. Specifics to be determined.
 - Available funds from the district are also hinged on the costs for the demolition

- Q: Does the money have to be secured to start the playground building?
 - A: The PAC can determine based on its budget which components of the modular system can be built at the time
 - For fundraising, current timing is good since the school is not complete, so perceptions of need are higher than when the project will look complete

- Q: Can we do a gala?
 - A: Technically yes but they can be expensive, a lot of work and may not result in strong return. ROI needs to be clear.

- Q: What the size of the structure in the rendering?
 - A: Don't have that specific information at the moment.

- Q: Is the current design adequate for 400 children?
 - A: We will have to follow up with Habitat

- Q: Is this structure offering options for different ages?
 - A: For the moment, the design is mostly in one location. Further elaboration in the design can include these considerations.