

PAC Meeting Notes - March 3, 2026

Speakers

- Vice Principal: Joe (Keo) Mergens
 - PAC Executive: Ryan K
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Welcome & Introductions

- **Ryan (PAC):** Provided a general welcome and opened the floor with a discussion on community at Henry Hudson.
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Admin Update

Grounds update

- Admin looking into garden programs for recently returned garden boxes
- Mosquito Device Installation (sound device to discourage loitering - after 10pm)
- Long Jump Pit - aiming for install in time for track season (next to field)
- Lines will be painted in school yard area near playground (four square, hopscotch, games & activities, etc)
- Benches for around the playground have been ordered - dates tbc

Question - Can we consider lighting in the playground and basketball courts for after dark play?

- Admin will follow up

Safe arrival program

- 9am classes begin - attendance taken right at start
- Students must sign in right after 9am (binders next to lobby)
- Parents should advise by phone or email for any absences or lateness
 - Safe arrival contact
 - Phone 604-713-5159 ext 37
 - Email - hudattendance@vsb.bc.ca
 - Include name, division, teacher name
 - Advise each day (ex when several days sick)
 - Unless absence is for a set period (eg gone a week for vacation)
- Office staff compare reports from absence line/email with sign in sheet

Safety drills

- 6 fire (admin defined)
- 2 lock down (next lock down has been postponed to after March break)
- 2 earthquake (Provincially organized dates)
- Pre-planned & unplanned

Routine / Learning approach: Teachers pre-teach (prior to drill), teach (during drill), practice (as a whole school) and reinforce expected behaviours for the routine in between drills

Language on lock downs: Discussion in class on lock down is age appropriate. For younger kids, examples are given that won't create anxiety.

Question - What is covered during a lock down?

- Lockdown guidance is to move from windows and sight lines. Gather in a group. In gym, may move to storage or bathroom (no windows).
- There is a version of 'lower level' lock down. No change in class but ground level doors are locked by admin (ex coyote or stranger on the grounds).

Question - Can we get a heads up so that parents can help younger, anxious kids manage

- Admin - will look into it. Typically for second lock down drill, a general timeline may be given (week) but not specifics, to allow admin to observe teachers putting training into practice.

Parents can speak with their child's teacher as well to make them aware of the concerns around anxiety

Question - Can guidelines/language be provided to parents on how to manage conversations?

- Admin - will look into it.

Question - Is there a new parent package? Example, wasn't aware of safe arrival program.

- PAC team will be looking at developing a welcome package for new parents (kindergarten and transfers)

In the case of an actual emergency, parents are asked not to flood the school with calls. The school has a protocol and system for school mass communications to the parents.

RISE

- Respect & Resilience
- Integrity
- Safety
- Empathy

Language that anchors the way teachers and students can approach their community. This is intended to shape the way members of the community interact and shape the spirit of activities and events.

Miscellaneous

Question - Parking tickets being handed out on York st.

- Signage restricts parking (8am-5pm no parking). Technically, the restrictions do allow brief drop offs. If parents receive a ticket, the procedure is to follow up with the city (311).

Question - What's the status on traffic turning on Maple

- Parents are encouraged to reach the city with any concerns regarding left turn limitations on Arbutus - impacts traffic redirect to Maple
- City is currently planning a traffic safety study for the area around the school

Communications and Engagement

Reminder of available communications to stay abreast of Henry Hudson events and activities

- Admin newsletter - monthly (bottom section includes key dates)
- PAC newsletter - post PAC monthly meeting
- Front of school - Community board in lobby
- Monthly PAC meetings - deeper discussions
- Teachers will often send out communications
- PAC website - Digital calendar (can be added to personal google calendar)
- PAC website - meeting minutes from all past monthly meetings
- Facebook & Instagram
- VSB website - Online calendar (key dates)
- Whatsapp - Volunteer chat

Events

- Trivia night - Tuesday, March 10
 - Need minimum participation (currently not hitting threshold)
 - Can sign up as individual or group of four
 - Tickets get you a coffee and a portion goes to PAC
- Spring BBQ - June 4th
 - Always looking for volunteers
 - Planning meetings coming up - open to participation
- Meet ups
 - Lots of requests for community meet ups - PAC looking into more opportunities
 - Successful sports night recently - another one in the works

Nod to volunteers for hot lunch - always looking for more!

30 minutes - twice weekly (Tuesday and Friday)

Distribute lunches to classrooms

Question - General Gordon has a guest speaker who comes to the school - is that something Henry Hudson would consider?

- Admin - The position of admin on hiring external speaker relates to the comfort of the Henry Hudson teachers in covering the materials. Staff are required to provide lessons as part of the curriculum. So far staff have not been requesting support from external resources.
- The guest speaker does a good job, though a bit high level. We can look into the option.
- In other schools PAC funding has helped support.