

Henry Hudson PAC Meeting Notes

April 22, 2026

Present: Principal Van Wyck, Vice Principal Mergens + 9 PAC members

Logistics

Some parents found out about the meeting by chance, or not at all. PAC announced the meeting via social channels and the monthly newsletter. We will add an email reminder ahead of future meetings.

School Trivia + admin updates and reminders

Ms. Van Wyck ran a trivia quiz using Kahoot, a quiz software used in many classrooms across Hudson and VSB.

- **Long jump pit:** should be ready in time for Track and Field season practice this spring.
- **Seating around the playground** is approved. The hope is to have it installed by the end of the school year.
- **Earthbites** hired to assist with our garden beds. The beds are prepped - thank you to all the students, staff, and volunteers for your hard work! We will get two "seasons" of gardening this year: spring (starting immediately) and summer (June). Admin is exploring options for tending the garden over the summer break, starting with engaging the summer camp team.
- **Electric kick scooters:** are allowed in B.C. from age 16, which means no one should be riding one to their elementary school. Admin has forwarded the information to families that needed a reminder.
- **Hot lunch reminders:**
 - Order by 9:00 AM the day before
 - No payment = no lunch! The Munch-a-Lunch website can be a bit confusing in that regard, so double-check that payment was processed and accepted successfully.
 - Students must bring cutlery from home. Occasionally a "creative" solution may be available if someone forgot their cutlery, but this is not guaranteed. Consider packing some emergency cutlery on the regular if you tend to forget.
- **Wilderness Wednesday:** classes participate in a variety of outdoor activities for wilderness Wednesday, often outside school grounds. Examples: beach cleanup, playing sports in a park, learning about local trees, etc.
- **Progress of R.I.S.E.:** we are seeing good adoption of R.I.S.E. principles by students, including some spontaneous chanting!
- **School fees** for next year: remaining the same as before: \$35 for supplies, \$6.5 for an agenda/planner, additional fees for field trips as they come up.

Q&A + Additional Discussion

- **Improved lighting** for the basketball court and field after dark : VSB is looking into it, but it will take time.
- **Mud kitchens:** installation will take place soon. They will be anchored with cement near the harvest table, which makes them accessible outside school hours. Accessories such as pots etc will be collected and locked up at the end of the school day.
- **Lunch outside:** this is possible if a teacher arranges it during instructional time. Otherwise, lunch must be eaten in class before the lunchtime recess begins.
- **Request to add more trash cans** on the grounds. Currently there is just one, and with the playground area getting more use off-hours, plus freezie sales, there is more trash created. Admin will request that building engineers investigate our options.
- **Parking on York Avenue:** there has been no change in the arrangements there, but the school did communicate the relevant city regulations in a recent newsletter. The school-zone "No parking 8:00-5:00" designation does allow 5 minutes for pickup or drop-off. If a bylaw officer issues a ticket for drop-off parking, the ticket can be disputed.
- **Late arrivals:** remember to sign in using the sheet outside the office if a student arrives at any time after the bell (even if it's just a minute or two). This is a safety issue. There is no problem with signing in "late" even if the teacher hasn't taken attendance yet.
- **Traffic safety:** The green light at Maple and Cornwall is longer than it was, although still too short. With Senakw coming online, the city will study traffic patterns in the area and create a new plan. As things stand, Cornwall is designated as an arterial road, meaning it is unlikely to have its speed reduced to 30 km/h. Attendees were in favour of requesting that Community Police conduct speed management activity near the school.
- We are looking into opportunities for an **outdoor message board** for PAC information. The current message is easy to miss by families who don't pass through there, especially since parents are asked to avoid entering the school for pickup/drop-off.
- **Outdoor art:** neighbourhood grants may be available for student art projects around the perimeter of the school.
- **Southwest corner** (York and Maple): the plan to plant the exposed area with clover is on hold until PAC can determine whether we're funding a play structure there this year.

PAC Chair updates

- **Primary playground:** so far we have ~\$40,000 saved up to fund this project. More fundraising opportunities are in the pipe, including: Created By Kids art, the Spring BBQ event, continued Direct Donation promotion, and corporate and other grants. Our target playground budget is \$80-100k, but there are cheaper options available if we don't reach that goal. The PAC executive will start a discussion of our options with the vendor (Habitat Systems).
- Families are encouraged to keep an eye on PAC initiatives they may want to support. For those who planned to make a direct donation and haven't yet, it's not too late!
- **Spring BBQ:** we will need volunteers to set up and run the event. We will have sports in the field (weather permitting), activities and games in the gym, live music, Vera's burgers (also possibly Cockney King tacos), concession, raffle, and more!

- **Track meet:** last year there was a date collision between the track event and the BBQ. This year there should be no collision, as far as we know.