

Pasadena Elementary School
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
December 13, 2017
5:00 - 6:00 pm



1. Welcome/Call to Order

2. Roll Call

- i. Present: Norma Park, Barry Walsh , Krista Dollemont, David Baines, Hal Cormier, Robyn Dillman, Michelle Cornick , Paul Taylor, Terry LaVallee, Don Keefe, Donna Miller-Fry, Wayne Garcin
- b. Regrets: Heather Greene, Jacenta Hudson, Jim Pink, Chris Bromley

3. Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: Paul Taylor, Robyn Dillman

4. Review and Approval of Agenda: David Baines, Michelle Cornick

5. Business Arising

(a) Playground Fence Update.

Chair Hal Cormier opened the meeting by noting the circumstances surrounding the Department's decision to build the fence following the incident on the first day of school with a Kindergarten student leaving the school grounds.

Donna Miller-Fry, Assistant Director (Programs) with the NLESD, noted that the decision to build a fence/barrier was not made solely based on that incident. The school District's decision, NOT the Department's decision to add a fence or barrier to the playground comes as a result of other needs identified at Pasadena Elementary. She added that the District is open to determining the "type" of fence.

A question and answer session ensued with Council members asking Ms. Miller-Fry:

1. whether or not other schools will have fences built?
2. what "other issues" regarding students leaving school grounds have there been?
3. what are the safety concerns at this school she referenced?
4. why was Council not involved in the decision to erect a fence/barrier?
5. how would a second barrier, in addition to the natural barrier the treeline already provides be any more effective?
6. has the previous issue with wildlife (moose and foxes) on the property been considered and the danger of trapping wild animals on the wrong side of a fence/barrier?
7. whether or not the school community would be consulted/surveyed on the need/desire to erect a fence?
8. is there is a budget set for this construction/project? We have to consider what

finances are in place to knowledgeably plan for a specific model.

9. would there be more information coming from the District to clear up the confusion since it seems that the decision to build an enclosing chain-link fence has already been made given the cited ongoing safety concerns?

Ms. Miller-Fry noted that if something happens to a child, and we saw an opportunity to prevent that thing happening, the District's liability is directly impacted. She noted that this is not politics; it is a response to student security. She did address that the staff is very compliant with supervision protocols and that the decision to add a fence/barrier to the playground was not based on any issue with staff supervision. The fence is another part of an overall assessment of school safety. She noted that she is here today and in an ongoing basis to collaborate on what and how this "barrier" will look like. In other schools in the province, a number of schools were approved for outdoor fencing for a space for Kindergarteners once FDK was approved. She noted that there is currently lots of time for consideration as no fence can be installed with frost in the ground. She is open to considering any other means of gathering information (i.e. samples from other schools with new FDK).

(b) Parent Requests to Address Council re: Fencing

1. Dean & Krista Howell - Absent
2. Don Keefe - As a parent guest, Mr. Keefe wished to present to Council and Ms. Miller-Fry some of his concerns in the form of questions regarding the fencing and playground safety; he noted, however, that many of his questions had been answered in the previous discussion. He noted that no one he had talked to in the community was in agreement with erecting a fence at our school. He did ask whether or not a "risk-analysis" was done on the building security and/or a fence. Ms. Miller-Fry noted that we are not looking at risk-management but rather safety, on a go-forward basis. Mr. Keefe noted that if the risk is provable, then he, as a parent and most parents, would fully endorse this priority of a fence as a safety response. It is important to have evidence. Mr. Keefe feels that parents/guardians should see the data determining our prioritized risks. He took note of a bigger risk at the recent Christmas concert and the lack of accessibility of our concert stage.

He further noted that the current new playground was not publicly funded. Rather it was paid for by parents, the community and donations. He questioned the impact on public access to the playground once it is fenced.

In closing the meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m., Chair Hal Cormier noted that over the course of the winter, the Council, the staff and the District office will commit to collaborate on future direction for the safety concerns of the property.

Principal Norma Park concluded by noting to Council and guests that our children here are indeed safe. There are some very student-specific needs with regards to safety and thus

they cannot be addressed publically. She assured parents that their children are safe while they are in the care of the school's staff.

6. Subcommittee/Special Committee Reports

- a. Principal's Report. - Deferred to next meeting

7. New Business

- i. N/A

8. Announcements/Communications

- a. Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of School Councils - Hal has been nominated for the NLFSC.
 - a. Membership Application - Norma Park has completed and forwarded our Council's membership application with the required \$75 fee.
 - b. *The Cuffer* - distributed for review.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 @ 6:30 pm.

Note time meeting ends: 6:05 pm.