

Meeting Minutes

North Seattle Community College
 Parent Advisory Council
 April 13, 2009

Attendees

PRESENT

Co-op Name	Co-op Age Group	Name	E-mail	Position / Committee
Broadview	Toddler	Kathy Gorohoff	kgorohoff@hotmail.com	Communications
Broadview	Pre-3	Phaleen Hanson	phaleen@yahoo.com	Scholarship (Chair)
Broadview	3-5	Wade Brannon	HadeBriss@hotmail.com	Registration
Cedar Park	Toddler	Toby Beth Jarman	tobybethj@comcast.net	Communications (Chair)
Crown Hill	Pre-3	Nathalie Tomaszewski	nathalietomaszewski@yahoo.com	Registration
Crown Hill	3-5 AM	Betsy Hudson	betsyinseattle@yahoo.com	Board Treasurer
Crown Hill	3-5 PM	Veronica Niemeyer	esonica@comcast.net	Communications
Ingraham	Pre-3	Elizabeth Martin	elizabethmartin@hotmail.com	Communications
Ingraham	3-5	Frankie Grausam	nyfrankie@msn.com	Kindergarten Readiness
Meadowbrook	5	Michelle Beaumont	beaumontmp@seanet.com	Fund Development
North Seattle	Infant: Tues.	Melissa Rice	mboes@speakeasy.net	T-shirt Fund (Chair)
North Seattle	Infant: Wed.	Bethany Febus	bethany.febus@gmail.com	Board Chair
North Seattle	Toddler	Jilda Nettleton	jildasn@comcast.net	Grants
Northwest	Toddler	Shelley Curtis	sac68@earthlink.net	Communications
Northwest	Pre-3	Kari Coglon Cantey	kcantey@msn.com	Board Secretary
NSCC	Toddler	Russell Sewell	bearfood4one@yahoo.com	Health and Safety
Sandhurst	3-5	Karen Yamashita-Uraie	Karen.fumiyama@gmail.com	Health and Safety
Univ.-Ravenna	Pre-3	Heather Schwindt	heathermaria60@hotmail.com	Kindergarten Readiness (Chair)
Univ.-Ravenna	3-5	Laura Spangenberg	LauraSpan@mac.com	Kindergarten Readiness
Victory Heights	Pre-3	Leigh-Ann Andrada	dandrada@qwest.net	Registration
Victory Heights	3-5 AM	Angela Johnson	algae77@yahoo.com	Registration
Victory Heights	3-5 PM	Stiroh Lang	molylang@gmail.com	Communications

Wallingford	Pre-3	Nytasha Sowers	nytashasowers@msn.com	Board Parent Coordinator
Wallingford	3-5 AM	Rachel Seely	rcseely@gmail.com	Education
Wallingford	3-5 PM	Toby Beth Jarman	tobybethj@comcast.net	Communications (Chair)
Wedgwood	Pre-3	Bethany Febus	bethany.febus@gmail.com	Board Chair
Wedgwood	3-5	Melissa Kokaly	makokaly@yahoo.com	Education (Chair)
Woodland Park	Pre-3	Carmen Albert	carmalbert@hotmail.com	Scholarship
Woodland Park	3-5	Karl Hillstrom	khillst@yahoo.com	Registration
NSCC	Faculty Advisor	Betty Williams	bwilli@sccd.ctc.edu	NSCC Parent Education Rep

ABSENT

Co-op Name	Co-op Age Group	Name	E-mail	Position / Committee
Crown Hill	Toddler	Kristina Cerise	kcerise@speakeasy.net	Fund Development
Latona	Pre-3	Rachel Garber	rgarberburd@gmail.com	Fund Development
Latona	3-5	Lisa D'Asaro	dasarolisa@hotmail.com	Education
Meadowbrook	Pre-3			
Meadowbrook	3-5	Lisa Moody	lisamoody3@comcast.net	Fund Development
North Seattle	Infant: Thurs.	Susanna Coco	susannacoco@gmail.com	
Northeast Seattle	Toddler	Sarah Bahauddin	Sarahbahauddin@gmail.com	Fund Development
Northgate	Toddler	Johanna Dokken	johanna.dokken@gmail.com	Fund Development
Northgate	Multi-age			
Olympic	Toddler			
Sandhurst	Toddler	Jamie Smith	jamiety2003@yahoo.com	Education
Sandhurst	Pre-3	Anne O'Neill	nannyanne@gmail.com	Health and Safety
Victory Heights	Toddler	Sarah Karis	Sarah.Karis@hotmail.com	Board Vice Chair
Wedgwood	Toddler	Julie Yee	julieyee@comcast.net	Communications

Location

North Seattle Community College (NSCC) Campus, Education Building, Room 2843A

Welcome

Bethany Febus, PAC Chair, started the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Introductions

PAC reps introduced themselves to the group.

Approval of Minutes

Bethany asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the PAC meeting held March 9, 2009. Carmen Albert moved to approve the meeting minutes as recorded. Melissa Rice seconded the motion. All approved, none opposed.

NSCC Update

Betty Williams, PAC Faculty Advisor, is also a full-time faculty member at North Seattle Community College. She provided the following information:

OPEN REGISTRATION

Betty congratulated the Registration Committee for a great event. Most every class is filled.

PARKING PERMITS

New parking permits for spring quarter are available [e-mailed 4/10/09 by Bethany Febus].

VAL DONATO AWARD

Information about the Val Donato Award was e-mailed to all PAC reps [e-mailed 4/12/09 by Bethany Febus; see “Attachments” at the end of the minutes]. Betty reminded reps to forward the information and nomination form to their co-op members. Nominations are due May 15. The award will be announced in June. Dr. Todd Donato, Val’s son, is providing matching funds up to \$5,000. The committee hopes to fully fund the award this year to create an endowment of \$10,000; funds raised to date amount to approximately \$6,000.

BUDGET CUTS

Cuts to the budgets of community colleges has been in the news. There has been no word about cuts to the Parent Education program. There’s no need to worry at this point, just be aware.

The Parent Education program, which is part of the Health and Human Services Division of NSCC, funds CPR classes. A class is scheduled for September 12, 2009. Usually three classes are offered each year, but during the 2009-10 academic year, there will likely only be two offered, due to budget cuts. The Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Assoc. holds one each month, so that may be an option for parents who are not able to attend either of the NSCC classes.

Betty posed this question to the group: Is it important for the college to fund the CPR classes? She asked reps to ask their boards. Currently 40 people are able to take each class session. She can take a look at holding larger classes to reduce the costs, but there may be a maximum amount with instructor-to-student rations. She will look into options.

Betty shared information about—but did not advocate for—a petition the AFT union is circulating: “Save Our Colleges.” It is available at the side desk if reps wish to sign.

The Parent Education program is a waived program, and as such, is heavily subsidized by the state. Waived programs are looked at when budget cuts are necessary. As a waived program, credits are \$11 each, which is determined by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; the State Board takes into consideration the fact that parents are paying quite a bit more for the lab school experience (co-op preschool). A cut to the program would be more likely

than a large increase in the cost of credits. At this time, Betty believes a small tuition increase is likely. The rate next year will probably be \$12 per credit, instead of the current \$11 per credit, but nothing is final.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Leadership Conference for co-op board members for the 2009-10 academic year is scheduled for Friday, September 11, 2009. It will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., which is an hour longer than in the past to allow time to discuss how to effectively run a board. The breakout session will run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Old Business

PAC CLOTHING SALE FUNDRAISER FOLLOW UP

Bethany recognized the Fund Development Committee for the success of the first PAC Gently Used Toy and Clothing Sale (March 21, 2009).

Michelle Beaumont, chair of the Fund Development Committee, reported that the sale brought in approximately \$1,700, including \$1,400 from the clothing sale and \$300 from the bake sale.

Michelle thanked Heather Schwindt and Laura Spangenberg for their guidance; they shared their experience with the committee. She also thanked all of the volunteers for their time.

The top two consigners each sold \$127 in merchandise, so they will receive a percentage of that. Eight huge bags of clothing remain; Michelle and other committee members will take the merchandise to Childish Things on Holman Road, which pays cash. The rest of the merchandise will be donated.

For the sale next year, committee members will see if they can use a space with more foot traffic, perhaps sharing the Baxter Center. Members will organize the sale information to pass along to next year's committee and will suggest ways to improve the sale for future years. Overall, the sale went very smoothly.

VAL DONATO AWARD UPDATE

Betty discussed the award earlier in the meeting. Bethany reminded reps to forward information to their classes [e-mailed 4/12/09 by Bethany Febus; see "Attachments" at the end of the minutes].

New Business

TWIN POLICY

Bethany said the the twin policy comes up every year. Each co-op has its own policy. PAC could come up with recommendations to guide co-ops.

Heather Schwindt mentioned that last year, co-ops were asked to send in their policies, so PAC could review, but she's not sure what became of it. It would be ideal to have recommendations for each age group (toddlers, pre-3s, etc.), since the parent-to-child ratio is different in each age group.

Bethany asked reps to talk with their co-ops and send in their policies and recommendations/suggestions to her. She'll work with the Communications Committee to consolidate the information and then look at creating recommendations and guidelines.

Karl Hillstrom mentioned that it should be called a sibling policy, rather than a twin policy.

Nytasha Sowers reported that the Wallingford Pre-3s Co-op has two sets of twins on the roster for next year and two sets of twins on the waiting list. The co-op is wondering how to deal with the situation and would like some guidance from PAC.

Betty said the size of the class and the age group often dictate policies within the co-op.

REGISTRATION

Jilda Nettleton shared her concerns regarding the registration process. She found difficulties with coordinating child care for site visits as well as getting appointments (some co-ops had already filled appointment spots; later, they opened additional spots). She said the transition from the toddlers to pre-3s age group may be the toughest transition because there are fewer opportunities to visit classrooms since those groups don't meet as often.

Jilda wondered if co-ops could do an open house at the college, so all co-ops would be represented and parents could meet teachers. The group discussed benefits and problems with an open house. Each co-op could also offer evening open houses so parents could see the site, but there are drawbacks to not seeing children in action and would also have to pay the teacher.

Site visits are up to the discretion of each co-op; they are not mandatory per PAC policy.

Karl mentioned parents may be able to visit the site after registration; the site visit is to ensure parents don't drop once school starts in September because they don't like the site.

Bethany said if co-ops have concerns about the registration process, then PAC reps should keep mentioning them. PAC reps can address the topic with their boards to get feedback and bring back concerns and/or ideas to PAC.

As for this year's Open Registration, the group provided positive feedback about the event (e.g., well organized by committee, event went well). Angela Johnson, chair of the Registration Committee, said the committee will discuss the event during its committee report later in the morning.

Break at 10:27 a.m. for snacks and committee meetings. The meeting resumed at 11:13 a.m.

Committee Reports

Bethany asked committee chairs to provide reports from their committee meetings.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

chair: Phaleen Hanson, Broadview Pre-3s, phaleen@yahoo.com

Phaleen said the Scholarship Committee awarded spring scholarships. Some facts:

- \$11,110.05 awarded;
- families with tuition waivers received 140% awards; and

-- three families were not awarded scholarships because they did not meet minimum requirements.

Phaleen said approximately \$30,000 was awarded during the entire year.

Betsy Hudson, PAC Treasurer, said the PAC Scholarship Fund will have approximately \$22,000 available for next year. This will be money received from co-ops as their annual donation to the PAC Scholarship Fund. There may be additional donations from co-ops and individuals to include in the fund.

GRANT WRITING AD-HOC COMMITTEE

members: *Jilda Nettleton, North Seattle Toddlers, jildasn@comcast.net; and Nytasha Sowers, Wallingford Pre-3s, nytashasowers@msn.com*

The committee is working on securing a grant to make up the shortfall between next year's expected scholarship need and the money in the PAC Scholarship Fund. As mentioned earlier, approximately \$30,000 was awarded this year in scholarships, so should the need be the same next year, the approximately \$22,000 in the fund won't cover it.

The committee had applied for a grant through the Dupar Foundation—which was the best fit—but received word back that the foundation would not be awarding any grants at this time. The committee is again looking for grant opportunities. Nytasha Sowers asked reps to let her know if anyone knows someone at the Gates Foundation. A direct connection is ideal. The committee will also look at opportunities through United Way, Bank of America, and the Foundation for Early Learning. Nytasha said it would be helpful if anyone has contacts at those organizations.

Also, if anyone knows of other organizations that support early childhood education, reps are asked to pass along the information: Jilda Nettleton (**jildasn@comcast.net**) or Nytasha Sowers (**nytashasowers@msn.com**).

Nytasha asked reps to have their co-ops consider donating to the PAC Scholarship Fund any excess funds they many have at the end of the school year.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

chair: *Angela Johnson, Victory Heights 3–5s, algae77@yahoo.com*

Angela reported that committee members discussed what worked and what didn't during Open Registration on March 21. Members will come up with a list and recommendations for next year's committee.

One need for next year is a large map that shows the locations of all of the co-ops, along with their meeting times

Angela said they will be reviewing the Web site to make sure the registration information is comprehensive.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

chair: Melissa Kokaly, Wedgwood 3–5s, makokaly@yahoo.com

Melissa reported that the last lecture of the year, “Managing Grief and Loss in the Family,” went well; they’d like to invite those presenters back again. Attendance for the lecture wasn’t very good, but that might be because the topic was tough. She said they will look at how to better promote lectures, maybe by having the schedule set early in the year.

PAC reps are welcome to suggest lecture topics for next year; the committee will give recommendations to next year’s committee.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

chair: Toby Beth Jarman, Cedar Park Toddlers and Wallingford 3–5s PM, tobybethj@comcast.net

Toby Beth asked reps to mention to incoming PAC members that the Communications Committee is in need of a volunteer Webmaster next year. The committee needs one or two people with .html experience and/or graphics experience. It is not database driven. Veronica Niemeyer, the current Webmaster, will be available to train the new person.

The final newsletter of the year will come out in May. The deadline for submissions is May 4.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

chair: open

No report.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS COMMITTEE

chair: Heather Schwindt, University-Ravenna Pre-3s, heathermaria60@hotmail.com

No report.

FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

chair: Michelle Beaumont, Meadowbrook 5s, beaumontmp@seanet.com

Michelle said that since most of the committee members were not at this meeting, the group will hold a separate committee meeting at a later date.

CO-OP CHICKS T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER AD-HOC COMMITTEE

members: Melissa Rice, North Seattle Infants (Tuesdays), mboes@speakeasy.net

Bethany mentioned this committee will merge with the Fund Development Committee next year.

Melissa reported that there is a company that does custom apparel fundraising and it will produce brochures and order forms for products PAC sells. Next year the committee will sell something similar to the co-op chicks shirts, as well as something that will appeal to male buyers. There will be other merchandise available as well. Melissa estimated that projected sales could range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The committee will aim to have products available at the fall Leadership Conference. If any reps have design recommendations, they are asked to contact Melissa.

Conclusion/Announcements

NEWSLETTER

Bethany reminded reps to forward the latest newsletter to their co-op members.

MAY PAC MEETING

The final meeting of the year is scheduled for May 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It will be held in NSCC's Education Building, Room 2843A. Visit www.northseattle.edu/maps for directions. Bethany reminded PAC reps to bring the newly elected reps from their co-ops.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Meeting minutes by Kari Coglon Cantey, Secretary

Attachments

Val Donato Award information and nomination form (3 pages total)

New Val Donato Award for Parent Education Professional Development

Parent Education Program at NSCC

The mission of the Parent Education Program is to promote the development of knowledge and skills for strong and healthy families.

Parent education programs help students become more effective and satisfied in their role by helping them understand their child's behavior, by encouraging them to recognize developmentally appropriate activities, by assisting them in acquiring valuable information in areas which affect the welfare of the "whole child," and by teaching them methods to help their children develop responsible behavior.



Val Donato with one of "her kids"

Students' comments about the NSCC Parent Education Program and Val Donato

- "It is a great program! [Parent Education classes] should be required of all new parents – it provides a great opportunity to understand your child's development and be involved in your child's 'school' life in a way that is not as possible once they enter the regular school system. The program helps build confidence as a parent and provides a support network for when you are less than confident. I have enjoyed participating."
- "I don't think I could have quit my career and stayed sane without [Parent Education]."
- "I know I am a better mom because of what I've learned through [Parent Education]!"
- "Val is an exceptional teacher and a proven leader. She has been a tremendous asset. She always knows the right questions to ask, and has helped [us] deal with conflict in a very supportive, yet unassuming way. She has an incredible fund of knowledge, and [is] available for anyone."

Val Donato

Val Donato graduated from Queens College in New York City with a BA in Education. She moved to Washington DC and then to San Francisco, ending up in Seattle in 1970. She enrolled in Parent Education/Child Study classes at North Seattle Community College and began teaching those classes as a part-timer in 1974. As a student at NSCC, she became active in the leadership of that parent education class, assuming offices of parent coordinator, treasurer, and Advisory Council representative.

When Val first began in the program, only families of children from three to five years old were served. Val expanded the program to include parents of children beginning at birth. She has at various times taught every class offered by the program. The program now serves 42 preschools and 22 local childcare centers serving over 1000 families per quarter through co-operative classes, on-line classes, short-term classes, and lectures.

In 1997, Val earned a Masters in Human Development with an emphasis on Leadership in Education. She is the coordinator for and a full-time instructor in the program. In her spare time she loves to read fiction, garden, and be a grandparent to two wonderful grandchildren.

The Val Donato Award

In September, 2007, the NSCC Health and Human Services Division created the Val Donato Award to recognize dedicated, hardworking, and outstanding parent education faculty members. Depending on the amount of funds obtained (a minimum of \$10,000.00 is needed), the annual award will consist of one or more \$500 stipends. A committee including the Division Dean, an Education Fund Representative, Parent Advisory Council Representatives, and Parent Education faculty will select recipients based upon the nominee's embodiment of Val's and the program's ideals as listed on the nomination form, which are available on the North Seattle Cooperative Preschool website.

Thanks to a generous pledge by Dr. Todd Donato, all donations given during the 2009 calendar year, will be matched up to \$5,000.

Contributions to the award fund are 100% tax-deductible; for further details or to make a donation, contact the North Seattle Community College Education Fund at 206 527 3604 / nscceducationfund@sccd.ctc.edu.

**North Seattle Community College Education Fund
Val Donato Award Nomination Form**

(The Val Donato Award is an annual award of \$500 that goes to an NSCC Parent Education Instructor in recognition of their work and in tribute to Val Donato for her many years of commitment to building an excellent Parent Education Program at NSCC. See the attached Donato flyer for details on how and why the award was developed.)

Form must be submitted to the HHS Dean by the final deadline of May 15. Committee announces the decision by June 15.

Name of Parent Ed Instructor being nominated:	Date:
Name of Person nominating:	Telephone and email address of nominator:
Role in relation to the nominee (student/teacher/instructor):	

Please write an explanation of why you are nominating this instructor, with reference, but not limited to, the criteria listed below:

successfully engages and retains families in his/her classes;
exhibits cultural sensitivity and respect for the families and children in the program;
demonstrates team spirit and leadership;
supports families, teachers, and the board (or directors of program) in achieving their goals;
consistently demonstrates a teaching approach that enhances student learning;
continues to pursue professional and personal growth and development opportunities;
feedback about the instructor indicates learning has occurred.

*E-Mail the nomination form to: Dean Robert Fineman, Health & Human Services Division
North Seattle Community College
rfineman@sccd.ctc.edu*

**Dean Initials when received
Date**

Revised 11/30/05