

**École Alpha Secondary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting**  
**Monday, March 4, 2024**  
**7pm, in person, Alpha Library**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome and Introductions, Maria F**

**Present:** Maria F, Gloria M, Janice C, Jessica J, Liezel L, Ben Paré (Principal), Melanie W, Sally F, Donna Y, Stacie S, Nancy N, Jay G, Johanna K, Arlene E, Hassan M

**Regrets:** Vivien G, Chloe P, Ella H

**Guests:** 3 students from the Alpha Debate Club

**2. Motion to approve the agenda, Maria F**

Gloria M motioned to approve the agenda, with the edit to add 8.d) Fundraising, presenter Nancy N. Seconded by Sally F, all in favor.

**3. Alpha Debate Club Presentation**

Presenters were three (3) students with the Alpha Debate Club

- 40 students come to every meeting
- The club runs seminars, practice debates, speaking exercises, and take part in competitions
- They are student-run and have a sponsor teacher
- The host the Eagle Cup at Alpha, for Alpha students only, and engage with other schools, South and North
- Debates are in teams of two and each team is assigned a position on a resolution
- The club helps with public speaking, essay writing skills, improving confidence and sense of community, long lasting friendships. They are a supportive environment and give constructive feedback to each other.
- PAC has helped with costs for DSABC Membership, \$200/year; running tournaments (food, venue, tabulating software); tournament fees (\$5 to \$20/person)
- Opportunities for parents to watch are to be a parent volunteer judge
- They have an Instagram account, @alpha.debate

Their presentation is attached to these minutes

**4. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2024, Meeting, Maria F**

Melanie W motioned to approve the minutes of February 5, 2024, seconded by Nancy N, all in favour.

**5. Principal's Report, Ben Paré**

- Student clubs are listed on the school website; list includes teacher sponsor, when they meet, Instagram handle.
- Three of our *Alpha Robotics teams* have earned a spot to compete at the World Championships in Dallas, Texas from April 25 to May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Reviewed trends in term 1 marks.

- Invited the City of Burnaby Summit program located at Confederation Park, to the school on Fridays from 3-5pm. There is basketball drop-in and music. Last week 40 students attended. Kids are only from Alpha.
- Student Forum coming up, includes grade 8's to 12's, approximately 60 students, chosen randomly. Participants include students from various clubs (asked teacher sponsors) and school counsellors and teachers suggested names. They will be asked to share their opinions candidly, good or bad. Ben won't attend, counsellors will. There will be a follow up in the Fall. Participants get lunch and an Alpha Cares shirt. RSVP's happening now. Results shared with staff. No one identified personally.
- Spring semi-formal dance, Friday April 26, Hilton Metrotown, grades 10-12, \$40, 6pm to 9pm, appetizers and drinks, budget of \$1500 for a DJ.

**6. Chairperson's Report, Maria F - No report**

**7. Treasurer's Report, Janice C**

- January – received Purdy's fundraiser money
- February - SPC invoice arrived, we received approximately \$500.00
- Reviewed financial statements
- Announced that Liezel L has stepped up as co-treasurer to shadow Janice C and will run for treasurer next year.

**8. Parent Representative Reports**

**a) Grade 12, Stacie S**

CAPSTONE presentation is on Friday, April 12th.

- Students can find more information and a draft presentation in their CLC12B Team in the files tab.
- Ms. Lo or Ms. Teng-Davis in Student Services can assist students with any concerns.

Graduation requires 30 hours of work/volunteer experience.

- It is important students submit their graduation required 30 hours of work/volunteer experience.
- All students received the necessary paperwork required to document and provide evidence of their work/volunteer hours. If your grade 12 student has not already submitted their documentation or have questions, again, Ms. Lo and Ms. Teng-Davis in Student Services can assist them.

Dry Grad 2024 Fundraiser with Purdy's

- Ends TOMORROW, Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Please purchase online at <https://fundraising.purdys.com>, campaign #64670.
- Order pick-up will be Thursday, March 14th and Friday, March 15th after school at Alpha

Dry Grad Tickets:

- Available for purchase in your School Cash Online Account.

Dry Grad Sponsors/Donations:

- Donate to Dry Grad to get your 2024 donation receipt.
- Click the link: [SchoolCashOnline.com](https://SchoolCashOnline.com), select Fund Destination: Alpha Secondary, and in the Message to School Board, write, "Alpha Dry Grad 2024."
- Own a business or work for a company that would sponsor Dry Grad? All sponsors will be mentioned on social media and newsletters. Dry Grad is also looking for products/merchandise donations.
- If you have unused gift cards, sporting/entertainment tickets or new merchandise that can be used for a student raffle or give away, your donation would be greatly appreciated.
- If you have questions or would like to schedule a donation, please email [drygrad.alpha@gmail.com](mailto:drygrad.alpha@gmail.com)

The next Dry Grad meeting is Thursday, March 7, 2024, in the Alpha Library at 7pm.

**b) Community Policing, Gloria M**

- Overall things have remained steady in all areas. Still experiencing some homelessness, vandalism, and theft in the various areas of North Burnaby.
- There has been an increase in graffiti in the Heights area, and Solo, Madison and Brentwood Districts.
- There has also been an increase in alcohol consumption on private property in the Solo and Madison Districts.
- The Heights BIA has reestablished their Height Safety Committee to deal with issues in the Heights area.
- The Burnaby RCMP volunteer program which had been shut down with Covid, is reopening. At this point it is just for adults, but they are planning on launching youth opportunities in the future.
- Reminder of upcoming City of Burnaby Crime Preventions sessions:  
Catalytic converter theft prevention and more  
March 21, 2024, 6pm to 7pm  
Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 4949 Canada Way  
Discussions will include top trends in property crimes like mail theft and catalytic converter thefts, and how to proactively secure belonging and work together to create a safer community.

Protecting seniors from elder abuse

May 16, 2024, 6pm to 7pm

Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 4949 Canada Way

Join Seniors First BC as they provide insights to help older adults identify various types of elder abuse. Topics include where you can find services such as legal advocacy, support services in the community and how to report concerns.

New information sessions are added every month and are held at City Hall. Find out more information and register on the City of Burnaby website:

<https://www.burnaby.ca/recreation-and-arts/events/safe-community-series>

c) **District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), Vivien G** – sent regrets, no report.

d) **Fundraising, Nancy N**

TD Bank donating their Play Grant to Alpha, photo of school receiving the PAC tomorrow, funds must go to something sporty, will be for jerseys

**9. Committee Reports**

a) **School Expansion, Donna Y**

Slow process. If anyone wants to be on an email list for updates, please sign up with Donna Y or email the PAC.

b) **Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) Revisions, Melanie W**

- Melanie W provided background of the committee
- Melanie W reviewed the draft C&B
- Discussion held
- The committee noted the following:
  - the C&B have been updated and reformatted for improved readability and clarity
  - membership has been simplified to only parents/guardians of Alpha students
  - changes to the C&B include new tools to help members participate effectively in PAC decisions, such as
  - increasing quorum for general meetings to 9 people, 2 of whom must be exec
  - allowing Special Meetings that can be called by members
  - including the option of secret ballot votes for every vote
  - allowing electronic participation in meetings (including hybrid and fully remote)
  - allowing the membership to create new executive roles as needed
  - clarifying the election and role of the DPAC representative
  - allowing for appointment of reps to other organizations (e.g., BCCPAC)
  
  - the creation of new representatives and new executive roles will require a consultation process in order to determine which groups within the Alpha community want/need a voice on the PAC, and the best ways to ensure equitable participation in decision making—this will be an ongoing process
  - the use of committees, both ad hoc and standing, should be explored to better support member participation and effective work on PAC activities—this will also be an ongoing process
  - the committee will prepare a final report and include initial recommendations for both policy development as well as the creation of

an Executive Handbook and a Policy & Procedures Manual, which will be updated regularly and posted on the school website for reference

- Gloria M did a headcount of all voting members present. Total 14.
- Ensured quorum, which is 5 general members plus 2 executives. Quorum met.
- Melanie W made a motion to “adopt the Resolution to repeal the Alpha PAC Constitution and Bylaws dated June 2, 2003, and adopt the Alpha PAC Constitution and Bylaws dated March 4, 2024.” Sally F seconded. The full resolution is attached to these minutes.
- All in favor, 10. Opposed, zero. Abstained, 4.
- Jessica J wanted it noted in the minutes she abstained.
- Donna Y expressed these main points at the vote and requested they be in the meeting minutes:
  - She voted yes to pass the motions, largely because:
    - 1) the bulk of the document does bring Alpha PAC up to date with provisions of current BC School Act,
    - 2) it will help us align better to a DPAC calendar with regards to executive formation and DPAC AGM, and
    - 3) there are some time pressures to the administration of APAC’s calendar if we are to bring forward our AGM to May
  - However, Donna’s vote was a reluctant yes because there are some decision-making and accountability measures that were not yet addressed regarding core functional aspects to the APAC. These areas that need to be addressed are transparency and accountability of:
    - 1) budget planning & disbursements rules
    - 2) how various committees are struck, formed, or triggers for disbandment, for example appointment of an Executive nominations committee
  - She strenuously advised that a few, perhaps 2-4, Standing Committees be formed. For example, Budget Approval (working closely with Treasurer). Another example could be an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) one.
  - These committees might meet at a frequency to be determined and described in a PAC Admin Guidelines document. It need not be arduous once the frameworks are put into place. Perhaps one or two meetings to set out the general plan for the year.
  - Similarly, other occasional / ad hoc working groups can be formed on an as-needed, event-by-event basis.
  - Overall, the fine details will shift over time, but Donna’s main concerns are related to need for Standing Committees that would work with the now greatly reduced Executive to plan out the shape of the year.

## **10. New Business**

### **a) Call for Nominations**

- Gloria has agreed to be the Nominating Chair.
- Official call for nominations for four (4) Executive positions, one (1) District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) representative and one (1) DPAC alternate representatives.
- Gloria will send an email out to all parents describing the roles, date of AGM, and the process for submitting nominations.

## **11. Upcoming Events/Dates of Interest, Gloria M**

- Thursday, March 14, Early Dismissal at 11:51am
- Thursday, March 14, Student Learning Conferences
- March 14 and 15 is Purdy's pick up
- Friday, March 15, Early Dismissal at 1:53pm
- March 18 to April 1, Spring Break, school closed
- Tuesday, April 2, School reopens
- **NEXT PAC meeting: Monday, April 8, 7pm**

## **12. Adjourn, Maria F**

Melanie H motioned to adjourn the meeting, Maria F seconded, all in favor

Meeting ended at 9:35pm



ALPHA

DEBATE



# WHAT IS DEBATE CLUB?





# Our Debaters

- ★ We had around 53 signups during Clubs Day!
- ★ Grade Breakdown:
  - 14 Grade 8's
  - 10 Grade 9's
  - 20 Grade 10's
  - 5 Grade 11's
  - 4 Grade 12's





# A Day in the Life

- ★ Seminars
- ★ Practice debates
- ★ Speaking exercises



ALPHA  
DEBATE

Logical Fallacies Seminar



ALPHA  
DEBATE

Point Building

Build em up build em up build em up!



# Debate Competition

- ★ Tournaments
  - Regionals
  - Eagle Cup
- ★ Engagement with other schools
  - SAND (South/Alpha/North Debate)
- ★ New Experiences
  - Team-bonding
  - Expand horizons
- ★ Trophies!



# WHAT IS A DEBATE?



# General Debate Format

Two types of debate

- Impromptu
- Prepared

People debate in partners and are assigned a position on a resolution



# Impromptu Debate

Be it resolved that all school exams be open book



# Impromptu Debate

Be it resolved that all school exams be open book

Proposition:

- Tests use of knowledge instead of accumulation of knowledge
- More relevant to modern society (internet)



# Impromptu Debate

Be it resolved that all school exams be open book

Opposition:

- Having knowledge still important even with internet





# Impromptu Debate

Be it resolved that all school exams be open book

- Only 20 minutes to prepare
- No research
- Think on their feet
- Rewards background knowledge



# Prepared Debate

This house believes that publicly funded universities should be required to reduce enrolment in degree programs within their university that have statistically poor employment outcomes.



# Prepared Debate

This house believes that publicly funded universities should be required to reduce enrolment in degree programs within their university that have statistically poor employment outcomes.

- In depth research
- Have to prep both sides



# WHY DEBATE CLUB?



# Fostering Growth

## ★ Skills

- Public speaking
- Essay-writing
- Improves confidence

## ★ Sense of community

- Student-run
- Long-lasting friendships
- Supportive environment
- Constructive feedback



# How PAC Helps Us

- ★ DSABC Membership fees
  - \$200 at the beginning of the year
- ★ Running tournaments
- ★ Tournament fees
  - \$5-20 per person
  - Improve accessibility



THANK YOU  
QUESTIONS?