

École Alpha Secondary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2024
7pm, in person, Alpha Library
MINUTES
Approved June 4, 2024

1. Welcome and Introductions, Maria F

Present: Maria F, Gloria M, Janice C, Jessica J, Liezel L, Ben Paré (Principal), Melanie W, Vivien G, Stacie S, Nancy N, Brian L, Karena O, Louise L, Richard M, Mario L, Karen L, Ella H

Regrets: Sally F, Chloe P, Ms. Lo

2. Motion to approve the agenda, Maria F

Maria added and edited some items:

- Ms. Lo could not make it tonight so Ben will show her presentation.
- Gloria M will present the Community Policing report.
- Addition of Staff Appreciation Lunch.

Gloria M motioned to approve the agenda with the added and edited items, seconded by Vivien G, all in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes from Mach 4, 2024, Meeting, Maria F

Melanie W made the following amendments:

In number 9(b), under the bullet point that says "Discussion", please insert:

"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 motioned to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024, with the addition of Melanie’s items. Seconded by Nancy N, all in favour.

4. Principal’s Report, Ben Paré

Ben presented Ms. Lo’s scholarship presentation as she could not attend the meeting. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Lo suggested she come to a Fall PAC meeting to discuss scholarships as many come available then and throughout the year.

Information is on 0-365 Teams and on the SharePoint/Blog website. Note the website has old information but is a useful starting point to learn about the different scholarships available.

Ms. Lo is available for questions. Email Veroncia.Lo@burnabyschools.ca

Last week had the first Alpha Ice Hockey game. Won 13-2 against Britannia. Mixed gender team. Had a lot of fun.

Flower beds being done, by PE dept head. On her own. Looks amazing

Presented school fees for following year, some of which include:

\$30 for student activity fee

\$145 for AP Exam

\$55 for yearbook (\$65 after semester 1)

\$80 for school leaving ceremony

\$140 for dinner/dance

\$100 for Dry after grad

\$35 for food safe course

\$250 for Robotics club

School renovations:

Library renovation – classroom being added.

Hair salon – addition of classroom desk and technology.

Reviewed parking challenges at the school.

5. Vice-Chairperson's Report, Gloria M

PAC Scholarships

In previous years PAC has used \$3,500.00 of the yearly BC Gaming Grant for grade 12 scholarships.

As of this year, BC Gaming no longer allows the grant money to be used for scholarships. At the beginning of the year, when PAC was notified of this change, it was discussed and decided based on our current financial position, that a placeholder of \$3,500.00 would be put in the budget from our General Funds to continue to support grade 12 scholarships this year.

This was done with the intention that Scholarships would be reviewed by PAC in time for the allocation in early May.

As part of this review process, the PAC Executive went through a thorough list of the exiting descriptions and requirements for both Alpha awarded scholarship as well as those awarded by Burnaby School District.

Most of these scholarships are focused heavily on high marks and volunteering (involvement both at school and in the community).

PAC feels that there is perhaps a group of students that appear to be under-recognized in the current Scholarships.

These are individuals who have a variety of reasons that may impact their participation in extracurricular activities (anxiety, family situations, outside commitments, or just focusing on schoolwork).

Recommend these 5 categories, at \$500.00 each:

1. PAC Arts Focused Scholarship (\$500)

Awarded to a student who has an aptitude for, and has excelled in, Arts related courses during their senior years. These include not only Drama, Music, and Dance but also the lesser focused on areas of Visual Arts (including Media Art) and Photography. The recipient has a strong academic standing and has been an engaged and enthusiastic student and is registered to pursue post-secondary studies.

2. PAC Empowerment Scholarship (\$500)

Awarded to a student who is from an underrepresented or marginalized group who has been a good role model for others through their positive attitude and leadership. The recipient has a successful academic standing and has been an engaged and enthusiastic student and is registered to pursue post-secondary studies. Consideration is given to a student with financial needs.

3. PAC Quiet Leadership Scholarship (\$500)

Awarded to a student who is quiet or reserved but that works hard at their studies, is engaged in the classroom, and is valued and respected by both their peers and their teachers. The recipient, who may otherwise go unnoticed, has been strong academically throughout their senior years and is registered to pursue post-secondary studies.

4. PAC ADST Focused Scholarship (\$500)

Awarded to a student who has an aptitude for and has excelled during their senior years in Applied Skills and Technology (ADST) courses (including drafting, electronics robotics), Trades related courses (including woodworking/carpentry, electrical, plumbing), Foods or Textile courses. The recipient has a good academic standing and has been an engaged and enthusiastic student and is registered to pursue post-secondary studies.

5. PAC All-Round Achievement Scholarship (\$500)

Awarded to a student who has demonstrated values of a well-rounded individual. They have strived for academic achievement, have participated in the school community, and represent the qualities of good citizenship (fair, dependable, respectful). They have also been successful at initiatives outside of school and are registered to pursue post-secondary studies.

Moved ahead to the Treasurer's report to help decide.

Future years ideas:

- COULD be a percentage of the funds accumulated throughout the year from school cash online donations and fundraisers (ex. If we accumulate \$6000 in funds for the year, maybe scholarships are 20% of \$6000 = \$1200)
- communicate a specific "ask" from parents to donate to scholarships – this could be done through a school cash online scholarships donation account.

Can carry general funds over from year to year.

Melanie W made a motion to approve the \$2,500.00 to spend on PAC scholarships. Seconded by Ella H. All in favor.

6. Treasurer's Report, Janice C

- March – no activity, \$60 came through school cash online donations.
- Reviewed financial statements

7. Parent Representative Reports

a) DPAC, Vivien G

- In February, Vivien was nominated as DPAC executive, representing Brentwood North Zone
- SOGI District presentation is on the DPAC website; if you have any issues, please see the school principal.
- A survey was sent out re the school district budget.
Some budget notes:
 - a) Due to overcapacity and various cutbacks; school district has used a reserve fund of savings to balance the budget in the past. This reserve fund is almost

depleted. More support is needed to increase awareness of the need for more money in public education.

- b) Burnaby DPAC has identified three key issues on School Budget that they would like to address:
 - i. Changing the current school funding formula with the province, so the cost of portables is not coming out of District operating budget and propose that new schools are to build according to projected needs/capacity.
 - ii. Past projections of student enrollment have been inaccurate, which has contributed to a lack of proper planning, and schools being over capacity.
 - iii. The current timeline of presenting the proposed budget to parents does not allow DPAC sufficient time to assess and give meaningful feedback.
- Important Meeting Dates for 2024/25 School District Budget:
 - Tues. April 9th** - DPAC Presentation to Parents by District staff will take place at Burnaby Central Secondary - 6011 Deer Lake Parkway at 7 pm.

Wed. April 10 - Special Public Presentation at School District Office at 4054 Norfolk Street or via Zoom at 7pm

*****Registration is required** - pls refer to link below to register. If you would like to make a presentation or virtually attend this meeting, please register with the office of the Secretary-Treasurer by phone at 604.296.6900 (ext. 661004) or by email at budget@burnabyschools.ca by **1:00pm on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.**

Fri. April 12 - Submit your ideas and suggestions: Members of the community are welcome to submit ideas and suggestions by email to budget@burnabyschools.ca, or in writing to the Board's Finance Committee at 4054 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, BC, V5G 0C3. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, April 12, 2024.**

Mon. April 15- DPAC Budget Consultation & General Meeting will take place at Burnaby Central Secondary - 6011 Deer Lake Parkway at 7pm (Note: District staffs will not be present.)

If you have any comments or suggestions, please consider attending one of the above listed meetings. DPAC survey results as well as April 9th Budget presentation slides will be available on the April 15th DPAC budget meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please submit your comments to the expansion committee, and we can bring your comments forward at DPAC meeting on the 15th.

For more information on School Budget, please visit <https://burnabyschools.ca/board/budgets-and-policies/budget/>

b) Community Policing, Gloria M

The overall rate of incidents in North Burnaby is steady with no major incidents or concerns in any particular area.

There continues to be incidents of open drug use on The Heights. This is a concern for residents and businesses but unfortunately it is currently not a law enforcement issue. The only course of action is it is on private property and the landowner calls police for trespassing.

Youth incidents are down although there was an increase in activity at Confederation Park during spring break. Constable McInnes has proposed a presentation to the Committee by the RCMP Youth Services division. Either Chloe or I will keep everyone posted on this as I am sure it will have information that as parents will be of interest in.

c) Grade 12, Stacie S

Class of 2024 Leaving Ceremony:

Remember that École Alpha Secondary School's Leaving Ceremony is Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:30pm at Convocation Mall, Simon Fraser University.

School Leaving Ceremony tickets became available today, Monday April 8th.

All graduates will receive 2 complimentary tickets with their gown pick up. 10 additional tickets may be purchased for \$5 each on school cash online or in the school office between April 8th and May 8th.

Purchased tickets can be picked up in the school office on Monday May 13th. If you require additional tickets after May 8th, they can be purchased in the school office after May 13th (until tickets are sold out)

Class of 2024 Dinner Dance:

Class of 2024 Dinner Dance is Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at Pinnacle Harbourfront, 6:00 pm

Tickets are on sale until Thursday May 30th but it is requested you purchase your \$140 ticket using SchoolCashOnline.com by April 30th to ensure proper planning.

Graduates will not be eligible to attend the dinner dance if tickets are not purchased by May 30th. If the cost is a concern, PLEASE reach out to your counsellor as it is the goal to have all graduating students attend.

Dry Grad:

Next meeting is Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 7 pm (All grade 12 parents are welcome!)

Dry Grad tickets

Dry Grad tickets are available on School Cash Online and the price is now \$70 SchoolCashOnline.com

Grade 11 Parent Volunteers for Dry Grad event

We are looking for 6 grade 11 volunteers and I will provide a sign-up sheet

Grade 12 Parent Volunteers

If interested in volunteering with food, decor or fundraising, prior to event please contact dry grad by email at drygrad.alpha@gmail.com

50/50 Raffle

Dry Grad is planning another **50/50 draw** (I hope to have information by Monday so I can provide it at the meeting)

Please follow Dry Grad on Instagram at @alphadrygrad2024

Please ask your Grade 12 Student to @alphagradcouncil2024

Thank you for generously supporting Dry Grad through their spring Purdy's Fundraiser. Your purchases provided \$307 for the 2024 Dry Grad!

Donations:

We are looking for donations (Cash is best) but we also are looking for items to use as prizes at Dry Grad for our grads and also for a silent auction

Donations may be made through [SchoolCashOnline.com](https://schoolcashonline.com) Select Fund Destination: Alpha Secondary and in the message to School Board write: Alpha Dry Grad 2024

If you own a business or work for one that may be interested in sponsoring our Dry Grad we will promote your donation on our social media, newsletter and provide a tax receipt for cash donations. If you would like more information or wish to sponsor or donate, please contact Dry Grad by email at drygrad.alpha@gmail.com

Capstone presentation:

Capstone presentations are this *Friday, April 12th*. and begin at 2 pm. (Students are released at 1:46 to get ready and be in their assigned room by 2 pm) Room assignments are posted outside Student Services in B222 and outside the Library/Learning Commons. The list includes the teacher evaluating and the grade 11 students observing.

Alpha Spring Semi-Formal Dance for grades 10-12:

Alpha Spring Semi-Formal Dance for grades 10-12 on Friday, April 26th at the Metrotown Hilton from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased through School Cash Online – “Spring Formal Senior Dance” - <https://burnaby.schoolcashonline.com/>

Ticket price includes dance admission, appetizers provided by the Hilton, DJ, photobooth and security.

8. Committee Reports

a) School Expansion, Vivien G

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

Donna and Jay joined the School Expansion Committee in February. I will be following up with Ishver, Secretary of Treasurer about Alpha's potential expansion this month. More details will follow.

A few neighboring elementary schools were approved to expand; Kitchener received funding for a prefabricated addition for 375 students, and a new Francophone school will be completed by 2027 on 7200 Block of Frances Street. These new schools will affect Alpha's future enrolment.

In February, Ishver, Secretary Treasurer had presented Alpha with some updates. Alpha is being assessed for expansion this year. If you wish to learn more about Ishver's presentation, please visit: <https://alpha.burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/PAC-Minutes-Feb-5-2024.pdf>.

Projection of 60 additional students at Alpha for next year, 2 classes

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

1. We are wrapping up a final report for the Review committee, which will include recommendations on policies as well as starting notes for an Executive Handbook, a Policy & Procedures Manual, and a User's Guide to PAC Participation. That will get posted to the website once complete, and the committee will dissolve.
2. We now have a bylaw requiring execs and reps to sign a Code of Ethics document, so a template from the BCCPAC will be sent out for consideration, to be voted on at the next general meeting. It will include a template for a dispute resolution process as well.
3. Refining policies & implementing the new C&B will need a new committee, so there is an open invitation for participation, and I will let Maria discuss what that could look like.

9. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) AGM Nominations, Gloria M

- Next month is the AGM where we will be voting in our new Executive
- Calling for nominations for four (4) Executive positions, one (1) District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) representative and one (1) DPAC alternate representatives.
- Email the alpha PAC if you are interested
Use the email Gloria sent out with the info

b) Gift card fundraiser, Vivien G

Successful for Vivien's grade 7 class years ago

Drama teacher interested in trying it out and found an Art parent to help. Vivien will help at the back end. Goal is \$10K.

More info coming out and a link for the purchases.

Thinking of doing this in May.

10. New Business

a) Staff Appreciation Lunch – Maria

PAC plans and hosts this in June. Maria has volunteered to organize. Looking for volunteers to help plan, help day prior, day off, please reach out. Approximately 100 people with teaching staff, admin, custodial, EAs. As per Mr. Paré, best date is last week of school. Date is TBD.

11. Upcoming Events/Dates of Interest, Gloria M

- Friday, April 12, Grade 11/12 Capstone Presentations
- Friday, April 12, Grade 8/9/10, early dismissal at 1:45pm
- Week of April 15, Provincial Assessments Week – only a few kids, classes as usual
- Wednesday, April 17, last day of Term 3
- Wednesday, April 17, student forum
- Thursday, April 18, first day of Term 4
- Week of April 22, Library Literacy Week
- Wednesday, April 24, Évaluation de littéracie de la 12e année
- Monday, April 29, PRO-D DAY, NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, April 30, Term 3 Report Cards available online
- May 1 to 4, Theatre Production
- **PAC AGM: Monday, May 6, 7pm**

12. Adjourn, Maria F

Meeting ended at 9:05pm