

**École Alpha Secondary School  
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting  
Nov 4, 2024, 7:00pm  
In person at Alpha Learning Commons/Library**

**MINUTES**

Approved Jan 6, 2025

**CALLED TO ORDER: 7:03pm**

**PRESENT:**

*Executive:* Maria F, Ella H, Melanie W, Liezel L

*DPAC Rep:* Vivien G

*Principal:* Victoria Lee

*Members:* Victoria L, De D, Mark C, Nancy N, Jay G, Chloe P, Alvin W, Nikki F, Phoebe M, Johanna K, Christine C, Isabel K, Nisha N, Karen I, Kathryn C, Julie M, Hetal G, Julie M, Sally F

**REGRETS:**

Sharron W (Dry Grad Rep)

<p><b>1. Welcome</b> Land Acknowledgment Introduction of Exec &amp; reps</p>
<p><b>2. Approval of Agenda</b> Amendments: None Motion: Chloe P Second: Liezel L <b>Approved</b></p>
<p><b>3. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2024</b> Corrections: None Motion: Hetal Second: Vivien <b>Approved</b></p>
<p><b>4. Hairdressing School Presentation:</b> Lovina Gladue, Principal Instructor</p> <p>Ms Gladue has been principal instructor for 7 yrs, has seen growth and change in the program &gt;district-wide, so students from all over Burnaby come to Alpha for it &gt;program is one full year, Jan gr 11 to Jan gr 12 (used to be 2 year program) &gt;harmonized in 2016, so that students who complete the program can get Red Seal and work anywhere in Canada &gt;1200 hrs and they can apprentice for another 2000 hrs before writing exam to get Level 2 at VCC &gt;here at Alpha students get more one-on-one training and help than in a private school</p>

>students take a wide range of paths after completing the program

>can see curriculum on SkilledTradesBC website

>cost of kit (all equipment they need) can be high, but she tries to keep it under \$3000 while ensuring professional quality tools

>now open for clients on Thursdays, can get styled/root touch ups by students, trims; salon is in the large gym, prices are for cost of products; appointments can be made by text, Thursdays only but can expand to second day if interest there

**Q:** How many students?

**A:** Max 15 now (was higher before COVID)

**Q:** What is their academic schedule?

**A:** For the year of the program, it's all the hair curriculum from SkilledTradesBC; gives them their elective credits, then the last half of grade 12 is doubled-up on academics; final marks are blended (school plus Skilled Trades test)

**Q:** What kinds of students take it?

**A:** Lots of kids try it, some realize it's not what they want, better to figure that out before paying tuition

**Q:** Is there an orientation/application process

**A:** Discussion with principal, application & interview process; have had students waitlisted who come back the next year & do it after graduating

**Q:** Do other districts have similar programs?

**A:** Surrey, Abbotsford, and others

## **5. Robotics Team Presentation: Student Representatives**

>Participating on a Robotics team has provided a wide range of benefits:

-meeting people from all over the region

-opportunities to compete provincially and internationally

-learn time management

-gain social skills with new people & professional experience interacting with judges

-competitions are not toxic

-learn collaboration skills when paired with students you don't know at competitions

>Robotics workshop is by the cafeteria, offers time with peer tutors and practise with coach Mr Zee

>Robotics Club involves higher investment than some clubs (\$250 entry fee plus competition fees) but supplies are provided and not like the \$3000 some clubs charge

**Q:** What kind of robots do you build?

**A:** Each season there is a game with a theme, each year has different challenges (e.g., scoring, lifting things, hanging from things) and limits (e.g., some parts must be used, some are not allowed)

**Q:** How many teams are there?

**A:** There are middle school and high school divisions, so it can vary.

*Robotics Club General Manager, grade 12:*

>has been to Worlds the last two years, along the way there were local, regional, and provincial competitions

>not just STEM experience, but great social support and lots of hours available together

> competitions help you learn to interact with other teams, improve communications & confidence  
>STEM skills transferable to other activities, e.g. Science Fair, networking & bonding over shared interests  
>no other club has these kinds of opportunities to participate & collaborate in these ways  
>club has grown to 60 people over last 3 years, Mechatronics program has helped that growth  
>expensive activities e.g., field costs \$2000 each yr—this program available to public school students that otherwise couldn't access it, and caliber is comparable to private organizations/schools—at competitions last year, only 2 public school teams  
>Mechatronics program will move to South next year, has more capacity at South  
\*Demonstration of robot used recently in competition, product of couple hundred hours of work\*

**Q:** how many competitions did you compete in last year?

**A:** (Rian & Kiera) We were rookies, our team did 5 or 6 last year; last year Alpha had 12 teams in total

**Q:** Will you have to travel to Burnaby South next year?

**A:** For some things, other things can be done from home

**Q:** Is Robotics class different from Robotics club?

**A:** Yes, although there is a lot of overlap in participation. Alpha has robotics classes, the robotics club, and also the district-wide Mechatronics program.

*Maria F:* Various schools in Burnaby are known for different district-wide programs, e.g., Alpha has Hairdressing and Mechatronics. Mechatronics takes 10-15 students in grades 11 and 12 from across the district, and it was those students who went to the world championship last year. Younger students do the VEX robotics program.

*Ms Lee:* There is some flux right now with scheduling issues and keeping Mechatronics (Ms Lee has requested to keep it if we go to a 5 period day, which would allow space), however Burnaby South has three times the workshop space and the District decided 2 years ago to move the program. The sponsor teacher also wants the program to have access to the bigger space, and will be moving to Burnaby South as well.

## **6. Principal's Report:** Victoria Lee

*Student Surveys:* Last year staff conducted two comprehensive surveys with students, and have been doing a deep dive into the responses to explore ways to integrate student input meaningfully. One theme that has emerged is the desire to have genuine, robust inclusion of the diverse cultures in the school community. Staff and the CARES Committee hosted a successful Diwali celebration this fall, and look forward to more such events. The surveys also showed that students want teachers to have better skills in helping to deal with microaggressions and other problematic interactions, so this is another priority for staff to help all students feel safe and comfortable.

## **7. Chairperson's Report:** Maria F

### **Burnaby South Secondary Invite to Parents (PLT Sessions)**

Wed Nov 13 7pm at Burnaby South, free, aiming to help Burnaby parents create a support network—see their website for info, info will also be in student bulletin coming up

## **8. Treasurer's Report:** Liezel L

>Received the Gaming Grant: \$24,160.00

>Term deposits were redeemed and sitting in general account; will re-invest as per approved budget  
>See attached Treasurer's Report for details, including Fundraising summary—shows progress so far

For more information on the PAC financials, email the Executive any time

## 9. Fundraising Update

**SPC cards** (Maria, Hetal): some kids still need to pick them up; thank you to Hetal G for organizing; thank you as well to Alpha's bookkeeper, Shannon

**Purdy's** (Nancy): open til Nov 25, lots of selection; 25% goes back to us once you hit a certain sales amount (about \$2000) pickup first week of December

**Bottle Return-It** (Nancy): got cheque for approximately \$250

## 10. Parent Grade 12 Dry Grad Committee

>Sharron sends regrets

>50/50 Draw is live, \$455 now; draw early Dec; need to determine how to buy it, where it's posted

>Photo night Nov 18 & 19 fully booked, might book another one in spring

## 11. Accessibility Committee: Sally F

The Committee is new and just getting started. So far committee members have been working to increase accessibility for students who are neurodiverse or have other needs, with a focus on sports (met with coaches) and the Leadership program; looking at broadening to clubs.

Interested parents can contact the Executive for more information about meeting times and projects.

## 12. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Representative Report: Vivien G

>Treasurer Workshop—slides on website

>Asked about tax receipts for company that matches a family's donation—both get tax receipt

>Parents asking about staggered scheduling that has been in the news

>DPAC event—moved to Moscrop gym—see DPAC website

>DPAC mtg Nov 18, no Dec mtg

## 13. Expansion Committee Update: Vivien G, Julie M

Spoke to District Secretary-Treasurer Ishver Sanguray—update should come within 6 months

Had first committee mtg—over to Julie—different priorities (field, expansion, scheduling) led to deciding to send out a survey to see what parents want—want to run it by PAC and Ms Lee; simple request about priorities/concerns

*Maria:* as PAC, we can send stuff out to our OWN email contact list; can't use school's listserv—Ms Lee in agreement

*Melanie:* we can bump up requests to parents in bulletins, etc to send us their emails and capture more contacts

Interested parents please contact the Exec

*Maria:* will announce next committee mtg so parents can get involved

## 14. Upcoming Events/Dates of Interest

- Last Day of Term 1 Nov 5
- Core Competency Day Nov 6

- Remembrance Day Assemblies Nov 8
- Remembrance Day No School Nov 11
- Pro D Day School Closed Nov 22
  
- **NEXT PAC meeting: Mon Jan 6, 2025 at 7:00pm**  
**(NOTE: no Dec PAC meeting)**

#### **15. Other Business**

Bell Schedule Proposal: Victoria Lee

The District has been considering modifying school bell schedules as part of the solution to overcrowding issues, and looking at what has worked, or not, in other districts. Alpha will be getting an additional 12 modular prefab classrooms in about two years (6 classrooms stacked on 6 classrooms, replacing the unusable tennis courts by the field; will have washrooms and covered walkway), but in the meantime, population and cost projections are being redone to ensure safety, and district principals are visiting other schools to see how they have managed with solutions like a 5-period day.

If an extended day schedule is adopted, the most likely scenario would be for the grade 8 to 10 students to all start at the same time and still have 4 periods like they do now, while the grade 11 and 12 students would have their courses spread out across 5 periods, potentially with spare blocks and/or finishing earlier or later than the other grades. There is also the potential for senior students to take more than 8 subjects. Teachers would work 4 blocks and have staggered shifts. Flex time may be eliminated, as it cuts into instructional time and is not widely used by students, but provision would need to be made for students who do need flex time.

The extended day schedule would likely only be needed for a couple of years, until the modular classrooms are installed, but the district is planning for solutions to cover 3 years in case there are delays. There are multiple possible approaches, with many costs and benefits that must be considered, e.g., many programs and extracurricular activities only work because of a 4-period day, and logistics of staff meetings would need to be scheduled at lunch when all staff are in the school.

In the longer term, the actual building expansion that has been part of the overall plan will go along Parker Street.

If parents have questions or want to provide input, please email Ms Lee and she can bring concerns directly to the committee working on the expansion issues.

**ADJOURNED: 8:58pm**

**POST-SCRIPT (Liezal) Trip to Galapagos—talk to Ms Sawatzky**

Ecole Alpha Secondary PAC  
 Treasurer's Report  
 For the period Sept 1, 2024 to Oct 31, 2024

**Highlights for October 2024:**

- Gaming grant of \$24,160 received.
- Term deposits that matured on Oct 4, 2024 were redeemed. Interest income for general and gaming funds were \$530.41.
- SPC sales totaled \$1,820, which is \$290 more than last year's sales.

**Total PAC General Funds**

Cash in Bank	\$ 21,015.62
PAC donations with Alpha	\$ 3,570.72
PAC fundraising funds with Alpha	\$ 2,047.05
ST Investments	\$ -
<b>Total Funds at end of period Oct 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 26,633.39</b>

**Total PAC Gaming Funds**

Cash in Bank	\$ 39,100.23
PAC TWL funds with Alpha School	\$ 1,884.79
ST Investments	\$ -
<b>Total Funds at end of period Oct 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 40,985.02</b>

<b>Fundraising Summary</b>	Revenue	Expenses	Net Revenue	Budget Revenue
Progressive Fundraising	\$ 650.00	\$ 626.50	\$ 23.50	\$ 630.00
SPC	\$ 1,820.00	TBD	TBD	\$ 500.00
Purdy's	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00

**General Account Financial Report for October 2024:**

<u>Revenue</u>	Oct 2024	YTD	Budget	Diff
Donations				
PAC General	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,260.00)
Staff Lunch	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	
Fundraising				
Bottle Return It	\$ -	\$ 207.05	\$ 200.00	\$ 7.05
Purdy's	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
SPC	\$ 1,480.00	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 320.00
Progressive Gift Cards	\$ 500.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 11,550.00	\$ (10,900.00)
COBS Bread	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -		
Grants				
SD41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 325.00	
Investment Income				
Term deposit interest	\$ 247.03	\$ 247.03	\$ 230.00	\$ 17.03
<b>Revenue TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,467.03</b>	<b>\$ 3,164.08</b>	<b>\$ 18,055.00</b>	<b>\$ (12,815.92)</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	Oct 2024	YTD	Budget	Diff
Students Support				
Club Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
Scholarships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	
Staff Support				
Staff Appreciation Lunch	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00	
Fundraising Expenses				
SPC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,025.00	
Progressive Gift Cards	\$ 626.50	\$ 626.50	\$ 10,920.00	\$ (10,293.50)
PAC Admin Expenses				
PAC meeting refreshments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 270.00	
Office supplies, printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
Misc				
Miscellaneous expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
<b>Expenses TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 626.50</b>	<b>\$ 626.50</b>	<b>\$ 17,815.00</b>	<b>\$ (10,293.50)</b>

**Gaming Account Financial Report for September:**

<u>Revenue</u>	Oct 2024	YTD	Budget	Diff
Grants				
Gaming Grant	\$ 24,160.00	\$ 24,160.00	\$ 24,160.00	\$ -
Investment Income				
Term deposit interest	\$ 283.38	\$ 283.38	\$ 478.00	\$ (194.62)
Revenue TOTAL	\$ 24,443.38	\$ 24,443.38	\$ 24,638.00	\$ (194.62)
<u>Expenses</u>	Oct 2024	YTD	Budget	Diff
Students Support				
Club Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,160.00	
Teacher's Wish List	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	
Admin Expenses				
Membership registration fees	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 450.00	\$ (350.00)
Expenses TOTAL	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 24,610.00	\$ (350.00)