

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
Monday, September 11th, 2017

Attendance: Mr. K. Brandt, Mr. B. Pare, Mr. T. Wozney, Ms. Basran, Melody Eng, Terry Vincelli, Janice Chiem, Angela Dasovic, Dan Funaro, Lina Basso, Giselle Patella, Ivana Gauw, Lina Silvestre, Anne-Marie Porth, Susan Fritz (& and many new faces, to many to name, sorry!)

Regrets: Teresa Szymborska, Sherry Zhao, Ivana Gauw, and Lina Silvestre

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Melody welcomed everyone to the meeting followed by round the table introductions.
- June Minutes – motion was made by Dan to approve minutes, Giselle seconded, all in favour - motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Kevin

- Kevin welcomed everyone and introduced the Administration staff as Mr. Kevin Brandt (Principal), Mr. Ben Pare (replaced Mr. Genge) and Mr. Tim Wozney (replacing Dr. Frank until position is filled officially). The District is currently going through a hiring process. They will put a PALS list together that will be approved on September 25th, followed by placements for successful candidates.
- All of Alpha's staffing needs have been met for this semester. There has been a lot of movement through out all the districts with admin, teachers and staff. Current enrolment is 1111.
- Construction update:
 - Building in on schedule for Sept 2018 completion.
 - Very busy and lots of construction happening.
 - New ventilation system was installed in woodworking class.
 - The Seismic upgrade to the Drama room, Music room, Woodwork shop and classes in this wing have been completed.
 - The canopy on the new building will be on by winter, to allow trades to start with the electrical/plumbing, walls, etc.
 - There are renderings of the building set up at the back of the room that you can look at after the meeting.
 - The wing of the building that you walk into off the horseshoe parking lot will be torn down once the new building is up and running. This space will be a green space with landscaping and walkway to Parker Street.
- The school year is off to a good start. The students seem to have settled in nicely.
- Collab Time, there will be 6 sessions 1st semester and 6 session 2nd semester. Teachers use this time to collaborate with other teachers on various topics/class plans. Students are expected to attend school during this time. They go to their class for attendance then to the scheduled activity that's been set for that specific class. Counsellors and student mentors oversee the classes during this time. We want Collab time to be beneficial to all students so a DRAFT schedule, (USE of Collab time) has been designed for grades 8-10. There are lots of activities, field trips and presenters that will come in. Once this has been finalized it will be posted on the school website. He hopes this schedule will be finalized by next week.

- Melody asked if students have been talked to about Collab and Kevin said it was mentioned in their assembly.
- A parent asked if they should go to homeroom class on Collab days and Kevin said they go to their first class and have attendance taken.
- Kevin says with the transformation of the school, it is looking to create a new Mission Statement for Alpha. He will get input/feedback from Staff, Students, Community, and parents. He shared a few questions that they will be asking these groups.

VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Ben & Tim

- Kevin asked both Ben and Tim to give us a little background:
 - Ben came from Burnaby South Secondary at the end of last year. The transition has gone smoothly. He feels the students have settled in and seem happy.
 - Tim recently came from Moscrop Secondary but did work at Alpha 10 years ago for a 2 yr. period. He worked with Kevin at Burnaby Mountain and also with Ben at Burnaby North previously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- No formal Treasurer's Report was ready for tonight's meeting as previous treasurer is still finalizing numbers for Janice. Janice will have a report ready for our October meeting.
- We have applied for the Gaming Grant.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Melody shared the open PAC positions with us: Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Grade 8 Rep, ELL Rep, Fundraising Rep & Dry Grad Rep. Interested parents can let any of the PAC members know or email at PACexecutive@gmail.com their interest.
- Mentioned that the PAC was selling SPC cards online, at our meeting tonight and will sell them again at the Parent Information Meeting. They are \$10 each with \$3.50 going back to the PAC.
- A few recipients of the PAC scholarships sent Thank you cards to the PAC. Cards were circulated.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Nothing to report.

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Grade 8 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 10 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 12 – Giselle asked about Grad photos at Artona. Dates are posted in the school calendar on the school's website. A list serve is typically sent home to parents with details of this. And the grads are usually on top of this as well. If you are not able to make the scheduled dates, Artona can be contacted to arrange another date, however, there are cut-off dates for each school (annual deadlines)
- Mini-School Rep – Nothing to report.
- ELL Rep – Nothing to report.

DPAC

- Nothing to report.
- Next meeting, September 18th, 7pm at Burnaby Central

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR DPAC FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DPAC, SD41 AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Burnaby DPAC Contact: info@burnabydpac.com

Burnaby DPAC Website: <http://www.burnabydpac.com/>

Burnaby DPAC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BurnabyDPAC>

FUNDRAISING

- SPC cards will be sold online, at our PAC meeting and the Parent Information Meeting.
- Other fundraisers will be Purdy's Chocolates at Christmas and ongoing Return It Bottle Recycling at Kitchener location.

DRY GRAD

- Parent Committee needs to be formed. For new parents, Dry Grad is an alcohol and drug free event that is put by parents that follows their Prom.
- Giselle will do a car Fundraiser, not sure when but would like to tie it into an event when parents will be at school.
- Melody was a chaperone last year at "The Metro" and said the grads had a great time.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- There were not meetings during the summer
- Next meeting will be at the end of September.
- If you have any concerns, or you see something that's not right or suspicious, please report it to the community office or call 911 (always report, staffing is based around this).

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from Parents

- Possible presentations put on by the PAC or Alpha:
 - Ms. Basran (Student Services Dept. Head) is bringing in Christine Yew, a practitioner and consultant for Anxiety BC to talk with our staff and to parents about Mental Health/Anxiety in students. Anxiety is very prevalent amongst our students. Will open it up to all catchment schools. Watch for details.
 - Ms. Basran will work with the junior students on this topic during collab time.
- Kevin is hoping to have Jesse Miller (Digital Citizenship) back to present to parents. He is booked to talk to students during collab time.
- A parent asked why the wing had to be torn down?
 - Kevin said because of the age of the structure and the cost to fix it, it wasn't viable to keep it.
- A parent asked if there are maps of the school/classes available on the website?
 - No, it is not for obvious safety reasons.
- Has the school spoken with the new students about the safety around the construction site?
 - Yes and the construction site is fenced off to students/staff and parents to keep them safe.

- Giselle asked if the City gives the school a heads up about road work/closures?
 - No, they do not.
- Susan asked if there are any safety concerns with the Willingdon Greenway, Linear Park going in?
 - Kevin, does not believe there are any safety concerns.
- A parent asked if there are any new plans for outside activities for the students with the all the upgrades going on?
 - Not in the green space where the wing is coming down. He hopes to work with the District/City to see if something can be done with the field area (like other schools), like an all-purpose field/track.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:55 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- Sept 14th – School Photo Day
- Sept 20th – Parent Information Evening, 5:30pm - 7pm (Lg. Gym)
- Sept 21st - Grade 8 Retreat
- Sept 22nd – PRO-D Day (no classes)
- Sept 28th – Terry Fox Run
- Sept 29th – Orange Shirt Day
- Oct 2nd – Online Sign-up starts at 9am for Parent Teacher Conferences

NEXT PAC EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Monday, October 2nd, 6:00 PM in the Conference Room near the Counsellor's area