

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
Monday, November 6th, 2017

Attendance: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Pare, Mr. Wozney, Melody Eng, Terry Vincelli, Susan Fritz, Janice Chiem, Lina Basso, Louise Hazemi, Anne-Marie Porth, Angela Dasovic, Donna Sachinidis, Sherry Zhao, Winnie Tam, Teresa Szymborska

Regrets: Dan Funaro, Claude Tani, Susan Tang, Giselle Patella, Jocelan Torrelli, Ivana Guaw, Lina Silvestre

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Melody welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- October minutes – motion was made by Melody to approve minutes, Terry seconded, all in favour – motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Kevin

- Kevin had a meeting with the construction supervisor for the building project. Thanks to general decent weather through the fall everything is on schedule and the building should be closed in and lockable by Christmas. The plan is to begin gradually transitioning to the new building in June, starting with the office and the library as they will be gutted over the summer. The current library is to become the new learning support centre.
- There is a memo from the Superintendent of the district about Policy 7.80 regarding video surveillance. There is a draft of the policy on the district website which will be there until December 1st.
- First term is ending on November 7th and report cards will be on the MyEd family portal Tuesday, November 21st.
 - Any attachments that would normally be included with report cards are to be handed out to students to bring home or will be emailed home.
 - All districts are now online.
 - There was a question as to whether an email could be sent out as a refresher on how to log on the family portal and Kevin said that could be done.
- There was some discussion about the look of the new email system and feedback about how it may be mistaken as spam. There was a question as to whether it could be more clearly identified as coming from the school district but as it is a Ministry system, Kevin wasn't sure if it could be changed.
- Remembrance Day assembly is taking place on Thursday, November 9th in the large gym during second period. Parents are welcome to attend.
- Dance of the Dead happened and Alpha students mixed with students from the elementary feeder schools.

- Some Alpha staff have been going out to the feeder schools to work with elementary teachers and give lessons to students on robotics and other topics
- There was a question about the upcoming School Closure day on November 10th. Kevin explained that it was a negotiated day in lieu because the Easter long weekend was falling within Spring Break and a day needed to be found in the school year to account for it.
- The deadline for the teacher wish list for the PAC is to be the third week of November so that the PAC executive could meet with Kevin the last week of November to finalize the wish list for the December PAC meeting.
- A parent asked for clarification of Collaboration Days. Kevin explained that it was time for the teachers to meet to discuss projects and plans for curriculum implementation. In order for time to be used efficiently, one hour assemblies on various topics were set up for students, Grade 8-10, to attend during this time.
 - A parent asked if there could be more adult supervision for the Grade 8s during these times as students were saying they couldn't hear the presentations because of students talking.
 - Admin stated that some presenters were more soft spoken than others, the students were generally well behaved and the feedback was that the presentations were well received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Janice said that financials had been emailed prior to the meeting. They included outstanding transactions from last year's dry Grad and teachers' items from last year.
- Cash balances had been updated to reflect this year's activities. The Gaming Grant had been received. See report for full details.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Melody stated that PAC positions of Vice Chairperson and the ELL Rep were still open.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Nothing to report.

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Gr. 8 - Winnie brought up recent problems with the Lynch bus line. They had been used for the grade 8 retreat and the Writer's Festival fieldtrips and both times, not enough buses were sent to pick up the students. Admin clarified that it had been Vancouver Bus Charters and not Lynch though all the bus companies work together to ensure that enough buses are sent as needed.

- Kevin explained that there have been no issues with the bus line until this year. The day before the Grade 8 retreat, the school office called to confirm the buses. However, one bus driver quit the morning of the retreat and this caused a chain reaction. Only three out of the five buses showed up. The company assured that another bus company had been contracted for pick up but the bus still arrived 45 minutes late. They assured that this was a one time glitch.
- The Writer's Fest buses had been booked back in June with a deposit. However, the same issue occurred with only one out of three buses showing up to transport students. The students ended up being put in cabs to come back to school where they arrived safe but late. The school did not pay the bus company.
- Winnie brought up a question from Susan Tang about the protocol for setting up clubs at Alpha.
 - Kevin explained that there is a Clubs Day at the beginning of the year where all the school clubs have tables out on display and students can sign up to join.
 - If students want to start a new club, they have to fill out a form from the office and have a teacher sponsor. The student will meet with the Admin on a designated Wednesday to ensure that there are no overlapping or similar clubs. If the new club is approved, the students are given \$50 to help with the start up.
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 10 – A concern was raised about Mme. Fretier being on leave, no French immersion teacher replacing her and an English speaking teacher teaching the Math 10 French immersion students.
 - Kevin replied that Mme. Fretier's position has been posted but no one has applied. Therefore, she has been replaced for the time by an English Math/Science specialist.
 - An online French textbook that is the equivalent of the English text book being used has been purchased for each student affected.
 - This will not affect students double dogwood degree.
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 12 – Nothing to report.

DPAC

- Teresa attended the October DPAC meeting. There was a presentation regarding PAC finances including information about gaming licences.
- Kevin, Melody and Janice also attended a presentation regarding conflict resolution.

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

- Melody has been selling SPC cards and there are just seven left. The deadline to sell them all is December 8th.

DRY GRAD

- First Dry Grad meeting had a great turn out of 25 people.
- Many events from last year will be offered again this year.
- The grad cookie dough fundraiser was a huge success.
- Jillian and Tony will be helping to set up a blog.
- Dry Grad will be Thursday, June 28th and grade 12 students will be getting information through Mr. Berkbigler.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- Burnaby RCMP have a new non-emergency phone number to be found on their website. For your reference, the new number is 604-646-9999.
- A representative from Brentwood Mall security came to discuss issues regarding shoplifting and renovations.
- There has been ongoing vandalism in the community including Brentwood and Confederation Park school as well as the pool and library.
- Crime Watch found three stolen vehicles in the local area and there have been a number of car break ins in the 3700 block of Yale Street.
- If you have any concerns, or you see something that is 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

- Claude had spoken to the DPAC about funding a screening of Screenagers. The DPAC budget for this year is already dedicated to other things. Claude will contact Raquel on the DPAC to see if they would want to put money towards the screening for next year.
 - Possible ideas were splitting the costs between the DPAC, Brentwood and Alpha.
 - Discussion about offering the screening for free or asking for an entrance fee to help offset the cost.
- Further discussion about online donations for the PAC.
 - Kevin said that anyone can donate to Alpha online at any time and would get an automatic tax receipt for any donation over \$20.00.

- Donations could be made at the office as well but would require a form being sent in to the district office in order to generate a tax receipt.
- There was discussion about what to call this request for donations. It was decided that it would be better to have it tied to something specific like the new library computer lab.
- Kevin will be meeting with the district tech person to plan technology for the new building. This topic was tabled to after Spring Break when Kevin will have more specific information. A letter regarding online donations could then be drafted for parents to send out in June in preparation for September.
- Louise Hazemi asked about having benches installed in the Cafeteria to create more seating. Kevin said that six new benches were coming and picnic tables were going to be installed outside once the work in that area of the building is finished. Bar tables were also going to be installed in the Learning Commons area in the new building.
- The next PAC meeting will be the Christmas meeting. Please bring treats to share but no alcohol. Anyone who can, please come an hour before the meeting to help sort Purdy's orders.
- There was a question as to whether the Dry Grad meeting could start at 7:15pm to give time for the PAC to finish up but Melody said we always try to be done by 7pm.
- An Alpha parent who is also a district tech person found that the Artona pictures the administration see when they access a student's profile, had been uploaded to the wrong place. No confidential information could be accessed with the error but pictures and student numbers could be seen if someone knew how to dig deep enough in to the system. The error has since been fixed and procedure was followed to inform all parents.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:55pm

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- Nov 6th-17th – BCC Math Contest
- Nov 7th – Term 1 ends
- Nov 8th - Term 2 starts, Collaboration Day
- Nov 9th – Remembrance Day Assemblies, period 2 in large gym
- Nov 10th – School Closure Day (no classes)
- Nov 13th – Remembrance Day (no classes)
- Nov 14th – AMC 8 Math Competition
- Nov 15th – Collaboration Day
- Nov 21st – Term 1 Report Cards available through MyEd Family Portal
- Nov 22nd – Collaboration Day, CSIMC Math Competition, Gr. 8 fieldtrip to Science World
- Nov 23rd – Post Secondary Info Night in large gym
- Nov 24th – Pro D Day (no classes), BC GSA Forum at Moscrop
- Nov 29th – Collaboration Day

