

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
Monday, March 5th, 2018

Attendance: Mr. Wozney, Melody Eng, Terry Vincelli, Susan Fritz, Janice Chiem, Claude Tani, Anne-Marie Porth, Dan Funaro, Teresa Szymborska, Giselle Patella, Sherry Zhao, Susan Tang

Regrets: Mr. Pare, Ms. Lim, Angela Dasovic, Lina Basso, Jocelan Torrelli, Winnie Tam, Ivana Guaw, Lina Silvestre

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Tim

- Spring Break is this month and Tim is encouraging all teachers to keep it a break for students and for teachers, as well.
- Construction update:
 - Construction will be continuing during Spring Break
 - The realization of the new building is becoming exciting. The builders are six weeks ahead of schedule. Floor installation and painting are in progress and fixtures are being chosen.
 - The library will be closed mid-May in order to start the transition in to making it the new Learning Support Services space.
 - The staff is excited about the form and function of the new space.
 - The new building should be 99% usable in September and the school's old west wing will be torn down and landscaping will take place sometime in the fall.
 - Melody asked if the current Grade 12 students would have any time in the new building. Tim said, unfortunately, no because they will start moving in and setting up but the space will not be ready.
- Parent teacher conferences are Thursday, March 15th, with early dismissal at 12:30pm. The early dismissal on Friday, March 16th, is to make up for the late evening of the parent teacher conferences as per the BTA contract.
- The school will be closed March 19th to April 2nd with staff and students back on April 3rd. The end of the school year will come quickly after the spring and Easter break.
- The Diversity dance is being held Wednesday, March 7th, at Byrne Creek from 6-9pm. Tickets are \$10. It is the only dance that the school district promotes district wide and it is inclusive to all.
- There will be a school dance held at Alpha after the spring break. The previous school dance was well attended with over 300 tickets sold.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Janice reported that there was no PAC activity this month but the February 24th Pub Night Dry Grad fundraiser raised \$4051.00
- Expenditures from the PAC accounts this month went towards expenses for the Pub Night and the deposit for the Dry Grad venue. Monies were taken from the general account and the gaming account for these expenditures.
- Please see report for full details.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Melody stated that PAC positions of Vice Chairperson and the ELL Rep were still open.
- Melody raised the topic of a letter that had been drafted by Louise as a sample of what could possibly be sent out to the parents of Alpha for fundraising for the next school year. The letter stated that fundraising would only come from voluntary parent donations to the Cash on Line system in lieu of all other PAC fundraising activities. There was a lot of discussion as to whether next year's fundraising should only come from online donations or whether there should be both the online option, as well as the regular fundraising activities. General consensus was that keeping the letter to parents more generic and leaving more fundraising options open would be the better and safer option and that the letter should be revised for the coming year.
- Again, there was discussion of what the funds raised could be used for. Some parents are concerned about the length of time it would take to raise enough money to purchase an electronic sign for the school. Tim reiterated that there is a chance that some funds might be left in the budget after the new building was finished, to put towards the sign which would leave a lesser amount to be fundraised. Another option that he brought to the table was a barbecue for the school. Natural gas lines with a barbecue hook up were being installed with the new building and the barbecue could be used for school events.

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 year book deadlines and what school bus company to contact for bookings.
- ELL – Nothing to report.

- Mini school – Mini school now includes grades 8-11.
 - Sherry asked Tim how decisions were made about what good news stories were chosen for the Alpha2Go app, Twitter and the school website. Tim answered that they are happy to announce and promote school based events and student successes but that they don't know everything all the time. Some information is gathered at staff meetings where good news announcements are made and some information comes from other sources.

DPAC

- Teresa attended the last DPAC meeting where they were given an update regarding student enrollment throughout the district. The general trend was for a decrease in the high school populations except for Burnaby Central which has an increase. There was an increase in the number of international students throughout the district which is extra income for the school district and Teresa asked Tim if Alpha would promote itself internationally to have more international students attend the school.
 - Tim replied that the school does not promote but there is a department at the school district office that travels internationally to promote the district. Schools try to keep the number of international students to 10% of the total student population.
 - There is always some fluctuation of student numbers year to year depending on the number of students graduating compared to the number of new students enrolling.
 - In the coming years, there will be a boom around the Brentwood area, Burnaby North will be rebuilt to accommodate a smaller number of students and there are a lot of applications for students to attend Alpha from out of catchment and cross district. Alpha will have the land available to increase the building size if needed in the future.
- Monday, April 19th, will be the announcement of the DPAC budget for the 2018/19 school year.
- There was a presentation about practical ways to help students and an announcement about bike to school week.

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

- Claude asked if the PAC wanted to have one more fundraising event this year. Suggestions included selling flower bulbs, Cash for Clothes, SPUD organic home delivery, holding a walk-a-thon and selling Purdy's Easter chocolates. There was interest in the SPUD organic home delivery and Claude is going to look in to that option for the next meeting.

DRY GRAD

- Pub Night at the Old Admiral on February 24th was fun and a fundraising success. Thank you to everyone for their hard work to make it a success.
- Students will now be selling raffle tickets for Dry Grad. Most of the books of tickets have already been dispersed but there was an issue with the printing of some tickets which has now been rectified and those remaining books of tickets will be dispersed soon. All tickets need to be back by May 4th for the drawing on May 7th.
- Posters to advertise the raffle tickets will be going up around the school and the information should be going out on ListServ, Alpha2Go and Twitter by the end of the week. The Willingdon and Hastings liquor store will provide space this month for students to sell tickets.
- Some parents are hearing feedback from students that they now wish that they had chosen to do a boat cruise for Dry Grad this year. The students were given a survey last year in June to decide what they wanted for Dry Grad this year. If next year's Grade 12 students want to have a different event, work has to start this June to make those changes as it will be too late in September.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- Angela was unable to attend the PAC meeting with an update.

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents

- Tim said that in the fall, there will be a formal grand opening through the school district for the new building that will include people from the board office and MLAs. He doesn't know what that event will look like yet but they will want some kind of PAC involvement.
- The school will also plan something special separate from the district event that will be for the students, maybe the first day back to school or during the first week.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:55pm

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- March 7th, Collaboration Day,
- March 9th, Parent/Teacher Conference on-line sign up ends
- March 14th, Collaboration Day
- March 15th, early dismissal at 12:30pm, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 16th, early dismissal at 1:52pm
- March 19th – April 2nd, Spring Break, School Closure Days and Easter, school closed
- April 6th, BCSSMC Preliminary Round at school