

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
Monday, February 4th, 2019

Attendance: Mr. Wozney, Melody Eng, Anne-Marie Porth, Susan Fritz, Angela Dasovic, Claude Tani, Margo Hrennikoff, Raquel Do, Lina Silvestre, Vesna Mudrovcic, America Nuñez, Oscar Carrasco, Sylvain Desbiens, Cecilia Davila, Vladislav Fomin, Ana Tenorio, Michael Yang

Regrets: Janice Chiem, Lina Basso, Donna Rae-Yeung, Sherry Zhao

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Melody welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.
- January minutes - Motion was made by Melody to approve minutes, Claude seconded, all in favour – motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Report cards are available February 5th, and can be printed off from the online Parent Portal. Errors on report cards, if any, can still be changed after reports are published and students with an Incomplete or 'I' report can still make up the work to completion.
- New staff has been hired for semester 2 courses and class sizes are looking good.
- The school's Open House is this Thursday, February 7th. This is a big, busy and exciting evening. Departments will set up displays and 200-400 people are expected to visit the school.
- Course selection is this month. The timetable is developed from student course choices. Many course options are offered but not all courses can run if student numbers are too low. Parent engagement in course selection is encouraged. The timetable will be built by June and it is much more difficult to change courses in September.
- The District Diversity Dance is being held on Wednesday, March 6th at Byrne Creek. It is open to all high school students in Burnaby schools and New Westminster. There is a limit of 35 tickets per school available. This dance promotes inclusion and a place for everyone in our schools.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- We deposited a cheque from Purdy's Chocolate for \$781.72
- We received a cheque from SPUD for \$68.75
- We received a SD 41 grant in the amount of \$283.37
- Online donations sit at \$2920.00 and will be put towards the Teachers Wish List.
- Dry Grad donations transferred from the school to the PAC are \$1350
- Balances available to the PAC are: General \$13 703 and Gaming \$9 730
- Please see report for full details.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- The position of ELL rep is still open.
- Karen Dalla Tina, a previous Alpha parent, came to present on the Green Events Program that had been established by her son when he was a student at Alpha a few years ago. Bins with a collection of dishes and cutlery are kept in the school staff room and are managed by the leadership teacher and students. These dishes are borrowed by groups throughout the school and district who are hosting events and the dishes are used in lieu of disposables. The dishes are lent out using an honour system with the expectation that they are brought back clean. There is a log book to sign them out and record any breakage. Karen and her son are no longer part of the school community and she asked if the PAC would be willing to take over the program by funding the replacement dishes and just ensuring that the set is cleaned, organized and replenished at the end of every school year. A few parents offered to take over responsibility of the program.
- Karen has also been the Alpha parent liaison for the Canadian Parents for French (CPF), Burnaby Chapter. As she no longer has children attending the school, she asked if someone would be willing to take over the position of liaison. The CPF provides grants and French learning experiences for the French Immersion program and the liaison works with Mme. Godin and the CPF student representative.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Nothing to report

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Grade 8 – Concerns regarding technology in the school:
 - Teachers are using online resources for class assignments and are assuming that all students have their own devices to use. Kids are feeling pressure to have their own devices to bring to school. Not all families can afford to buy their kids smart phones nor do all families support the use of personal devices at school in the attempt to limit their children's screen time. There are many concerns about how too much screen time impacts children's developing brains and affects their problem solving and social skills.
 - Tim assures that, while a large number of students have and bring their own devices, it is not assumed that all kids have them. There are laptop carts for classroom use and computer labs. The school has a new wireless system and education is focussing on technology and preparing students for the world outside of schools where people are no longer walking around with binders and text books. Schools don't really buy text books anymore because they are so expensive and become outdated so quickly.

- Some parents would like to start a dialogue to discuss ways to balance the use of technology and supporting healthy human social and emotional development.
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 10 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 12 – Dry Grad raffle tickets will be sold at the Open House at the PAC table in the Student Commons. Tickets are \$5 each.
- ELL – Nothing to report.
- Mini school – Nothing to report.

DPAC

- Nothing to report.

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

- The PAC page of the school website will be updated with the information on the SPUD, Encorp recycling and Cobs bakery fundraisers and donating through Encorp recycling. An email will also be sent out on ListServ.

DRY GRAD

- Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- Angela was unable to attend the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents

- There is a scheduling conflict for those parents who will be organizing the Staff luncheon in June. Tim will look at dates to find an alternate date that will work for everyone.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:59pm

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- February 5th – Term 2 Report Cards available on MyEd portal
- February 6th – Collaboration Day
- February 7th – Ecole Alpha Open House 6-8pm, Indigenous Parent Dinner, 5-6pm, Cafeteria
- February 11th – Grade 9 immunizations
- February 13th – Collaboration Day
- February 18th – Family Day, school closed
- February 20th – Collaboration Day, Star Search, small gym
- February 22nd – Pro-D, school closed
- February 25th – Parent/Teacher Conference online sign-up opens
- February 27th – Collaboration Day, Pink Shirt Day