

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
Monday, October 7th, 2019

Attendance: Mr. Wozney, Melody Eng, Janice Chiem, Susan Fritz, Angela Dasovic, Donna Rae-Yeung, Lina Basso, Stace Dayment, Raquel Do, Anne-Marie Porth, Gloria McKale, Hannah Hill, Irene Li, Cindy Zheng, Ruth Heyde, Stacie Schmechel, Harj Parmar, Jeremy Passley, Julie, Valdet Sahatciu

Regrets: Claude Tani, Margo Hrennikoff, Lina Silvestre

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Our Safe School Specialist, Wendel Williams, was the Premier's Excellence in Education award recipient for his work in supporting students in the Burnaby School District. Of note, Burnaby had four award nominees, the most of all districts in the province, and two winners.
- The Welcome Back food truck Friday in September was a success.
- Alpha Meet & Greet – over 200 people came out to attend the evening information session.
- Clubs Day – this was set up in the small gym. Grade 8 students came down five minutes early before the start of lunch to have the first opportunity to look at this year's club options.
- Parent/teacher conferences – these will take place on October 16th. Please choose one or two teachers with whom you would like to meet. Feel free to email other teachers if you would like to set up an alternate time to meet to discuss your student's progress. Email addresses can be found on the school website.
- CLC – the first CLC sessions were held for grade 11 and 12 students. Students have been set up with the basics on Office 365. Ms. Tsai is a new Careers teacher who is taking the position for Ms. Lo who is away on maternity leave.
- Collab Days – the first Collab day is October 23rd. Attendance for Collab sessions is required and NOT optional. A variety of topics such as, mental health, digital literacy, vaping, etc. will be presented to grades 8-10 during this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- SPC cards were on sale during the month of September. Sales proceeds are being collected and will be deposited into the General account in October.
- The Gaming grant of \$21,600 was received in September. Last year's grant was \$25,632. Janice will look in to why there was a decrease in the amount received despite the fact that our student numbers increased this year.
- A deposit of \$500 was made to secure this year's Dry Grad venue.
- General account available balance for PAC use: \$12,596
- Gaming account available balance for PAC use: \$8,233
- Please see report for full details.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- The positions of Vice Chair, Mini school rep and ELL rep are still open. If anyone is interested, please let us know.
- Claude would like to step down as Fundraising rep. If anyone is interested in taking this position, please let us know. Responsibilities include being the contact person for Purdy's chocolate orders, organizing the distribution of orders in December, and also maintaining the SPUD, Encorp Recycling and Cobs fundraising programs.
- The Burnaby North PAC asked if we would be interested in partnering to split the cost of renting and showing the second version of the DVD 'Screenagers' which discusses children and the digital age. Given the cost of the rental, it was decided that the Alpha PAC wouldn't participate but would be happy to distribute information to our community regarding the screening at Burnaby North.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Nothing to report

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Grade 8 – the grade 8 cohort seems to be bonding well, especially the French program.
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 10 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 12 – Nothing to report.
- ELL – Nothing to report.
- Mini school – Irene Li has volunteered to be this year's rep.

DPAC

- September's meeting was a welcome meeting to share the purpose of the District PAC. Participants broke out in small groups to discuss what they wanted the DPAC to do.
- There was discussion regarding ways of sharing information and funding of emergency supplies and equipment for schools.

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

- Nothing to report.

DRY GRAD

- The first fundraiser will take place during the afternoon of October 16th with the GM Test Drive event and the selling of Krispy Creme donuts.
- A table will be set up at the Grade 12 information night to answer any questions regarding Dry Grad.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- The issue of jay walking across Parker St. was brought up. Mr. Wozney had already addressed this issue with the RCMP liaison, Constable Killan. While the school can make students aware of the dangers of jay walking across Parker, it would be very difficult to stop students from doing it.

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents

- A concern was brought up by grade 9 girls playing volleyball that only the boys teams had teachers as coaches and the girls teams were all being coached by older students. Issues coming from this were:
 - it was unfair that only the boys were getting teacher coaching and feeling that preference was given to the boys' teams.
 - friends of student coaches were showing up to the girls practices to chat and then were laughing at the girls during practice.

- during games, it can be intimidating for student coaches to have to object to calls when opposing teams have teachers or adult coaches.
- Mr. Wozney clarified that Mr. Tsang was the only teacher coaching at the moment and recommended contacting Mr. Chandi, the Athletic Director, who puts the call out for team coaches, to discuss what can be done.
- Some parents are offering to have police background checks done to be able to volunteer as coaches for the girls teams. Another solution was to have the boys and girls practice at the same time so that the girls could also benefit from a teacher coach.
 - It was not being suggested that older students couldn't be good coaches but that there were some unfair advantages for the boys teams.
- There was a question regarding whether or not work on the outside of the school was finished, specifically if the building facing Parker would be painted. Mr. Wozney said that the school had been painted a few years ago and didn't know when it would be painted again. Signage for the school had also not been in the budget during the rebuild. There is hope that some kind of signage can be put back up eventually as, at the moment, there is none.
- A question was asked regarding earthquake preparedness and the school's responsibilities to the students. Mr. Wozney replied that, with the building upgrade, the school is now a safer building. The protocol is for students to follow what is practiced during earthquake drills and to await further instructions. As most students are 15-17 years old, it would be impossible to force them to stay at the school as most students live within walking distance to home. The legal release procedure is for students to check in with a teacher before they leave the school. The school will remain open and adults will remain at the school as long as needed. If parents cannot get to the school and there is nowhere for a student to go, they can remain at the school. It is important for families to have an emergency plan as there is a high likelihood that phone systems will be down. A school, as long as the building is safe, is a natural gathering place for the community to take shelter.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:58pm

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- October 9th – Grade 12 Parent Info evening, 6:30pm in the Learning Commons
- October 11th – Parent/Teacher conference sign up ends
- October 14th – Thanksgiving, school closed
- October 16th – Early dismissal at 12:30pm; Parent/Teacher conferences start at 2pm
- October 17th – Great BC Shakeout; early dismissal at 1:50pm
- October 23rd – Collab day
- October 25th – Pro-D, school closed
- October 29th – altered bell schedule for Compass Study (Gr.9-12)
- October 30th – Collab day

- November 1st – last day of Term 1
- November 4th – Term 2 begins