

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
Monday, October 5th, 2020

Attendance via Zoom: Mr. Wozney, Melody Eng, Janice Chiem, Susan Fritz, Irene Li, Anne-Marie Porth, Margo Hrennikoff, Lina Silvestre, Arlene Elliott, Sheeba Faqin, Ella Ho, Robin Gill Lividi, Maricel dela Cruz, Connie Leung, Arthur Lin, M. Delgado, Elisabet S., Casa de Palma, Ingrid, Val, Christine, Nikki, Carol, Chi, Ingrid, Arish, Paoka, Teresa

Regrets: Claude Tani, Raquel Do, Donna Rae-Young, Stace Dayment

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Melody welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- June and September minutes – Motion was made by Melody to approve minutes, Anne-Marie seconded, all in favor – motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Due to a window of good weather, the rainbow crosswalk that was supposed to be painted in the spring, is now complete.
- The Health and Safety committee thanks the school community for the ongoing support of Covid-19 protocols which include daily health checks, physical distancing, allowing students to only enter and exit the school from four designated entrances, washing hands and/or using hand sanitizer, and leaving the building when not required to be there.
- Keeping students physically distanced at lunch, is an ongoing challenge as students are wanting to socialize with their friend groups. Parents are asked to encourage students to continue following all protocols throughout the day.
- Some students have been required to quarantine but the Teams system has been a successful way for students and teachers to communicate so students can keep up with their classes as they stay home.
- The District has changed the course reporting system to adapt to the Quarter system. Interim reports are now called Midterm reports. The first Midterm report will come out on October 16th. It will look similar to a report card. The final grades for first Quarter courses will be reported on November 24th. 'I' Reports will still be used.
- Quarter 2 begins on Wednesday, November 18th. Monday, November 16th and Tuesday, November 17th will be Quarter turn around days in which regular classes will not run but teachers will be available to students and students can use those days to catch up on any unfinished class work to get their final marks.
- Fire evacuation drills took place every day this week. Rather than the school practicing one day all together, the student body was divided up over five days with limited numbers of four to six learning groups practicing leaving the building at a time.

- October 28th is the Grade 12 Post-Secondary Information event taking place online at 2:30pm. This will include information on graduation requirements and events, scholarships and post-secondary requirements. This information session will be recorded and put on the school website for parents to watch at a later time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- PAC fundraising activities have been put on hold this year due to Covid-19. Only the Teachers Appreciation lunch has been budgeted from the General account for this year in the amount of \$500.
- We have applied for the Gaming grant and expect to receive it by the end of October. The amount we receive will be based on last year's student numbers. The funds from this grant will be used for the Teachers Wishlist and scholarships for this year's graduating class.
- A couple of short term investments are maturing in October and November. The interest earned on these is 1.8%.
- There were no disbursements from the General or Gaming accounts in September, only the recording of interest.
- General account available balance for PAC use: \$18,268
- Gaming account available balance for PAC use: \$14,641
- Please see report for full details.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Arlene Elliott has taken on the role of the Grade 8 Rep.
- The positions of Chairperson and Secretary will need to be filled for the next school year. If anyone is interested, please email the PAC executive so information sharing and transitioning can begin.
- Available positions for this year to be filled are Fundraising, ESL Rep and Community Policing. Please email the PAC executive if you are interested.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Nothing to report

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Grade 8 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 10 – There was a question of who takes Provincial exams and when are they taken. Provincial exams have been replaced by Literacy and Numeracy assessments which are graduation requirements. They are taken in grades 10 and 12.
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report.

- Grade 12 – Parents are asking about Grad events. There are tentative dates for the School Leaving Ceremony and a Grad dinner/dance. A refundable deposit has been made for a downtown hotel for the dinner/dance. If the Provincial Health Authority deems these types of events not doable, a Plan B will be in place. The deposit for last year's canceled Dry Grad event at the Metro has been forwarded to this year's Dry Grad committee but no decision has been made on holding an event yet.
- 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

- Nothing to report

DRY GRAD

- Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- Meetings will be held the last Thursday of the month starting in September. These meetings will be held via Zoom. If anyone is interested in becoming the Rep for these meetings, we will forward your name to the RCMP, a background check will be done by the RCMP and they will contact you with how to proceed.

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents

- On October 16th, the school Grad photo will be taking place. This year, students will go out in groups, socially distanced and they will be spelling out 'GRAD 2021'.

- Parent/Teacher Conferences will not be taking place this year. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers as needed to check in on their student's progress and to look at their child's Teams site.
- Students taking classes online who want to transition back to school for the beginning of Quarter 2 will be contacted by their counsellor to start the process.
- Parent question: Would Teams be suitable for a place for parents to connect?
Answer: Teams is paid for by the District for students and staff not for parent groups. Arlene will look in to setting up an Alpha parent group on FaceBook.
- Parent question: What is the school strategy for students vaping in the bathrooms?
Answer: It is difficult for staff to monitor bathrooms for vaping but they are trying their best to check without invading privacy. The Admin will address vaping as they can and ask that parents address it at home, as well. Vaping doesn't seem to be as prevalent an issue as it was a few years ago.
- Burnaby Athletics and BC Sports are meeting regularly to address school sports. The cross-country teams are competing by schools agreeing on specific routes, teams running the routes individually and then comparing themselves against the other school teams. There is no clear decision yet on how or if team sports can be run. There are similar issues for activities like band and dance.
- A student from Burnaby North was struck by a vehicle close to the school as she was texting and walking across the street. The student survived.
- Grad photo sessions are taking place at Artona, November 4th-6th. Book your sessions online on the Artona website.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:59pm

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- October 5th-9th – 'I' Reports sent home
- October 12th – Thanksgiving Day, school closed
- October 16th – Grad group photo
- October 23rd – Pro-D day, school closed
- October 28th – Grade 12 Virtual Information presentation
- October 29th – COMC Math competition
- October 30th – AP exam fee deadline

