

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL

PAC MINUTES

Monday, October 4, 2021

Attendance via Zoom: Mr. Wozney, Lucky Saini, Liliane De Oliveira, Ashley Sandquist, Melanie Sing, Janice Chiem, Donna Rae-Yeung, Arlene Elliott, Stace Dayment, Raquel Do, Cindy Cheta, Gloria McKale, Margo Hrennikoff, Arthur Lin, Bill Brassington, CG, Colin, Deb, Ella Ho, Fariba, Frances, Heidi Fehlauer, iPhone x 2, Jane's iPhone, Janice L, Johanna Kwan, Joyce D, Karden, Kestina Rai, Kumiko Yamada, Linden, Maria, Maricel Dela Cruz, Anna Maria de Palma, Maureen, Nikki, hotaspencer, Phata, RKE, Sabine Lee, Sonia Frew, Stephen Hui, Tammie Mah, Tracey Mayede-Lok, Vesna M, Zennea Chen, Call-In User 1, Joy, Jinhong, Jenny & Edward, Patricia Mah, Nota's iPhone, Froozan Gul, Emnet, Christine

Regrets:

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Ashely welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- June minutes – motion was made by Ashely to approve minutes, Gloria and Cindy seconded, all in favor – motion passed.
- September minutes – motion was made by Ashely to approve minutes, Arlene seconded, all in favor – motion passed.
- Ashley welcomed guest speaker: Lucky Saini

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Virtual parent/teacher conference will take place on October 20th. Online sign-up is available today. Please choose the teachers with whom you would like to meet and feel free to email other teachers if you would like to discuss your child's progress. Email addresses can be found on the school website.
- Grad parent newsletter came out today and planning for this year's grad is underway. Since Bill Copeland Sports Centre is unavailable due to renovation, the school has booked SFU for grad ceremony and the date is May 29th, 2022. The time is to be confirmed. Plans will be based on provincial health orders and where we are at in the pandemic.
- Students should all have access to their lockers.

GUEST PRESENTATION

- Lucky Saini, District Vice-Principal Education Technology at Burnaby School District gave a presentation on Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) pilot project.
- This is a pilot project that was intended to start prior to the pandemic and Coquitlam school district has implemented this for 4 years already.
- The goal is to empower students to be global citizens via technology and build responsibility.
- The pilot project at Alpha will start with grade 8 students but any students can bring their device to school. Grade 8 students can bring their device and use in class. They will not be using it all day but in concert with parents and teachers.
- The pilot project will start in the second semester and will use Microsoft 365 as it uses Canadian spaces for server. District has made the commitment to enhance the Wi-Fi at school.
- There will be some challenges such as additional social media concerns, screen time management, managing security and care of the device.
- BYOD implementation is a collaborative partnership between students/parents and school staff along with district support.
- A survey will be provided to parents and there will be a parent forum at the Nov PAC meeting, and results will be shared at the Dec PAC meeting.
- BYOD should not dramatically increase screen time, but a device is available when needed in class. For example, it will be available when the teacher is doing a web-based activity in class.
- School or district will not be providing the devices as there is not enough money for each child. However, some will be available for students to borrow and take home. Laptop is preferable over smart phones.
- It is difficult to predict how things will roll out, but many students are already bringing their devices to school.
- Currently the project is in the exploratory phase and feedback would be appreciated. If parents have any questions, they can email Mr. Wozney or Lucky (lucky.saini@burnabyschools.ca) and Lucky can prepare the answers for the Nov forum.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Gaming grant application was submitted in April and no funds have been received yet as it is being reviewed.
- Two cheques were written: \$2540 for 2020-2021 Teachers Wish List; \$75 for BCCPAC membership
- General account available balance for PAC use: \$18,430
- Gaming account available balance for PAC use: \$14,928
- Please see report for full details.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- The positions of Grade 8 rep, Mini school rep, and ELL rep are still open. If anyone is interested, please email the PAC executive mailbox.

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Grade 8 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 10 –
 - Parents would like a better explanation for the parent-teacher conference. Is it parents only or students should be there as well? Mr. Wozney said there are no rules. Sometimes it may or may not be appropriate for the student to join.
 - Dirt Pile: what is the long-term plan? Bill Brassington (parent and school trustee) explained that there has been ongoing conversation with the City and the City is doing some site work and still in discussion with the mayor. Bill also explained that Alpha's property belongs to the City whereas other schools are seating on District's land.
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report.
- Grade 12 – Parents would like to know if parents would be able to participate in Grad Dinner & Dance? Mr. Wozney said there has not been a dinner/dance for the last two years due to the pandemic. If parents were to attend, there would be too many people (200+ students and teachers/helpers) and there would be issues with the fire marshal regulations.
- Mini school – Nothing to report.
- ELL – Nothing to report.

DPAC

- Donna attended the first DPAC meeting and there was discussion on the new COVID notification protocol. Mr. Wozney added that under the new protocol, Fraser Health Authority has asked the school to only send notification to those that are affected (instead of the whole school). The province has a website where people can check which schools has positive COVID cases.
- PAC 101 Workshop will be held on October 5th at 7pm via Zoom. It is intended for new PAC executives to learn more about PAC.

FUNDRAISING

- Cindy is looking for parents to help with fundraising and would like interested parents to reach out to her.
- Claude from Grad Committee will discuss with Cindy to see who will do the Purdy's fundraising. Executives are ok with the Grad Committee doing it, but Cindy can make the final decision.
- Mr. Wozney mentioned that traditionally Purdy and SPC are PAC's main fundraisers.

GRAD PARENT COMMITTEE

- Grad Committee mentioned that they will not have an account at Vancity this year. They will use the office's account as the office can take care of the funds for them. Janice confirmed that the \$561 for Dry Grad is already at the school's bank account.
- Grad Committee confirmed with Mr. Wozney that they can use send emails to Grade 12 parents via Listserve.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- Information regarding student reps have been forwarded to Mr. Wozney. Student reps will participate in meetings.
- Two areas of concern: homelessness in the Brentwood area and catalytic converter theft.
- If there are any questions or concerns, Gloria can take them to the next Community Police Advisory Committee meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents

- A parent asked about vaccination rate. Mr. Wozney said he does not know how many students are vaccinated.
- A parent asked about Grade 9 vaccination and Mr. Wozney said the school has not received update from Fraser Health yet.
- A parent asked how the school is dealing with students not wearing masks. Mr. Wozney indicated that it is usually due to the students forgetting to bring them in the morning. He encouraged parents to put a spare mask in the student's school bag, but the school does have masks for students who did not bring one.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:10pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- Oct 4 – Parent/Teacher Conference online sign up
- Oct 11 – Thanksgiving Day, school closed
- Oct 14 – School Photo Retake Day
- Oct 20 – Early Dismissal, 12:30pm
- Oct 20 – Parent/Teacher Conference
- Oct 21 – Early Dismissal, 13:50pm
- Oct 22 – Pro D Day, school closed