

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL

PAC MINUTES

Monday, April 4th, 2022

Attendance via Zoom: Mr. Wozney, Ashley Sandquist, Melanie Sing, Janice Chiem, Stace Dayment, Gloria McKale, Amy Tong, Cindy Cheta, Anna Maria da Palma, Margo Hrennikoff, Sally Felkai, Heidi Fehlauer, Connie Leung, Kristen Valente, Irene Li, Chi, Chris Schmechel, The Mah Family, PBWYM, Ella Ho, Myla Navarro's iphone, Johanna's iphone, DM, Nathaly Rodriguez

Regrets: Arlene Elliott, Donna Rae-Yeung

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Janice (replacing Ashley for today) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- March minutes – motion was made by Cindy to approve minutes, Amy seconded, all in favor – motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Grad update: still planning the grad dinner/dance and hoping the restrictions will be lifted by June. The issue right now is that the hotel can only accommodate people that have been vaccinated.
- School fees: school is finalizing the school fees for next year. The proposal will be taken to the school board for approval in May. (School fees include student activity fee, grad fees, and other fees associated with certain classes such as home economics, wood working). The school does not make money off the fees, the fees are to cover costs only. Grad related costs might change next year due to businesses increasing prices for their services.
- Next school year's schedule: school will continue with the semester system and might have long blocks but not every week.
- April 26-29: long blocks (2 blocks per day) to accommodate the provincial assessments that were postponed.
- Report cards will be available on May 3.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- No activity in March (no incoming cheques or payments made)
- General account available balance for PAC use: \$21,305
- Gaming account available balance for PAC use: \$10,408
- Please email Melanie Sing for a copy of the full financial report.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- The positions of Vice-Chairperson, Mini school rep, and ELL rep are still open. If anyone is interested, please email the PAC executive mailbox.
- The position of Canadian Parents for French (CPF) rep is also vacant. School can take advantage of the grant if there is a CPF rep. If anyone is interested, please email the PAC executive mailbox.

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Grade 8 – some parents are concerned about vaping in the bathroom. Mr. Wozney said it is an issue and encouraged parent to talk to their children about it. Teachers do go into the bathrooms to check.
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report
- Grade 10 – Nothing to report
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report
- Grade 12 – nothing to report
- Mini school – Nothing to report
- ELL – Nothing to report

DPAC

- Nothing to report

FUNDRAISING

- Amy has put together the Mulch Fundraiser. Parents can buy mulch online and use the fundraising code as a coupon. The purchaser will get 10% off and the school will get 10% of the purchase. Amy will send the promotional poster to Mr. Wozney.
- Cindy is looking for volunteers for the next couple of months.

GRAD PARENT COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report

COMMUNITY POLICE

- March meeting was brief. The new student rep attended the meeting and was very enthusiastic.
- Nothing much happening besides from the regular shoplifting and break-ins.

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents

- A parent asked if other high schools in Burnaby are going back to a linear school year. Mr. Wozney said as of right now, five schools will be continuing with the semester system and three will be linear. Some schools are looking at going to semester system, but this is not confirmed yet.
- A parent asked about the status of the staff appreciation lunch. Mr. Wozney said there should be more information coming after the provincial health updates. Once there is more information, they can start planning it. The lunch is usually held at the end of June. Margo asked if there would be anyone interested in helping out with the lunch. Cindy Cheta, Stace Dayment, Chi Fox, and Chris & Stacie Schmechel volunteered to help.
- One parent asked if there would be random checks of the gym change rooms and if it was a result of a recent incident. The parent indicated that male teacher would go into female change room and vice versa. Mr. Wozney said there are random checks in place already. Some kids would skip class and hide in the change room. Usually a teacher will give warning (“yell out”) and wait about 30 seconds before going into the change room. Teachers are allowed to go into the change room of the other sex.
- A parent asked if the provincial exams would count towards the grad GPA. Mr. Wozney said they are not provincial exams but literacy and numeracy assessments. They do not count towards the GPA for graduation, however, some universities do look at those scores. The intent of the assessments is to look at how the students are doing. Students can re-take the assessments if they want. For more information, please check with the counsellors.
- A parent would like to get more information about the grad ceremony. Mr. Wozney said the ceremony is about 2 hours long and school is planning to hold the ceremony at SFU. SFU does have a vaccination requirement. School will wait for the announcement from the provincial health authority. As for dry grad, they are planning it but as of now, it is not happening. The grad committee will be meeting tomorrow to plan.
- One parent asked about the option of renting grad caps and gowns as it is a better choice for environmental sustainability. Mr. Wozney said there is an environmental cost to rental as well such as gown cleaning fees and disposing the gowns when worn out. The actual cost to rent is almost the same as to purchase. Many parents also like to have the cap and gown for photos with family and friends who could not attend the ceremony. If they are rented, the students will receive the items the day before the ceremony and will have to return them when they leave the ceremony.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:55pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- April 15: Good Friday, school closed
- April 18: Easter Monday, school closed
- April 20: Last day of Term 3
- April 21: First day of Term 4
- April 25: Pro-D Day, school closed
- April 25-29: Provincial Assessments Week – Literacy 10/12, Numeracy 10