

## ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL

### PAC MINUTES

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Attendance via Zoom:** Mr. Pare, Ashley Sandquist, Melanie Sing, Janice Chiem, Gloria McKale, Cindy Cheta, Arlene Elliott, Donna Rae-Yeung, Ella Ho, Sally Felkai, Chu, Darlene Allanson, Caremlina, Aya, Aish, Tina Nguyen, Wonderkids, Johanna's iphone, Hiroko Taki, Connie, Nikki, Krista, Mark Chu, Arthur Lin, Sepi, Sandy iphone, Ella, J. Dorland, K, Tirsit Girma, Soy, Richard Edwards, 019, CF, Rashmi Bauskar, Bill Brassington, efan, frances, Joanne Tishenko, Harj, Irene Li, Jisu Kim, Kumiko Yamada, Mark Chu, Roberto, "Linden, Norma & Funky", Jessica Mendicuti, Elson Kung, Anna Maria da Palma, Bal Manhas, Naomi, Connie, Melanie Wilkins-Ho, Roberto, Vernon & Lousie, Maureen, Jessica Mendicuti, Tammi M., Trish Garner, Karita Kent, Cindy York, Kat's iphone, Marcy McCabe, Maricel dela Cruz, Joy, Maria, Irene Li, Jenny, Gail Bradley, Ali Goudarzi, Heidi, M. Vareschi, Christina, Cherie, Krissie, Rishi Verma, Jocelyn, Judy (K Cho), Vernon Loo

**Regrets:** Stace Dayment, Margo Hrennikoff

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

- Ashley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- June minutes – motion was made by Janice to approve minutes, Gloria seconded, all in favor – motion passed.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- Mr. Pare welcomed everyone and introduced himself. He was at Burnaby North last year and prior to that he was the Vice-Principal at Alpha.
- The school field has gone through extensive work over the summer and has been repaired. More work is still being done on the north side of the field. School may look into putting some benches on the field. The field will be usable for PE and the community in general.
- There are new mats in the Fitness Centre. It will be safer for the students and teachers.
- Enrollment is full, there are 1165 students in the school. There number of students increased across the Burnaby district.
- There were issues last year with vaping and vandalism (graffiti, door/soap dispenser damaged) in the bathrooms. They have now been fixed and there are regular checks in the washrooms throughout the day. If the students are caught vaping, parents will be informed, and items confiscated.
- First week of school was smooth, counsellors had been busy with re-scheduling timetables for students.

- September 21 is the in-person Meet the Teacher night. It is at 6pm. Counsellors and some teachers will be there. According to the Collective Agreement, it is not mandatory for teachers to attend. It is not a parent teacher interview but more a general overview of the school/program. It is not specifically related to your child.
- September 23 is a Pro-D Day.
- Parents are encouraged to let Mr. Pare know if there's a certain topic or speaker, they would like to hear from at PAC meetings.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Not much happened over the summer
- Fundraising mainly came from the Gaming Grant.
- General account available balance for PAC use: \$21,536
- Gaming account available balance for PAC use: \$16,529
- Please email Melanie Sing for a copy of the full financial report.
- Motion was made by Janice to increase scholarship to \$1000. Gloria and Sally seconded, all in favor – motion passed
- Motion was made by Janice to approve this year's budget. Donna and Gloria seconded, all in favor – motion passed

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the Staff Appreciation Lunch in June.
- It was well received by the school staff and Ashley proposed that the appreciation lunch should be on the last day of school.
- Introduced Gloria McKale as the new Vice-Chair.

### **VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- nil

### **CLASS REP REPORTS**

- Grade 8 – Sally mentioned there were some minor issues with schedules and lockers, and more mental health needs
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report. Amy's email address is tongamy@gmail.com
- Grade 10 – Nothing to report
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report
- Grade 12 – Nothing to report
- Mini school – n/a
- ELL – n/a

- CPF – nothing to report, no meeting yet

#### **DPAC**

- First meeting will be next Monday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.
- DPAC Alternate: Sally Felkai

#### **FUNDRAISING**

- n/a

#### **GRAD PARENT COMMITTEE:**

- nil

#### **COMMUNITY POLICE**

- First meeting will be next Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Looking for a new student representative. Meetings will be on the third Thursday of every month from 9-10am.
- Reminder: new smoking bylaw – no smoking on sidewalk/lanes

#### **OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents**

- A parent would like to know what fees are associated with grade 12 graduates and if there's anything for grad parents to know. Mr. Pare said there are grad fee for the ceremony, dry grad fee, gown fee. More information will be posted on the school calendar.
- A parent asked what the COVID plan is for the school this year. Mr. Pare said it will be the daily health check. Students who do not feel well should not come to school.
- A parent would like to know about the grade 8 retreat. Mr. Pare said it will be on peer mentoring, students are to bring their own lunch. There will be photos taken in period 3.
- A parent asked if there are any plans for introducing new technological courses at Alpha, such as AI in drones? Mr. Pare said the Robotics class has worked with drones before but there isn't a specific class on that.
- A parent asked what kind of things are on the Teacher's Wish List. Mr. Pare said sometimes sports equipment, sports team uniforms, speakers, school contests etc.

- A parent inquired about application deadlines for universities. Mr. Pare said on October 5<sup>th</sup>, there's an info session for parents on universities. Deadline varies.
- One parent asked if there are cameras in the washroom. Mr. Pare said there are no cameras in washrooms but there are cameras throughout the school.
- One parent asked if there is a district policy regarding inclusiveness and non-discrimination in the classroom and what kind of training does the teachers have in this area. Mr. Pare said they try to be as inclusive as possible, but it is an ongoing challenge. Teachers do have ongoing training on this.
- A parent asked what the expectation of phone and laptop usage in class is. Mr. Pare said the school has a Bring Your Own Device initiative and it is intended to help kids make good choices. Teachers sometimes do use electronic device as class material.
- A parent would like to know if there are any school dances planned. Mr. Pare said no.
- A parent asked if there has been any update to the school WiFi. Mr. Pare said it is already the best in the district but there are some dead zones due to the building structure.

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:05pm.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST**

- Sept 6 – First day of school
- Sept 14 – School Photo Day
- Sept 15 – Grade 8 Retreat
- Sept 21 – Meet the Teacher
- Sept 23 – Pro D Day, school closed
- Sept 28 – Terry Fox Run
- Sept 30 – Truth & Reconciliation Day, school closed