

ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
Monday, November 7th, 2022

Attendance via Zoom: Mr. Pare, Ms. Lim, Ashley Sandquist, Melanie Sing, Janice Chiem, Cindy Cheta, Donna Rae-Yeung, Sally Felkai, Ella Ho, Stace Dayment, Nicole Levis, Melanie W, Dinh Quoc An, Rhonda Manson, Sandy iPhone, Janey's iPhone, Stephanie, Louise Hazemi, CF, Arthur Lin, Bill Brassington, Ingrid's iPhone, Rae's iPad, CSchmechel, Terry C, Anna Maria da Palma, Ana Porto, Nota Spencer, Johanna's iPhone, Sheeba, Irene Lee, Raquel Do, Tomoko Onuma, Aish, iPhone, Su Chow-M, Tanya Dissegna, DM, Maureen, Maria, Frances, Vasiliki Spiliotopoulos

Regrets: Amy Tong, Gloria McKale, Arlene Elliott, Margo Hrennikoff

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Ashley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- October minutes – Rhonda made motion to approve minutes, Cindy seconded, all in favor – motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Last week was the grade 12 literacy assessment. School is trying to find a way to maximize school time for students so the rest of the grade 12 literacy assessment will be at the end of Semester 1 before Semester 2 starts. The grade 10 literacy assessment will be in January.
- There were practicum students from SFU in October and it was a positive experience for the student teachers.
- November 10th: there will be two assemblies for Remembrance Day: 9:40 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. All students will attend, and parents are welcomed.
- November 25th: Pro-D Day. It will be an Indigenous focused Pro-D Day. Staff will do a blanket exercise in the morning and participate in Amazing Race led by Indigenous leadership students. It will be on Indigenous culture.

VICE-PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Student learning conference: it was a great success and nice to see teachers meeting with parents (in-person). Staff are discussing how parent - teacher interviews will be conducted next semester (eg, in-person, virtual, or a hybrid) after a debriefing process.
- Term one report cards will be published on the MyEd portal on November 21.

- Next year, students in Gr 8 & Gr 9 will not get a letter grade or percentage, rather they will be assessed according to a Proficiency Scale (as they are from K-7). Grades 10-12 will continue to receive letter grades & percentages.
- Nov 19-22: grad photos at Artona. Students are required to book an appointment with Artona.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- General account available balance for PAC use: \$21,578
- Gaming account available balance for PAC use: \$15,784
- Please email Melanie Sing for a copy of the full financial report.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- nil

VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- nil

CLASS REP REPORTS

- Grade 8 – Nothing to report
- Grade 9 – Nothing to report
- Grade 10 – Nothing to report
- Grade 11 – Nothing to report
- Grade 12 – Parents would like to know more about the Dry Grad: location and safety measures. This will be discussed under Grad Parent Committee.
- Mini school – n/a
- ELL – n/a
- CPF – Nothing to report

DPAC

- There was PAC 101 session for new PAC executives.
- There will be an information session on mental health and wellness on Nov 21.

FUNDRAISING

- n/a

GRAD PARENT COMMITTEE:

- First in-person meeting was held last month, the committee narrowed down to two venues: Burnaby Hall and GRETA bar. Other options were Science World (\$8000 rental fee), 312 Main (venue has never done a dry grad before), SFU (currently under construction so they cannot confirm if the place will be available), PNE Forum (too costly and there might be other parties at the same time), Ruby Club (too small), golf course (waiting to hear back).
- Once venue has been confirmed, the committee will get a cheque from the school to pay for the deposit. Ashley said only Mr. Pare can sign the contract to secure the venue and then insurance will apply. The committee will need a letter to confirm this is a school sanction event.
- Some fundraisers are Purdy's chocolates, SPC, plant sale, gift cards, Epicure
- The committee is looking into doing a trivia night in February for fundraising and plans to use the large gym. Committee will need to apply for certification if serving alcohol in school. Approval will need to be obtained from the school board before proceeding.
- The next meeting will be on Nov 9th at 6:30pm (school's library).
- Fundraisers do not need to PAC's approvals but will need to be approved by Mr. Pare. PAC just needs to be aware of them.
- Sally is trying to set up fundraiser with the Heights Coffee: 20% of the sale will go towards Dry Grad.

COMMUNITY POLICE

- n/a

OTHER BUSINESS & QUESTIONS from parents

- Louise would like to see if any parents would be interested in making a school field committee. Johanna Kwan, Stacie Schmechel, Ashley Sandquist, and Stace Dayment are interested in joining. Other interested parents can contact Louise at: bluehousecharlie@gmail.com
Bill Brassington mentioned that the district spent \$3000 to smooth the field. The field and the school are both City's property. Committee can bring ideas to the City for discussion. Stace Dayment is a Parks and Rec Commissioner.
- Melanie W. would like to discuss about the report on racism in Burnaby schools. What will the school and district do regarding the report? What is happening at the district or the Ministry's level? What can PAC do to help? Bill Brassington said the actual written

report on racism will be delivered to the school board in December before the holidays. Then there will be an anti-racism working group who will look at the report and see what has already been done and identify what still needs to be done. This is a high priority for the school board. Bill also mentioned that the working group will consist of many different stakeholders such as DPAC, school staff, students, senior staff, Elders, people from the community groups etc. Bill provided his contact info if anyone has related questions: 778-951-2455

Mr. Pare said at the school level, Alpha staff has started a teacher team called CARE. The team meets regularly to see how to be anti-racist.

- A parent asked if the school or district has addressed the aftermath of the discovery of deceased persons near the school. Mr. Pare said the police were looking for a missing person from Coquitlam and happened to see the car parked outside the school and discovered the bodies. Police indicated that no one is at risk and IHIT is involved in the case. Parents can find information through the media as the school does not have additional information.
- A parent asked if there would be consistency among teachers regarding the proficiency scale. Will all the teachers be applying it the same way? Mr. Pare said they do not have enough practice to understand it. Technically the teachers are not supposed to translate the scale to a letter grade (e.g., Extending = A, Proficient = B). However, post secondary schools want a percentage or letter grade. The structure is not there for teachers to fully embrace the proficiency scale.
- A parent suggested school staff can look at sample students work and discuss their evaluation and professional judgement during Pro-D Day. They will encourage the teachers to discuss the scale.
- Some parents would like the draft PAC meeting minutes to be included with the agenda. o they can read the minutes and participate in the minutes approval process.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:22pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST

- Oct 10 – Thanksgiving Day, school closed
- Oct 12 – Photo Retake Day
- Oct 19 – Early Dismissal
- Oct 20 – Early Dismissal
- Oct 21 – Pro D Day, school closed
- Oct 31 – Nov 4 – Provincial Assessments

