

École Alpha Secondary School
Minutes of PAC Meeting held on Monday, October 16, 2023
7pm, in person, Alpha Library

Present:

From the School: Amber Norris, Mr. Paré

PAC: Janice C, Maria F, Gloria M, Donna Y, Vivian G, Jessica J, Karen L, Chloe P, Sally F, Arlene E, Johanna K

Parents: Stace D, Krista C, Melanie W, Shereene Y, Nancy N, Raquel D, March C, Parisa K, Johnson D, Sheeba F, Saicy M, Connie L, Karina O, Marcy M, Liezel L

Regrets: Amy T, Stacie S

Items Addressed:

Approval of September 11, 2023, PAC Meeting Minutes

Stace D made a motion to approve minutes, Sheeba F seconded, all in favor, passed.

Presentation by Amber Norris, Alpha Athletics Director

Review of sports offered at Alpha.

We are the Fraser North Zone.

Students often coached and mentored by older students.

Students get to experience coaching and practice leadership skills.

Require teacher sponsors or parents to help coach; currently need a basketball coach.

All coach volunteers need a criminal record check, and the school pays for the check.

Intramurals vary from year to year depending on student interest and are played at lunch, are for fun, and open to all students.

School has a Sports Council, which are students who meet once a week to organize and plan for sports and intramurals. Any student can join. They set up and tear down for games and intramurals, do scorekeeping, timekeeping, line refereeing, organize the sign up for teams, and more.

Regarding costs, Intramurals are free and there are fees for Teams; fees go towards championships, referee costs, equipment, uniforms, etc.

Amber puts Athletics news in the bulletins each week.

FULL PRESENTATION IS ATTACHED.

Principals Report, Mr. Paré

The 2 portables out front will be ready in approximately 3 weeks.

We can expect more portables the next couple years, perhaps in the parking lot.

We can also expect 18 portables over the next 10 years if Burnaby does not build a new high school for the Brentwood area or build a new wing onto Alpha.

September highlights: Terry Fox Run; Grade 8 Retreat and Dance (retreat was an Amazing Race with an Indigenous theme); Indigenous Cultural Camp; King Handles Basketball; Truth and Reconciliation Day; Twin Day; Clubs Day.

Planning a dance in November with a DJ for grades 9-12; TBD if grade 8's can attend.

School has an Affinity Club, which is a black students club who meet once a month. This club applied for a PAC grant to paint over an old mural in the school. They have completed the work and Mr. Paré suggested we may want to meet with them to learn how it went.

Chairperson's Report, Maria F

Maria introduced herself; she is the new PAC Chair this year.

Priorities this year include involvement and engagement, and to support students and Student Council.

PAC parent email distribution list: please sign up if you want to receive PAC communications or email the PAC.

Fundraising:

- SPC cards – Student Price Card for discounts at various stores; cost is \$10 plus tax; PAC keeps \$3.50 of each card. Buy them through school cash online for limited time.
- Cobs Bread at Kensington Square.
- Encorp Bottle return at Kensington Square.
- Purdy's – Stacie S will be helping with this one.
- Request for parent volunteers to help with PAC fundraising; even one program. Please send us an email if you can help.
- PAC donations via School Cash Online; be sure to indicate it goes to Alpha PAC, otherwise it goes to District; min \$30 donation for a tax receipt.

Alpha PAC Constitution:

- Is dated 2003.
- We have parent volunteers who want to help revise. Let us know if you want to help. Melanie W wants to help.
- Hope to have a draft for April 2024 and finalize for the AGM.
- District may have a workshop for us and a template we could use.
- BCCPAC also has templates.
- Melanie W expressed concerns that our by-laws were/are not being followed, i.e., DPAC Rep vote by secret ballot, length of time in a position, and how Past Chair should be on the PAC the following year.
- Revision needs to account for digital meetings.
- No School Planning Councils (SPC) anymore, so that needs to be deleted.
- Discussion re: the rule the Past Chair must be on the PAC the following year. What if their child has left the school/graduated, how can they be on the PAC? Revision needs to spell that out and have Chair transition out when their child is in grade 11 and be Past Chair while in grade 12.

Vice-Chairperson's Report, Gloria M

PAC website update completed.

Planning a monthly communications email, halfway between the monthly PAC meetings.

Alpha parents have an unofficial Facebook page, managed by parent Arlene E.

Treasurer's Report, Janice C

Reviewed accounts.

Reviewed funds in Gaming Account. We put money in a term deposit for the year as we usually pay it out at end of the year with teacher's wish list.

Financial statements distributed.

It is Janice's last year as treasurer; we need a new volunteer treasurer; please contact PAC to help.

Parent Representative Reports

English Language Learners (ELL) – We need a parent volunteer, please contact PAC to help.

Mini-School – Karen L is new to the role and asked how she reaches out to connect to parents.

Spontaneous discussion re: Parent Representatives:

- Do we need parent representatives?
- Or what does the role look like?
- Maybe it's not grade reps but subject/theme reps? Themes could be core values of Alpha and could include Inclusive Education, Access, Special Needs, BIPOC, New Canadians, Transition/New to Alpha, Athletics, among others.
- Current rep positions are what is in our Constitution. It is perfect timing for this discussion as we are changing our Constitution.
- Agreement the role of parent representatives will be part of the Constitution review.
- For now, it was agreed we can let parents know these reps exist and can be met at each PAC meeting.

Community Policing, Chloe P

North Burnaby is becoming more of a city, so we are getting more urban issues, i.e., homelessness, break and enters.

We live in one of the safest districts in Burnaby. Locking up garages and cars are main issues. Solo District by the SkyTrain has some crime with transients and youth issues with theft/vandalism.

Confederation Park has had fake gun issues twice.

Chloe P gets a crime report and goes to city hall meetings.

Reach out to Chloe P if you want to get more information or get involved.

This group is looking for a student rep to join.

Spontaneous discussion re: the school bathrooms and the staircase across the street:

The girl's yellow bathroom has students congregating there and it is intimidating to other students. A dozen girls use the yellow bathroom frequently and eat lunch there.

There was discussion around the question of incentivizing students to leave the bathroom and "hang out" somewhere else on school grounds.

What other spaces do older students have to congregate in/at?

How can we create other spaces to act as an incentive for kids to leave the bathrooms?

Boys' bathroom is better this year.

The staircase across the street on Curtis has many students congregating at lunch. City has noted it is a thoroughfare and not a parklet so has different levels of service.

Mr. Paré explained all they are doing about these issues and that it is ongoing.

Grad, Raquel

The Metro has been booked for the grad banquet.

Fundraising:

- Family photoshoot
- Tropical plant sale

****GRADE 12 UPDATES ADDED POST MEETING**, Stacie**

CAPSTONE proposal is due on Friday, October 27th.

- Failure to do so will result in an "IE" on your first term report card.
- The assignment can be found in your student's CLC12B Team.
- If you have any questions, please see Ms. Teng or Ms. Lo in Student Services.

Graduation photos November 14-18, 2023, at Artona Studios.

- Grads must book an appointment through the Artona website: <https://artona.com/schools/ALPH/programs/graduation>
- Questions about Grad Photos? Check out the FAQs at <https://artona.com/faqs> or contact Artona at 604-872-7272.

Grad Yearbook write ups and baby pics

- November 30th deadline submission for Grade 12 grad write-ups and baby pics for the yearbook.
- The link to upload and submit is posted on the Grade 12 Teams.

Mark your calendar:

- School Leaving Ceremony is Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at SFU's Convocation Mall, 6:30pm. More information will come later.
- School Cash Online is now ready to accept your payment for the Graduation Events: School Leaving Ceremony, \$80.00, and Dinner Dance, \$140.00
- Please login and pay your fees by November 30th, 2023.
- School Cash Online website: <https://burnaby.schoolcashionline.com/>

Grad Fundraising Cookie Dough Sale, October 4 to 27, Orders are due.

Core Competency Reflections:

- All students must submit their Core Competency reflections through Teams.
- See your Period 2 teacher for more information.
- This is a graduation requirement for all students and will be reported on your first term report card.

80-Hour Work Experience Students:

- All work experience students need to hand in their summer work experience paperwork to Ms. Teng and/or Ms. Lo in Student Services

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), Maria F

Donna Y is the current rep and wanting to transition out.

Vivien G is interested in shadowing Donna Y this year. No issues raised about this so Vivien will shadow Donna.

Review of Upcoming Events

- Friday, October 20, Pro-D Day
- Thursday, October 26, early dismissal @ 11:51am
- Thursday, October 26, Student Learning Conferences via Zoom, 1:30pm to 4:30pm and 5:30pm to 7:30pm, sign up online
- Friday, October 27, early dismissal @ 1:50pm
- Monday, October 30, Alpha Theatre Co. Haunted Experience
- Friday, November 3, last day of Term 1
- Thursday, November 16, 7pm to 9pm, Floral Workshop, fundraiser for drama trip to New York, \$65/ticket, sign up at School Cash Online

Adjournment at 8:53pm

Next Meeting is Monday, November 6, 2023, 7pm, in person