

**École Alpha Secondary School PAC  
MINUTES  
Monday, December 4, 2023  
7pm, in person, Alpha Library**

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Land Acknowledgement, Maria F**

**Present:** Maria F, Gloria M, Janice C, Jessica J, Melanie W, Stacie S, Donna Y, Raquel D, Donna S, Bia Y, Hassan M, Johanna K, Nadine D, Wiljo L, Nancy N, Sally F, Lucy F, Tom G, Bol J, Mr. Paré (Principal), Jugana Bikic (Acting Vice-Principal)

**Regrets:** Vivien G, Ella H

**Motion to approve the agenda, Maria F**

Donna Y motioned to approve the agenda with the edit to move 8a) DPAC Rep vacancy to be discussed at 6j) Parent Representative Report for District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC); seconded by Melanie W; all in favor.

**2. Approval of Minutes from November 6, 2023, Meeting, Maria F**

Melanie W requested the edit to 9a:

**FROM Alpha PAC Constitution revision progress update:**

Melanie volunteered to run the group. See Melanie if interested in helping. Goal is the revision is completed by April to vote on at June AGM. Current C&Bs are on the PAC website. Sign up form circulated to join the group.

**TO Alpha PAC Constitution revision progress update:**

Melanie volunteered to run the group. See Melanie if interested in helping. Goal is the revision is completed in time to vote on at April PAC meeting, so all is in order prior to the June AGM. Current C&Bs are on the PAC website. Sign up form circulated to join the group.

Gloria M motioned to approve the minutes of November 6, 2023, with this edit; seconded by Nancy N; all in favor.

**3. Chairperson's Report, Maria F**

a) Athletics:

- o Basketball has just started
- o Girls' Soccer starts in spring
- o Grade 10 boys' volleyball went into the provincial tournament, came in 4<sup>th</sup>

b) Vice Principal will report on Spring Assessments at the January 2024 PAC meeting

c) Student Council dance on Thursday, Dec 6 has sold 230 tickets sold so far, with tickets on sale for a couple more days

**4. Vice-Chairperson's Report, Gloria M**

No report.

## 5. Treasurer's Report, Janice C

- a) November numbers include:
  - \$25,560.00 in our general account.
  - \$36,836.00 in our gaming account; of which \$23,050.00 is for the for 2023-24 Teachers' Wish List, \$3,500.00 for grade 12 grad support; leaving \$10,286.00.
- b) Fundraising Revenue:
  - Just Mulch fundraiser from 2022-23 brought in \$44.82
  - Student Price Card (SPC) fundraiser for 2023-24 brought in \$528.50; sold 151 and we keep \$3.00 from each card; this money is in the school's PAC bank account.
  - Purdy's fundraiser for 2023-24 brought in \$1,552.95, waiting for cheque.
- c) Grade 12 scholarships could be given out from General account, something to discuss.
- d) We need a new treasurer next year, would be good to have them shadow Janice this year.
- e) Student Council Ho Ho Ho Down contribution:

Donna Y motioned to approve a PAC contribution of \$250.00 to Student Council for prizes for the Ho Ho Ho Down; seconded by Bia Y; all in favor.  
These funds will come from the general account.
- f) Junior Boys' Volleyball Team Travel contribution:

Donna Y motioned to approve a PAC contribution of \$1,100.00 for the grade 10 boys' volleyball team travel to the Provincial tournament; seconded by Sally F; all in favor.  
This is \$100.00 per player and the team has 11 players.  
These funds will come from the gaming account.  
School Administration is also going to support the travel costs.

## 6. Parent Representative Reports

- a) **Grade 8, Donna S** - Grade 8 retreat was good, and the dance was great. Suggested the school do a retreat for each grade each year. Maria F and Donna S are discussion this idea.
- b) **Grade 9, Sally F and Johanna K** – no report
- c) **Grade 10, Amy** – not present
- d) **Grade 11, Arlene** - not present

**e) Grade 12, Stacie S**

- i. Post-Secondary applications - UBC Early Applications have closed but SFU and U Vic Applications will close on December 15, 2023. It is recommended that your grad apply to two universities and one college for the best opportunities to continue their education after graduation.
  
- ii. Graduation Photos with Artona Studio - Please contact Artona if your Grad has not had their graduation photo taken yet. They will still try to work with you. Phone: (604) 872-7272, Email: [csr@artona.com](mailto:csr@artona.com), Website: <https://artona.com>. Check out the FAQs at <https://artona.com/faqs>  
This photoshoot is where your grade 12 will have their cap and gown photo taken for the yearbook. There is a \$60 deposit due at the sitting (cash or card) that will be applied toward your purchases or can be refunded if you return your Artona Book to their main studio (353 West 7 Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1M2) within the 30 days of your session. Purchase options and packages will be provided later.  
Grads will have photos taken first in the outfit of their choice prior to their cap and gown photo. They may bring props if they fit in a 55 cm X 39 cm container, they may also have a photo taken with two friends or with 4 family members. If you want a family photo and have more members, please contact Artona prior to your session.  
Remember to please contact the school to excuse your student for the time they will be away for their senior photos if your appointment is during school hours. Email their name, grade, student #, date & time excused to [Alpha.Info@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:Alpha.Info@burnabyschools.ca) or call (604) 296-6865 option 2.
  
- iii. Ms. Lo has asked that you remind your student to be checking their appropriate Teams group.  
For students with last names starting A to L: O365-Alpha-2023-2024-Grade12-A-L  
For students with last names starting M to Z: O365-Alpha-2023-2024-Grade12-M-Z  
and to remind you to join the Grad Council Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/alphagradcouncil2024/> and the Dry Grad Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/alphadrygrad2024/>
  
- iv. Although these are past due, please also confirm your student has submitted their CAPSTONE Proposal, Grad Write-Up, and baby photo. Grad Write-up and baby photo for the yearbook was due Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> but please ask your grad to submit them on their GRADE 12 Team as soon as possible.
  
- v. Mark your calendar:  
School Leaving Ceremony: TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 @ CONVOCATION MALL, SFU 6:30pm.  
Dinner Dance: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown, 1128 West Hastings Vancouver, BC  
Dry Grad: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024, 11:00pm - 3:00am  
The Metro Hall - 759 Carnarvon Street, New Westminister

- vi. School Cash Online is now ready to accept your payment for some Graduation Events:  
School Leaving Ceremony, \$80.00  
Dinner Dance, \$140.00. Please login and pay your fees as soon as possible, PAST DUE after November 30, 2023.
- vii. If applicable you should also find AP Exam fees in your student's School Cash Online Account. Students should be registering through their teacher, but you'll pay the exam fee with School Cash Online.
- viii. Please be looking for opportunities in your School Cash Online account to support Dry Grad. Dry Grad ticket sales will be available on School Cash Online in the future. If you have any questions for the Dry Grad Committee, please reach them at [drygrad.alpha@gmail.com](mailto:drygrad.alpha@gmail.com)  
All grade 12 parents are welcome to attend the Dry Grad committee meetings, the next one will be December 13, 2023, at 7 PM in the Alpha School Library (Learning Commons).
- ix. If you participated in the Family and Friends Portrait Night, THANK YOU!! Please do not forget to login to your personal account to view and order photos. Need help, please contact [drygrad.alpha@gmail.com](mailto:drygrad.alpha@gmail.com)
- f) **Mini School, Karen L** – not present
- g) **CPF, Ella H** – regrets
- h) **Community Policing, Chloe P** – not present
- i) **Graduation, Donna S/Raquel D:**
  - 50/50 fundraiser had \$3,500.00 for the winner
  - Great feedback from the family photo fundraiser
  - Planters and coffee were satisfactory, could have been better if they weren't so busy. Met their goals.
- j) **District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), Donna Y, Maria F**
  - Alpha's current representation at the DPAC level is our DPAC rep Donna Y, and two rep alternates, Ashley S and Jacqui Z. Both alternate reps are on the DPAC executive. Ashley is the chair and Jacqui is the secretary.
  - Donna was unable to attend the November DPAC meeting due to travel, Ashley did not attend due to illness, and Jacqui did not provide a report.

- One of our members, Vivien, who was motioned in September to shadow Donna, attended the meeting and this is her report:

Ashley is away on sick leave with no set return date. Laura, DPAC vice-chair stepped in for Ashley at the November meeting. Laura commented that “the team” had fallen behind. As well, Laura announced her resignation for January.

Parents were upset at the executives at November’s meeting as they were at the September meeting.

The DPAC executive has not published their meeting minutes on their website since April. That includes their AGM and executive elections in May.

Parents felt that the DPAC executives have a lack of transparency between executives and members.

With uncertainty at DPAC, many parents were concerned that important issues are not heard and addressed, and they felt they were not well represented by DPAC. A group of parents initiated a sign-up sheet, so communication can continue among members and executives.

Vivien would like to point out that she appreciates PAC and DPAC members who have dedicated hours and years of service to our community. But if a group of 20 parents are concerned, and months of DPAC minutes are not made available to the public, then DPAC is not operating efficiently and effectively.

Her hope is that DPAC improve their communication between executives and members. PAC represents the school and DPAC represents the district; we must learn to work together to ensure schools and children are well represented.

- As noted above, Donna Y was DPAC rep and Vivien G was shadowing. Donna Y is stepping down and Vivien G will continue as DPAC rep.

\*\* Prior to next meeting we will reach out to reps ahead of time for a report.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **a) Fundraising, Stacie S/Maria F**

**Purdy’s** raised \$1,552.95. We had 49 participants.

- Original Goal was \$2,500.00 in sales, then goal stretched to \$7,500.00.
- We sold \$5,916.00 worth of product for a total with taxes of \$6,211.80.
- Our 25% profit is \$1,552.95.

- The 49 purchasers were entered into a drawing for a \$25 Purdy's Gift Card and the winner is Sunghee K.
- Pick-up of Purdy's orders is this Friday, December 8th in the Learning Commons/Library from 3pm to 7:30pm and again on Monday, December 11th from 8am-9 am or 3 pm-7:30pm. If those dates and times do not work for you, please contact Stacie Schmechel at (778) 870-2516 or [StacieSchmechel@gmail.com](mailto:StacieSchmechel@gmail.com).
- A cheque will be mailed to the PAC directly from Purdy's.

**Bottle drive** in January 2024, at three drop off Return-It locations: Kensington, Brentwood, and Hastings by Barnett.

**b) School Expansion, Donna Y for Vivien G**

Thank you for your attention and your continued support on this important issue. It is important that we continue to address this issue at monthly PAC meetings. I have reached out to our principal and superintendent. Also, I have been following up with DPAC and see if I can address Alpha's over capacity concern. Here are some updates:

- i. Principal Ben Pare said Secretary Treasurer will have some news for us in a few weeks. I hope the news will be available for January PAC meeting.
- ii. Kathryn Yamamoto, former Director of Instruction for the North zone, has stated Alpha's projected capacity has been reached sooner than expected. Meaning: Projected year 2025 was supposed to be 1209 students. Actual enrolment for year 2023 is 1250 students. Superintendent had no comment on school expansion plans.
- iii. DPAC most current meeting minutes available is April 2023. (Refer to the following link <https://dpac.burnabyschools.ca/april-17-dpac-meeting-minutes/>), and <https://dpac.burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/April-Dpac-meeting-minutes.pdf> In the DPAC April minutes, district long term range plan was discussed and recommendation for Alpha: it requires 18 portables and a new Brentwood high school.
- iv. Louise, a parent at Alpha had followed up with the city on the soccer field for a long time and still the field is not available for the children. I have included the soccer field into the School Expansion plan. If you know of any other facility issues at school, please forward them to me and cc Donna.
- v. Inquires to School Board:
  - Will student enrolment continue to increase or stay the same or decrease?
  - Will Alpha get 18 portables or a new wing with 20 classrooms?
  - Will the outdoor space be updated for the students, i.e. basketball/tennis court area and/or soccer field?
- i. Research has shown that over capacity schools have affected children learning outcome and teacher's ability to teach

effectively. Overcrowded classrooms and schools may affect learning, such as:

- Greater noise & distractions
- Less personalized instruction
- Increased in disciplinary problem
- Poor building or environmental conditions
- Increase in illness risk

Sources:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/teaching-in-an-overcrowded-classroom-3194352>

<https://www.epa.gov/schools/about-state-school-environmental-health-guidelines>

<https://www.waldenu.edu/online-masters-programs/ms-in-education/resource/five-ways-that-overcrowded-classrooms-affect-education#:~:text=From%20less%20individualized%20instruction%20to,and%20students%27%20ability%20to%20learn.>

It is important that as a group of parents, we work together to ensure that the school board provide adequate environment for the children/youth to develop in. Thank you for your ongoing support on this important issue.

**c) Constitution and Bylaws (C&Bs) Revisions, Melanie W**

- The committee met and are meeting again in January. They are using a BCCPAC template for the revisions and have set up a google doc. They are also looking at other schools C&Bs.
- Timeline is to have a proposal ready at the beginning of March and a completed revision to vote on at the April PAC meeting, so all is in order prior to the June AGM.

**8. New Business**

**a) Reference list of advocacy resources for parents, Melanie W**

- The idea is to have a PAC toolkit of advocacy resources for parents
- The kit would list specific organizations and general strategies for various issues
- The kit will go on the PAC website
- The kit will need regular updating
- Melanie W will work on the kit

**9. Upcoming Events/Dates of Interest:**

- December 7 Winter Dance
- December 19 Winter Concert at Michael J Fox Theatre
- December 21 Ho Ho Ho Down
- December 22 to Jan 7 School closed
- January 8, 2024, School re opens.
- Monday, January 15, 2024, 7pm, PAC Meeting

**10. Adjourn, Maria F**

Maria F motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gloria M, all in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:14pm