

David Thompson Secondary PAC Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2019 @ 7 pm – 8.30 pm
Attendance: 6 parents, 1 admin and 1 staff

Welcome & introductions

- Ayesha called the meeting to order at 7.05 pm.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- Moved – Leila; Second - Ayesha

Student Council Update: N/A

Teachers Liaison Update:

- Shared Teacher Newsletter
- Nothing new – contract bargaining on-going; Contract ends June, 2019;

Principal's updates – Mr. Rick Lopez:

January:

- Started planning for next year – timetabling, staffing, course planning;
- Course selection for Grades 8-11 students are happening from now until March 1st;
- All courses need to be selected by March 1st; Can check in on child's course selection process via their MyEd account;
- [Question re timetabling conflicts – Counsellors are available to answer questions and to help students 1-2 weeks prior to start of school;]
- Honor Roll/Principal List assemblies happened;
- Articulation Assembly for Grade 7 transition happened in the Library with all eleven feeder schools;
- Had Gold Program Open House, Grade 7 Parent Night;
- Grade 12 provincial exams, Numeracy and Literacy Exams will be happening soon;
- New Trustee for David Thompson, Estrellita Gonzalez, visited the school; She will be visiting with us in the February PAC meeting;
- New curriculum changing and evolving – New Numeracy and Literacy Assessments for Grade 10 and Literacy Assessment in Grade 12 going forward;
- [Question/Comment: It's very dark on school grounds at night during this time of year. Can there be more lighting around the school? Can the school invest in this to make our school grounds safer for students and parents during evening events? Who do we talk to? This is a question we can bring up to our school trustee!]
- General reminder to be safe and be aware of your surroundings always whenever you are maneuvering through the community;
- Odyssey Program head is Mr. Lopez; looking for teachers to take the lead of this program;
- Interviews and selection process will be starting up next week;
- Seismic meeting happening soon; more info to come in a month or two;
- Planning to remove the honor roll completely, like other schools; Honor Roll negatively affects the school culture – extrinsic rewards rather than intrinsic rewards; The school is looking for more inclusive ways to reward achievement and learning;

President's report: Ayesha Haider

- This is Ayesha's last year chairing for PAC, we need a new PAC Chair in place for the new school year; Need to know who the person will be by May, 2019;
- Jiemha offered to step in for the role; Melody offer to help her out;

Liaison/Committee Updates:

i. Finance: N/A

ii. Athletics:

- From the fall season we had several athletes from cross country and swimming participating in the provincials. We also had 2 volleyball city champions - bantam girls and junior girls tier 2.
- Currently in the winter season, we have 8 basketball teams competing and we are hopeful that they will all make playoffs.

iii. Music:

- Email from Mr. Lamb; looking for \$4000 more to complete purchase of sound system; PAC rejected his request this year because funds for this item was already given out last year;
- Mr. Lamb is suggesting to complete this remaining amount via fundraising efforts;
- Mr. Lopez will talk to Mr. Lamb;

iv. DT is 60 update –

- Final amount as of Jan. 22 is \$9341.85, after expenses of \$6328.38;
- Overall, very proud of how things turned out!
- What to do with the money? Money should be used to support parent, student and teacher initiatives, different than those for gaming funds, which is used strictly for extra-curricular activities; Eg. Parent workshops, seed money for other fundraising projects, etc.
- Spend funds wisely, so we don't deplete the funds we all worked so hard to make;
- Need to form a committee to manage this money and ensure accountability of use of this money; good to include PAC executive as well as staff and admin representatives present for input;
- Can put funds into an account for the time being to generate interest, which can be used towards other things such as scholarships, etc.
- Committee = Mr. Lopez (principal), PAC Exec, Ms Reddy (Staff Rep)
- Have something in writing with a plan of how to generate more funds and set purpose for the funds;
- Money should be spent on the kids in the building at the present time;
- Workshop Suggestions: to bring in Terry Small to do workshop "Study Smarter, Not Harder", Social Media Awareness by Safer Schools Together;

v. DPAC/BCCPAC:

- DPAC General Meeting on January 24th – presentation for VSB parents on what the legalization of cannabis means for our kids and for schools;
- Presenters include Selma Smith, VSB District Principal, Student Support: Support for Social Emotional Learning and VSB's SACY (Supporting and Connecting Youth – Substance Use Health Promotion Initiative) Staff;
- Location: 1580 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC; Contact chair@vancouverdpac.org or register with Eventbrite at least 48 hours ahead of time if you require childcare for this meeting;

- Hosting another workshop presented by VCH Child and Youth Mental Health Services - Anxiety in Children and Youth on January 31st, 2019, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, at VSB office;
- Goal of workshop – help caregivers recognize anxiety in their child or youth, and to learn strategies to support them. The facilitator will provide information about school and community resources, and where /how to access supports and services.
- For BCCPAC, reminders to members that the deadline for Special Resolutions (changes to our bylaws) is Thursday, January 31st, 2019;
- Nominations to Board of Directors deadline is February 28th, 2019; Nominations are open to regular members in good standing. Candidates for a position on the Board of Directors must be nominated by a member PAC or DPAC. Completed nomination forms must be received at the BCCPAC office by midnight February 28th, 2019 (Sec. 5.5, 5.11, Bylaws);

vi. PAC grad scholarships:

- Last year, teachers/ scholarship committee selected the candidates for our PAC scholarships; let's do that again this year;
- Always announce recipients of PAC scholarships at PAC meeting in September;
- To qualify for scholarships at DT, the student must have at least 6 course on his/her timetable;

vii. Lunar New Year

- Lunar New Year this year is February 5th;
- When to host our Lunar New Year Potluck dinner this year?
- Patrick (multicultural worker) will check with VPD Lion dance group to see when they are available;
- Ayesha will find out and get back to us to decide whether or not we will have it, and if so, when it will be;

viii. New Business – N/A

Adjournment: 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting Date: February 19th, 2019.

If you are unable to join us and would like any topics or questions raised during our PAC meetings, or have suggestions for guest speakers, please contact us at pac_thom@vsb.bc.ca