

**David Thompson Secondary PAC
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19th, 2019**

Attendance: 12 parents; 1 administrator

Called to order at 7:05 pm by PAC president Jiehma Chow.

Approval of September minutes:

Motion to accept: Regina moved, Leila seconded; Approved

Switch of personnel was approved. Ian will fulfill the PAC Secretary role, and Leila will fulfill the role of Member At Large

Ms. Reddy's Staff Liaison Update: (None this meeting)

Special Guest: (None this meeting)

Main focus of meeting: A line by line reporting of what PAC funding disbursements were approved. A total of 51 proposals for funding were reviewed by the PAC executive.

The PAC president gave attending parents a brief explanation of where the PAC's \$27K funds come from (provincial gaming) and the basic principles for how the funds are to be used (school club supplies, athletic team needs, transportation to club-related events etc.)

A parent asked if the final decisions regarding the PAC disbursement information could be posted online. Principal Lopez reiterated that the final review of the disbursed funds is done in an open and transparent way at today's meeting.

Athletics report: The secretary presented a short report on school athletics during the fall season

Call for volunteers: The president called for volunteers for the PAC.

- A parent asked what are the duties for volunteers
- The co-chair explained that by joining the PAC, parents will be much better informed about what's happening at the school and of the variety of different speakers who come in, what workshops (like SACY) are available to parents. Parents keep the PAC as an entity going

General discussion about Vaping, Cannnabis and Fentanyl

Principal Lopez gave a brief discussion about vaping and how it's handled on campus. In BC, statistics show that about 20% of students vape. The students seem to be largely ignorant about the harm it causes the body. Mr. Lopez sees it as an opportunity to open a dialogue with teens, and an opportunity to connect with students and to build relationships between staff and students.

Principal's update/October - November Recap – Mr. Lopez:

- New Face Leaders (NFL) – Gr 10, 11 and 12 student leaders helping Gr. 8 students orientate to the school. Pumpkin Carving day, Gr.8 Hot Dog & Sponge Bob day
- DT was a testing centre for Gr. 7 catchment students to write their mini school test
- Gr 8 assembly for the “End Gang Life” presentation by VPD officers
- Interim report cards are prepared so that parents can get an early idea of how their kids are faring at school and if they are successfully handing in work assignments. Term 1 ends November 26th 2019. Report cards will be published and available through the MyEdBC family portal on Dec. 5th
- There was a Halloween Fashion show put on by student council; a Gr 12 Parent night to answer questions from parents of Gr 12 students, and a Remembrance Day assembly
- The principal's main focus in the school is to encourage connections between students and staff, and student-to-student. This is the key to having a healthy student population of kids who are enjoying their school life.

Q & A:

1) How can password resets to the MyEdBc family portal be dealt with?

DT office staff can reset portal accounts and the reset code can be sent to the email address of the parents' choice

2) How can locker padlock mixups be sorted out?

Let the DT office staff know and they can sort these issues out.

3) Who can answer questions about the Odyssey program?

Mr. Chan and Ms. Leung are the Odyssey program coordinators, and can be emailed through a link to the Odyssey program through the school website.

4) If a student wants to get into UBC or SFU, is a 70% grade as an Odyssey student treated the same as a 90% grade from a non-mini school program by the universities?

Graduating from a mini school program does not guarantee entrance into university. Generally, the universities are now looking at a broader spectrum of qualifications for entry beyond academic grades, including volunteerism etc. There are multiple ways to get into university, including through university transfer from Langara, Douglas, Kwantlen and Capilano colleges.

5) Are there stats available showing what percentage of 2019 graduates went on to UBC or SFU?

DT doesn't track this information, although the universities themselves may have this information. DT has had students apply and get into Canada's and USA's Ivy league schools. Generally these students are coming out of the Odyssey program and are taking AP coursework.

6) *Are cell phones required for Gr 8's class work?*

This is a parental decision, and the existence of cell phones in the class is a difficult issue for the staff to handle. Some teachers use cell phones as a teaching tool in their classrooms, some do not. Computers are not available in the classrooms except for the Computer Lab and the Library.

7) *When will responses pertaining to the Japan trip applications be sent out to parents?*

Please contact Ms. Sharon Huey, the program coordinator.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 21st, 2020 at 7pm in the library