

**David Thompson Secondary PAC
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 18th, 2020**

Attendance: 6 PAC executive, 2 parents; 1 administrator

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

Approval of September minutes:

Motion to accept: Regina moved, Amy seconded; Approved

Ms. Reddy's Staff Liaison Update:

Mediation is set to resume between the BCTF and the BCPSEA mediation. Improvements in class size and composition, meeting the needs of specialist classrooms, the hiring of specialist teachers, and salary improvements are desired. Both parties are earnestly talking and there is no discussion yet about job or strike action. All parties are moving forward slowly with the best of intentions and a desire to be reasonable. Most teachers know that they won't get compensated for the extras hours spent coaching, running clubs, keeping the library going late.

Main focus of meeting:

- How can we use WeChat to stay in touch with and inform those non-English speaking parents
- May 14th DT is hosting the DPAC meeting. More details are pending.

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

- *Standards-Based Assessment system* A Pro-D Day workshop was held with DT school staff regarding the Standards-Based Assessment system which is to be implemented starting next year for Grades 8's and 9's. Gr 8 and 9 students will not be getting percentage or letter grades as of next school year but instead will be assessed according to a Four Point Proficiency Scale (1 = Emerging → 2 = Developing → 3 = Proficient → 4 = Extending).
- This assessment system gives students very specific feedback on multiple aspects of their performance when learning a subject. They learn what they're strong at and also what they need to work harder at to see improvement.
- This change is being driven by a mandate from the Ministry of Education, from Universities, Business groups, and Researchers. Students need to be able to do more than memorize and regurgitate facts and data. They need to have strong Social and Communicative competencies in order to do well when working with others.
- There will still be assignments given and the marking system used by the teachers will be flexible during the transition
- There will be 5 reporting periods to parents, and including one parent-teacher conference, two interim reports (without a grade) and two report cards with grades.
- Grades 10 – 12 will still have letter percentages and grades.
- Canada is likely moving towards standardized testing like the SAT system in the US.

- A Chinese New Year celebrations was held at the school & Lion Dance
- Grade 8 course planning night was held for parents and counselors
- An Odyssey pot luck dinner was held in the cafeteria with over 90 attendees
- The Gold (Gifted Learning Disabled) open house was held in the library
- Grade 7 parent night was held for future Gr 8 DT students. They were given a tour of the school by the New Faces Leaders (“NFL”) students and then listened to a presentation about life at DT, looking at the difference between elementary school vs high school.
- Student teachers from UBC have just started at the school
- Mr. Mar’s wrestling team went to the provincials
- The Science Fair was held in the cafeteria by Ms. Leung
- A Canadian Computing Competiton was run by Mr. Maddalozzo
- A mural project was carried out in some of the school’s hallways. Students planned their designs and brought their creations to life with the help, along with help from a professional artist, her son (DT grad) and Mr. Kwan (teacher)
- A DT fashion show was held where some teachers were dressed up by the students
- The DT Carrot Club & Chef Green hosted a Christmas dinners and prepared food bags for handing out. About 200 people were fed.
- There was a Ski trip to Grouse Mountain

General discussion

DPAC Summit

Manjit and Regina attended the DPAC summit at Tupper where both elementary and HS PACs were strategizing, mostly about fundraising and how to recruit volunteers. It was poorly organized, was too loud and overall felt like an unproductive time.

DT will be hosting the next public DPAC meeting. We are awaiting details from Alan on the funding for food etc., and the host’s responsibilities.

“Direct Drive” – is a direct appeal to school parents and businesses, separate from the PAC, to raise funds for the betterment of the school

- Info about this should be included in the students’ information kits; possibly also as a link on the principal’s letter to parents
- Mr. Lopez will see if he is able as principal to use the database of student and parental email addresses to send out requests for the Direct Drive
- Tax receipts are created and sent out by the VSB if donations are given directly to the school
- See Lord Byng’s direct drive appeal to parents statement is worded well and a good example
- **DT 60 fund** has approx \$9,000 looking for good ways to be spent to benefit the school community

Call for volunteers: The president called for volunteers for the PAC for next year

About next year’s PAC -

- Question: Do we need to have monthly meetings? There may be a requirement in our constitution that we have to have to.

- When guest speakers are paid and invited to speak it's embarrassing for us if we get a poor turnout. We might want to have only one guest speaker per year and promote it with other school's PAC's and maybe only have them in September/October.
- Odyssey parents might be a good place to look for PAC volunteers!
- Amy will send a message in Chinese to the WeChat group about call for PAC volunteers

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm

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