

David Thompson Secondary School

PAC Meeting

Date: January 17, 2024

Location: Online via Zoom

Principal: Mr. Nick Akrap

Vice Principal: Mr. Albert Mann

Staff Liaison: Ms. Yashoda Reddy

Chair: Regina Prakash Singh

Vice Chair: Manj Mand

Treasurer: Sheila

Secretary: Shazmin Akbanie

Members at Large: Lydia Cheng, Rajvir Kaur Singh, Ama Weerasinghe

Guests Attending Meeting: 22

Meeting Started 5:47pm

1. Welcome

- a. Welcome to all to tonight's meeting, hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are happy to be back to routine.

2. Approval of Minutes Approval of the minutes for November 2023 by Ama and Manj

3. Staff Liaison Update – Yashoda Reddy

- a. Visit from Anne Kang, Minister of Officers, who is also an alumni of DT. Was a positive visit
- b. December 5 the school hosted successful parent teacher conferences online.
- c. December 20-22, there was the annual DT Invitational – that was also a successful event,
- d. DT Dance Squad participate and cheered all the different teams, many teachers brought the classes to bring classes to the school, the schools that participated were Cambie Secondary from Richmond, Glen Eagle from Coquitlam, John Oliver and Burnaby Central. Senior boys won 1st place and Junior boys won 2nd place.
- e. Student Council held some spirit week events, it was Merry Monday, Jersey Wednesday – many students participated. Student Council also hosted photo with Santa in the last week – which was a fun successful event.
- f. Staff had their annual winter potluck on December 20, thank you PAC members for attending and bringing samosas. This is a good opportunity for the staff to mingle and connect with each other as they don't get many opportunities throughout the year.
- g. In January the Grade 8, 9, 10 and 11 were asked to start thinking about the following year and start to plan for courses, electives, and grad requirements – these discussions took place during FIT. Students got an opportunity to speak to their councillors.
- h. 2 teachers have returned to DT – Ms. Wolska for philosophy and Ms. Unger who is the resource teacher.

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4. Update from Nick and Albert

- a. Happy New Year to all parents, students and staff! Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are happy to back to school/work.
- b. Fun Event Friday Feb 9 – Lunar Celebration Line Dancing will take place in the cafeteria at lunch time, all Pac members on this call are invited to watch the line dancing.
- c. No School today, January 17 as it was a snow day, first time in 3 years in BC. Lots of students had a good time. The admin team was in today taking care of day-to-day business.
- d. Regardless of the severe weather most of the VSB will stay open, if the schools are going to be closed there will be announcement by 630am if the school is closed
- e. Literacy Exams for Gade 12 students will be taking place this month, it's a requirement to graduate. All students have to do the literacy 10 exam too. UBC uses literacy 12 exams for admission and students need 3 or 4 for admission.
- f. Semester 1 is coming to an end, Feb 1 and 2 are semester turn around days, there is no school on these days and only students who need to write tests, hand in assignments or need to meet teachers will be required to come in. The rest of the students will have these two days off as these days are not instructional days.
- g. Semester 2 begins on Monday February 5
- h. Course selection will be taking place this past two weeks for students, students have received links and parents will see the link on the forum. Please spend time going over the courses with your child, and pick courses accordingly as its not feasible for students to drop and move courses in the new year. The deadline is Jan 31, 2024. This is a quicker timeline that usual, as the district has asked for this information, however the district has asked for all information by the beginning of Spring Break.
- i. Last Friday there was the Odessey testing in the cafeteria, there was a really good turnaround.
- j. Grade 7 parent night will take place on January 18, if it is still icy it may get cancelled and parents will be informed by noon tomorrow. It may get postponed by a week. Ms. Germaine will make the call tomorrow.
- k. The FIT time app is working really well, Kudos to Albert for making it work and staying on top of it. The math department is running a math club called the denominators, these grade 11 and 12 students are offering tutoring options to students who need assistance with math during fit. At this time 5 students can sign up to get help and they are hoping to grow
- l. Next Week is the Grade 12 assessment, students applying to UBC you will need a 3 or 4 for admissions.
- m. April will be the literacy 10 assessments and in June will be the numeracy 10 assessments, Grade 12 students who have not completed the tests earlier, they will have an opportunity to be catching up and writing these exams from January 22 to January 26. Students can check on teams with their time and date and location for this test.

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- n. January 29 – all course planning courses need to be submitted.
- o. Students can re-write the assessment in April if they do not score well. All numeracy and literacy exams can be written up to 3 times.
- p. Mark Reid, District Career Education Coordinator– visited the school and spoke to students with careers in trades and the opportunity get paid as apprentice, some students were interested and signed up. Students can go to school and get level 1 foundation for trades, get tuition paid for and get paid. He is available for individual appointments every Wednesday morning for students and parents who may have questions.

5. PAC Update

- a. Gaming applications have been submitted; cheques have been delivered to teachers.
- b. If departments need more funds, they need to request that in writing for approval from the PAC
- c. The approved amount was \$26,885 of which to date \$10,468.04 has already been distributed to teachers/groups. We are still writing some cheques and are waiting for teachers to pick up and submit receipts.
- d. The Direct Drive for parent's form will go out with the WAGS and will be available on School Cash online for parents to donate.
- e. PAC would like to know of upcoming events as it will be nice for the PAC to attend and represent.

6. Roundtable Discussions

- a. Scholarships season has started, there was a Grade 12 assembly explain the process to students. All scholarships have an application attached to them, and students must apply. Grade 12s should check the grade 12 teams' channel to continue to check for updates.
- b. Parents and staff will know at 630am if there is school tomorrow or not.

Meeting Adjourned – 6:15pm

22 people