

David Thompson Secondary School

PAC Meeting

Date: September 27, 2023

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: None at this meeting

Guests Attending Meeting: 35

Meeting Started 5:44pm

1. Welcome

- a. Welcome to all new and existing parents to the 2023/2024 school year
- b. Introduction of Nick and Yashoda
- c. Quick Introduction of the existing PAC and will need elect and vote PAC Exec team for the year. We are looking for new Members at Large.

2. Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2023 by Joseph Lam and seconded by Cecille Carla

3. Principles Update – Nick Akrap

- a. Introduced himself and Vice Principles Mr. Albert Mann (Responsible for Gr. 8/9 and Ms. Germaine Tsui (Responsible for Gr.10/11) and Nick in charge of Grade 12s.
- b. Germaine been at the school for 6 years, Nick been at the school for a year and Albert been at the school for 6 months.
- c. Yashoda Reddy is the school librarian and the staff liaison. Usually attends all PAC meetings and gives an update about the school.

4. School Updates – Ms. Yashoda Reddy

- a. Unfortunately, we had some technical difficulties with the volume. Therefore Mr. Nick Akrap gave the school updates.
- b. Opening Assemblies for all grades took place in the month of September during FIT. All grades went over the school code of conduct CARES and looked over their goals for they year. All students were reminded to be accountable for their actions.
- c. Big Change this year is the FIT time (Flexible Instructional Time). This is where students get extra help from teachers, make up tests, and work on group projects. Last year it was 2 days a week for 50mins and this year it is 40mins 4 times a week. FIT time is between period 1 and 2 on Monday and Friday and between period 3 and 4 on Tuesday and Thursday. Students need to register which class they will be attending during FIT so

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they are reserving a spot and starting to plan what students will be doing during this time and be organized ahead of time. Attendance is taking by the teachers in that class. This time is used for students for their studies. FIT time is being used wisely overall.

- d. The school has finally received the NO U-Turn sign for Commercial Street. Its purpose is to help traffic in the morning and get parents to go one way, drive slowly and follow the rules. This will hopefully prevent some of congestion.
- e. Grad Committee met today for the first time. They are looking at what events they can host. They have some fun ideas. They will be hosting Grad Movie Nights, ordering their Grade 12 Hoodies and will start on Fundraising Ideas.
- f. NFL – New Face Leaders – 20 to 30 students organize activities for the Grade 8s in the school. The NFL help assist and guide students to find places. They hosted a BBQ for the grade 8s and discussed CARES and also had a carnival to make everyone feel welcome and network with each other.
- g. Teachers looking forward to the PAC Fund for various programs this year. Last year the school had received a one-time Student Affordability fund of \$90,000 that was to be used in i). Food and Nutrition Targeted and Universal ii) Clothing Targeted to Universal and Individual and Cultural Events for the school. These funds have now depleted and were used wisely to help those in need.
- h. Last year the school started doing the WAG – Week at a Glance – a quick email which is a snap shot of what is happening in the school. Will explain when the students had a colab day, stat day, pro d day, and info nights and quick descriptions of what's happening in the school. It will no longer be emailed but posted on the school website. Parents encouraged to visit the school website.

5. Update from Yashoda Reddy – Mic working!

- a. Teacher (Librarian, background is in Social Studies and English)
- b. She is the teacher rep on the PAC this year
- c. Big Change staff are adjusting to spending time working with students during FIT time. Teachers class schedule has changed due to FIT so that have been working hard and are balancing the teaching mins.
- d. Grade 8's has had their tours at DT, and the NFL did a great job helping them around. Everyone is really revived and excited for the year.

6. School liaison Officer

- a. School liaison Officer (SLO) Program re introduced again this year. They don't dress like an officer – wear blue pants, and blue golf shirt. They still carry a weapon but it's a lot smaller and not noticeable. They are very discreet. Our Officer is Bob Sandler – students are aware of the SLO and he has a good relationship with the students. The SLO's job is to provide community support to the school, who can be an intermediary right away. Officer is not allowed to have any conversations with students as an interrogation without the parents' consent. Lots of positive feedback from the students. Available Tuesday to Friday, and back up officer on Mondays.

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7. Gaming Grant

- a. Gaming Application was applied for before June 30.
- b. Sheila's first time – thank you. We usually hear back from the Gaming Grant by October.
- c. Gaming Grant is an application submitted by the PAC to the gaming committee requesting for funds for the school to run programs.
- d. Once the grant is received, we ask teachers to submit applications why they need the funds for their club or classroom. The PAC reviews the applications and then distributes the funds accordingly.

8. PAC Importance

- a. Its important to have a PAC to support the staff and students
- b. To be involved in the school and know what's happening in our student's community and get information from the principal and Yashoda.
- c. To get funding from the government grant and distribute it accordingly to the student
- d. Time to vote in your PAC Executive

9. PAC Positions 2023/2024

- a. Chair – Regina (re-elected)
- b. Vice Chair – Manj (re-elected)
- c. Secretary – Shazmin (re-elected)
- d. Treasurer – Sheila (re-elected)
- e. Member at Large Nominated – Ama Weerasinghe, Lydia Cheng, Rajiv Kaur Singh, Kamal Kooner.

10. Roundtable Discussions

- a. FIT time cannot be used for volunteer time, unless they are having a club meeting. However, club meetings are only allowed to meet once a week during FIT.

Meeting Adjourned – 6:55pm