

# PAC General Meeting - Minutes

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**April 18, 2018**

## ATTENDEES

Stephanie LeComte, Charlotte Burns, Lisa Black, Tara Zielinski, Chelsea Duhs, Linda Gour, Kyra Williams Smiljanic, Victoria Mendes, Eileen Huster, Michelle Ross, Monique Schelle, Kate Pratt, Dina Daraee, Azita Nikbakhtan, Sydney Smith Patchell, Erzsebet Nagy, Arissa Mehta, Julia Kutlubay, Annabel Pringle, Linda Jando

## 1. CALL TO ORDER (Charlotte B)

Meeting called to order at 9:02am by Charlotte.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Charlotte B)

1st Lisa B, 2nd Linda G. Approved.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14 2018 (Charlotte B)

1st by Steph LC, 2nd Lisa B. Approved.

## 4. MIKE FINCH - Principal of Sentinel High School

Charlotte welcomed Principal Mike Finch and thanked him for coming to our school this morning to address the PAC.

Mike thanked Tara and everyone present for the invitation to speak this morning. He went on to talk about the importance of the transition from Grade 7 to High School and how Sentinel helps students with this process. Starting in January Sentinel holds various events and orientations to help dispel any myths or stereotypes about entering high school and to also provide a sense of comfort for students who get to see the space and meet the staff and other students.

Tara added that the Sentinel orientation is extremely well organized, inclusive and fun for all the students and they come back with a great attitude. All Grade 7 students, regardless of their chosen school, attend this orientation for experience.

Mike went on to say that the students are understandably nervous but he encourages us as their parents to encourage our kids to take a risk.

Victoria asked Mike a question regarding teaching students how to best tackle homework and wondered if at the Grade 7 level if this can be introduced as a building block skill? The discussion continued around homework and the best ways to support students at home and at school. Mike mentioned that they redesigned opening week to include team building, organisational skills and there is the potential to include homework tips. Mike also talked about the opportunities given to all students to participate in school activities and the school's support of all teams and clubs.

The topic of drugs, alcohol, vaping and smoking was also discussed and Mike noted that the school has a strict policy with zero tolerance. He added that all schools are struggling with this issue but that out of their 1300 students under 20 students are vaping just outside school grounds. Victoria asked if this topic could be introduced to students in Grade 7. Tara said that she would follow up with Maureen at the District.

Michelle asked about Grade 8 clubs and Mike responded by saying that students can suggest club ideas and need to also recruit a teacher for support. He added that there is an extremely popular orientation event at school where clubs recruit new members.

Eileen asked about challenges for boys in particular at high school. Mike responded by saying that all students face the ups and downs of school and around Grade 8 and 9 there is the challenge of the workload for the students in French Immersion. He encourages parents and teachers to find the impediment, it could be the workload for example or social issues, and address the issue. He added that between Grade 8 and 12 about half of students leave the French Immersion program and switch to English. He went on to say that a dual certificate in French and English is a huge achievement and a benefit for students in their choice for future courses.

Lastly Mike touched on the graduation rate at Sentinel which tops the chart in the Province at 98/99%. 96-97% of students move on to post-secondary studies.

Everyone thanked Mike for his time; we were all very appreciative that came to address the PAC Meeting this morning.

## **5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Tara Z)**

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE**

- The students were preloaded with information about the traffic safety initiatives at the Assembly on 16 April.

- Postcards have been designed by the students - “Think of Me” to hand out to drivers. The students were also encouraged to educate their parents about safety in school zones.
- West Vancouver Police Department are conducting a traffic blitz on 23 April including Police and By-Law Officers.

## **COHO GRANT**

- Ideas for this initiative are being discussed. Further updates to come.

## **STUDENT RELEASE**

- As part of the school’s commitment to Emergency Preparedness an Emergency Release Drill will be conducted on 24 May at 1:30pm.
- Parents, or their Emergency contact, are reminded to bring picture ID.

## **KINDERGARTEN**

- Tara was delighted to announce that the third Kindergarten class is officially full!
- There is still a waitlist.
- The traditional Welcome to Kindergarten sessions will be held on 2 May.
- After seeking feedback from parents and teachers the gradual entry program for the beginning of the school year is slightly modified and will be communicated to parents.
- There will be additional early release days for students and the teachers will be attending extra education sessions on early learning.

## **CSL AND GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES**

- Tara is seeking feedback from parents regarding the recent goal setting conferences. Please send her an email directly.
- The common word used by the students to describe the conferences was “proud”!
- Tara is looking at a potential open house afternoon in the future to bring parents into the school.
- Tara would like to thank ALL PAC members and Kate Pratt for the generous sushi dinner during the Goal-Setting Conferences

## **LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL**

- The PJ Choir and Band will perform at this festival on April 25.

## **QUEBEC DATES**

- This year’s Quebec Trip for Grade 7 will be held 1-7 June.
- A general Parent Questions and Information session will be held 24 April from 6-7pm. The changes and differences will be shared with parents at this session.

- A formal details Parent Information Session will be held 7 May
  - Grade 6 Quebec Information (6-7pm)
  - Grade 7 Quebec Information (7-8pm)
- Feedback received from students has prompted a change to the Quebec Trip for 2019 as the students want to attend Carnaval and will be going with the Cedardale students.
- As there is a potential schedule conflict with Fête d'Hiver and Chinese New Year, Tara is reviewing the schedule for next year.

### **BUDGET ITEMS AND INPUT FOR 2018/19 FROM STAFF**

- Parent Workshops.
- Intermediate Outside Contract for Performance - Tara is investigating this further.
- Technology updates. Tara is getting quotes to update laptops for Grade 6/7.
- Class funds and support for field experiences including funding for buses.
- Window coverings.
- Teachers at the intermediate level are looking for PAC support to purchase and implement small cell phone lock-up cases for all phones belonging to students that are brought to school in the 2018-19 school year. Cells will be placed in the 4/5, 6/7, LFI lockboxes at the start of each day and released to students at the end of each day. Phone usage can be accessed throughout the day via classroom or office phones only for home communication or emergencies. PAC was in full support of this idea. Tara will move forwards with it.

### **ART PIECE**

- Tara was presented with an Aboriginal name sign by the Squamish Nation for the school, "Skáwshen" in English, translates to "foot of the hills". Come and see this beautiful gift in person inside the school's main hallway.

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT (Lisa B)**

### **BUDGET REVIEW**

Lisa ran through the budget line by line, highlighting certain points as follows:

- Movie Night - the last Movie Night was an epic event with a great turnout!
- Spirit Wear - another offering of Spirit Wear is underway with order forms being sent home with students and the sample table being set up after school
- Donations - a family generously donated \$2,000 as a parting gift to the school and as they required a tax receipt Lisa wrote a cheque back to the school.
- Capital Expenditures - Fund The Need - the library and music funds are almost spent. Lisa has a spreadsheet that tracks the FTN spending and will be issuing an update.

- Tara has requested that PAC supplies a light dinner for teachers during the curriculum night.
- Upcoming will be the Staff Appreciation Lunch also.

## 7. SOIRÉE UPDATE (Eileen H, Kyra S)

- Kyra started the discussion by saying that the purpose of the Soiree was to raise funds for the PAC and also for some reimbursements to families whose child is attending the trip.
- Julia, Steph and Kate were thanked for their efforts in sending out many emails via class parents to the school community and communicating the event on social media.
- The aim for the event is to give back \$10,000 to PAC.
- Kyra also raised the idea of holding a car wash, however Tara noted that this possibly could not be done on school property but would check with the District. As an alternative she suggested the Hollyburn Funeral Home carpark.
- Kyra mentioned that they had arranged discount limo services and they are also putting together a list of babysitters.
- Bobbie Burgers is donating 2 painting for the event and would like them displayed at the school - Kyra is going to check the dimensions and find the best location.
- Kyra asked if the students could be involved in the event by making the auction paddles at a big recess working bee.
- Currently 92 tickets are sold, the aim is to sell 100.
- There was a discussion about holding a wine raffle for the event and Kyra confirmed they had received the required permission as in the past this type of raffle has not been allowed.
- Betty kindly offered to donate paintings that she has inherited recently. It was a very emotional moment for her and everyone thanked her and her family for these generous gifts to the school.
- Kyra is looking at other items for the silent auction. This auction will be run online in the lead up to the event and will continue as live auctions on the night.
- Lisa asked Kyra for a list of volunteer requirements for the Soiree to ensure that on the night all roles are filled.

## 8. UPCOMING PAC EVENTS & DATES (Charlotte B)

### REGULAR EVENTS

- Upcoming regular events include:
  - Gelato Fridays continue to be a huge success at every offering
  - Movie Night - next night will be May 11. After the experiences of the last movie some modifications need to be made to ensure we are better prepared to serve everyone.
  - Family BBQ - scheduled for June 15

- Spirit Wear - another offering is currently underway and merchandise will be available for purchase at the Family BBQ
- Staff Appreciation Lunch
- Sports Day Lunch
- PAC speaker on 9 May - Colleen Drobot. Topic will be chosen after the voting period closes.

## **9. SQUAMISH YOUTH TRIATHLON (Charlotte B)**

- Details about this event have been sent out via the E-Bulletin as follows:
  - Any PJ keen runners, swimmers or bike riders interested in a fun and healthy morning out at the Squamish Youth Triathlon (<http://squamishyouthtri.ca/>)? Individual or team; be in touch with James E Wilson, parent to coordinate. Event date: Sunday 6th of May – 8:00am to 1:30pm at the Brenan Park Recreation Centre. [james@jamesewilson.com](mailto:james@jamesewilson.com)

## **10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (Charlotte B)**

There was no additional business arising from minutes.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Charlotte B)**

- Eileen suggested a new role for a member of the PAC dedicated to Fundraising.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT (Charlotte B)**

Meeting Closed at 10:50am.