

## SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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Held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016  
Library Mezzanine  
1250 Chartwell Drive  
West Vancouver, BC V7S 2R2

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**COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE:** Farzaneh Bamani-Roboubi      President  
Nina Nie      Vice President  
Karim Virani      Treasurer  
Arghy Nia      Secretary  
Brigid Flipse      Past Chair  
Charlotte Wai      DPAC representative

**GUEST:** Chris Kennedy      Superintendents of  
West Vancouver Schools

**PRESENT:** Hamid Payombarnia, Maya Yang, Emily Yu, Hollise Brown,  
Nola Weiss, Lissette Marrin, Sharon Smith

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**Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.**

### **Meeting Agenda**

- 1) Welcome and introduction – PAC chair
  - 2) Approval of agenda and November minutes
  - 3) Superintendent of West Vancouver Schools – Chris Kennedy
  - 4) Sentinel Principal – Mr. Finch
  - 5) Christmas bake sale
  - 6) Parent/Teacher Interviews
  - 7) Upcoming events
  - 8) DPAC representative report
  - 9) New business
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- 1) Farzaneh Bamani, President of PAC, welcomed all PAC members and thanked Brigid Flipse for preparing the PAC handbook which will be available online through Sentinel's website for all parents to access.
- 2) Motion to approve November 2015 minutes was passed by Brigid Flipse and Nola Weiss.
- 3) Chris Kennedy – Superintendent of West Vancouver Schools:  
Chris has been active in the school district for 9 years and has currently been the superintendent of West Vancouver for over 6 years now. He is the chief Administrator overseeing all Principals of West Vancouver Schools (17 schools) and works directly with the Board of Education about Policy and Budgeting.

a. Currently there is a new curriculum implemented across BC schools for kindergarten to grade 9. This program will also be fully implemented for grades 10 to 12 in 2 year's time.

At this stage, there will be very little difference at the classroom levels except for some content change. The new curriculum is based more on the approach and content of learning, similar to International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs. The purpose is to have less content ideas, more big ideas - and more inquiry based learning. This system is being implemented in Alberta and Ontario as well.

b. These large trends in education and search for better teaching methods come mainly from Government listening to employers who are looking for a set of skills from employees when they get hired. The purpose is to make schools feel more real and prepare the kids with a set of broad skills that will allow them to be globally connected. Elementary school report has been shifting to less letter grade reporting and more comments. The schools are hoping to do similar transition at High School level and the reporting to Universities but it still needs to be figured out.

c. Sentinel Secondary School has been part of the Capital Plan to get approval for funding for building improvement projects. The issue has been raised to our local representatives and Minister of Education. Sentinel has been maintaining the buildings over the years but there are still several small projects that need funding including complete renovation of bathrooms and possible construction of a new building.

d. During the past 5 years, West Vancouver school district has been working to open up different opportunities to kids from different schools. The idea is to connect kids with their passion and offer a variety of programs in the afternoons.

Previously Sports Academies were only specific to Sentinel for instance. Now all 3 West Vancouver high schools offer some sort of specialized sports academy in the afternoons. There are many other opportunities as well in areas of Performances, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, YALE (business program), Robotics, Dance and Planning. These programs may be offered in schools different from the one that your child is attending but they are implemented so that your child can attend regular curriculum based classes in the morning and attend these other extracurricular courses in other schools in the afternoon. By organizing their timetables ahead of time, kids can easily graduate from high school with a set of skills alongside their knowledge of the courses they need to take during school time.

#### 4) Mr.Finch , Sentinel's Principal:

a. We have a long weekend coming up. There is a Curriculum day - added this year - and ProD day. The next long weekend coming up is in February for the reading break. Dismissal will be early both for January 13 and February 04, 2016 at 11:35 am.

b. Our School play this year, Wizard of Oz, will be held at Kay Meek Theater at the end of February. For tickets, please see Shannon at the office

c. The Planning Council for School goals have been in session for the past 2 years. It is comprised of a group of students, parents and teachers who have been meeting once a week or once every two weeks to come up with some new goals for the school. Last year the Council worked on assessment of kids and methods of reporting - getting feedback from parents and students. The goal for next year is to have an Acronym that would encompass our school culture and code of conduct: something the kids will identify with

and would symbolize what our school stands for. If anyone is interested in joining the Council please contact Mr. Finch.

5) Thank you to Nola Weiss for organizing Christmas bake sale and décor and clean up!

6) Parent teacher interviews are coming up this Thursday. There is a Pot luck sign up sheet set up by Brigid Flipse who will organize this event. Thank you!

7) There will be Valentine Bake which is always hosted by grade 9 parents. Similar sign up sheet will be sent to everyone who can sign up if interested in volunteering for this event. Farzaneh Bamani will be organizing the Valentine Bake.

Multicultural lunch date is set on April 7, 2016. There has already been a meeting held in December and there will be more meetings to ensure smooth organization of this event.

8) Charlotte Wai, DPAC rep:

a. The meeting was held on January 6, 2016. Most of the meeting involved discussions about the implementation of the new curriculum in West Vancouver schools, as described earlier by Chris Kennedy.

There will also be a meeting on January 27, held at Kay Meek Center, with two representatives from every school.

b. New budget proposal will be published in April.

c. The Academy Programs in the high schools (10 of them) have a current enrolment of 400 students, expecting to grow for next year.

d. Shannon, the head of services at West Vancouver Memorial library, explained there will be two new events taking place:

1. Research to remember - several Veterans will come to a presentation for Grade 7's.
2. Technology and kids - Staff will be helping kids with regards to use of new technology.

9) New business:

a. Chinese New Year coming up. The student council will be running a party at Sentinel on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, after school in the gym from 5pm. Tickets will be \$5-\$8 (to be determined) and will include Lion Dance Performance, desserts and DJ!

b. Chinese New year celebration in China town on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.