

SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday, March 14, 2024
In Person Meeting

EXECUTIVE IN ATTENDANCE:

Nora Gambioli	Chair	Belinda Jia	Treasurer
Melanie Miao	Vice Chair	Xiangmei Su (Su)	Secretary

PRESENT: Joy Zhou, Farzaneh Bamani, Yvonne Lau, Rong Zheng, Anna Chin, Gem Chu, Lisa Lau, Victoria Mendes

Meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

Motion to approve Agenda by Anna Chin, seconded by Farzaneh Bamani. CARRIED

Motion to approve Minutes from Feb.15 by Yvonne Lau, seconded by Farzaneh Bamani. CARRIED

Updates:

1. Events Team - Anna, Melanie, Gem

- a. The Multi-cultural Lunch (MCL) held on March 7th was highly successful. This year, a variety of foods from China, Korea, France, Iran, Russia, and India were featured, along with tables for drinks, desserts, and bubble tea. The total ticket sales amounted to \$12,372.25, and cash donations of \$3,169.
- b. During the event, there were instances of counterfeit tickets being circulated, with some tables receiving a few. It is essential to maintain secrecy about the appearance of the tickets until the day of the event next year.
- c. Nora: Next year, we will start a little bit earlier to recruit the table coordinators from different countries (before Christmas or even in September).
- d. Gem: This year, we had treats available for those who bought tickets, these and daily announcements worked very well. Next year, Gem suggested to sell tickets earlier.

2. Parent Education Team - Diane

- a. Grade 11 students August, Sunny, and Raymond have been diligently working behind the scenes on mobility initiatives aimed at reducing the number of cars driving onto the school grounds. Their team will encourage students to walk, ride scooters, or bike to school, while those who must drive are urged to drop off their children at designated safe spots. They have created posters to be put up at the school, and shared on social media platforms like Instagram, WeChat and Google classroom. Raymond emphasized the need for safe walkways to the school and proper signage to guide people effectively.
- b. Creating an App: A carpooling App concept revolves around coordinating ridesharing. Users could register by providing their name, approximate neighborhood of residence, and interest in carpooling.
- c. Collaborating with the police department involves them visiting the school area once or twice a month to issue parking tickets to parents parked in incorrect spots.
- d. The school now has double the number of bike racks, with four new racks installed at the front of the school.

- e. August and Sunny joined us later. August mentioned their focus on alternative transportation methods, such as public transportation and electric vehicles. They currently have several ongoing projects, including Bike to School Week. Additionally, they prioritize creating promotional videos to educate drivers on safety procedures. August requested gift cards to incentive for their great idea.
- f. Nora shared that the decision was made to include the mobility issue in our parent education team. A meeting with Diane and Arzoo was held a couple of months ago, and there might be plans for another meeting right after spring break to learn about the student/PAC activities.

3. Wish-List Team - Dana

The Wish-List team has finished their second round of decisions. One example is funding for Student Council to buy a certain arcade games, for example, a basketball game, which will be used for events such as the Spring Fling. We have now distributed all the money we received from the gaming grant; almost \$24,000.

4. Legacy Team - Sam/Yvonne

- a. We've established an online cash setup to receive donations for legacy-related projects, ensuring that donations over \$25 made through School Cash Online will automatically generate a TAX receipt.
- b. Two days ago, we hosted a parent social for Grade 8 students at Milestones, with 54 attendees, making it a great success. For future events, utilizing the patio would be beneficial due to the noise and crowding inside. We charged \$20 per person, resulting in a profit of \$400. Additionally, we successfully secured pledge donations of over \$3,000 for legacy fundraising efforts.
- c. We've established the WhatsApp group with 60 parents onboard. Moving forward, we plan to create a separate WhatsApp group for each Grade group, aiming to foster connections among parents.
- d. Indoor Social Spaces Project: Parent and interior designer, Sophie Burke, will assist with the interior design concept. Yvonne and Nora will also join Mr. Finch & Mr. Anderson for a meeting on April 4th.

5. GRAD Team - Victoria/Lisa

- a. Yesterday marked 100 days until graduation.
- b. The February Social didn't occur because of low ticket sales; possibly due to timing (February being a busy application period) and the cost (\$50 for two people) being potentially too high.

6. Vice Principal – Kathy Grant

- a. A big thank you to all PAC members for their exceptional contributions to the MCL fundraiser. We raised over \$12,000 for the school. Your dedication and hard work in supporting our students, staff, and school are greatly appreciated and recognized.
- b. PAC Wishlist: Thank you to PAC, particularly those on the committee, for Round 2 of WishList. Additionally, PAC has very generously donated \$5k towards supporting field trips. Mike will work with parents and school accountant to determine how to best utilize those funds.
- c. Thanks to PAC for the new bike racks. We now have four fully functional bike racks out front of the school. Next on the list is some indoor/outdoor seating areas. Mike will work with PAC to plan some inside spaces that might be re-configured to accommodate indoor seating.
- d. Grad updates: Chats occurred last Thursday and Monday; Grads were all reminded of important items such as: scholarships, write-ups, gowns, exciting 'sanctioned' events that will occur before the end of the year (Grad Carnival, Parade, commencement, Banquet and possibly a food truck). Grads were also reminded to be mindful of 'non -sanctioned' events (Car Rally, Kidnap, Skip Day etc). Important to make good decisions before taking part. Important to remained focused until the end of June. 3 months to go! Commencement 2024 is confirmed at the Westside Church on June 15th, and Banquet will be held at the Convention Center on June 22nd.

- e. Course Selection Process: Counsellors have been working hard to ensure all students in grade 8-11 have completed the course selection process (about 95% complete). Course selection data will help determine the Timetable for 2024-25 and will begin in earnest mid-April.
- f. SafeTeen Grade 9's: Thanks to PAC for sponsoring the SafeTeen program to come in and work with our Grade 9's. Workshop sessions took place on Monday and appeared to be a success. The student SafeTeen workshops tie in well with the parent education workshop delivered last November.
- g. 2024 - 25 Budget: The school District is seeking budget input for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. Individuals can submit their own budget recommendations directly to the district, which will become part of the public record. Please send any feedback via email to Karen Neeson at kleson@wvschools.ca with the subject "BUDGET FEEDBACK 2024-25" by Friday, March 15, 2024.
- h. Grade 9-11 Assembly: On Weds. Apr. 3rd students will be attending an assembly titled "**The Power of Possibility: Building hope and resilience through self-belief.**"
- i. Learning Update #2 this week: Any feedback from parents?
- j. Upcoming Dates: Literacy / Numeracy Assessments: April 15 -19, AP Exams: May 6 -17.

7. Treasurer - Belinda

Belinda mentioned that it was her first year handling scholarship cheques for all students. She found it challenging to contact some students. To streamline payments and scholarship issuance, we plan to utilize online banking or E-transfers. To reduce service fees and improve efficiency, we will open a new account at Vancity Credit Union while retaining our current RBC account for Gaming Grant purposes. This new system will be operational after June 30. Xiangmei Su signed the necessary paperwork.

Motion to approve this new PAC account at Vancity Credit Union;
Moved by Anna Chin, seconded by Joy Zhou. CARRIED

8. District PAC - Joy

DPAC meeting :Superintendent Kennedy delivered a presentation on the technology behind Chat GPT and its integration across various applications. Joy will agree to serve as our DPAC representative next year.

Miscellaneous Matters and Free Discussion

- a. Secretary Su will be leaving next year, so please consider this and discuss it with other volunteers.
- b. Nora mentioned that she will be reaching out to people and planning our AGM for either May or June to finalize the selection of new members to be voted in for the next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.