

# SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday. Feb. 15. 2024

In Person Meeting

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## EXECUTIVE IN ATTENDANCE:

Nora Gambioli	Chair
Melanie Miao	Vice Chair
Belinda Jia	Treasurer

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**PRESENT:** Nora Gambioli, Melanie Miao, Belinda Jia, Diane Wenzel (secretary for the day) , Lisa Lau, Victoria Mendes, Joy Zhou, Maryam Morshedi, Diane Shoar, Sam Ridgway, Anna Chin, Gem Chu, Tiffany Huang.

## **Meeting was called to order at 9:00am**

Motion to approve the Agenda by Joy Zhou and seconded by Anna Chin: CARRIED

Motion to approve Minutes from Jan. 25 by Diane Wenzel and seconded by Melanie

Miao: CARRIED

## **Updates:**

### 1. Events Team - Anna

- a. Melanie: Lunar New Year decorations are up. Joy is looking to find more decorations. 4-5 hours spent decorating including student helpers. Feb. 27 decorations will be taken down.
- b. Gem: New this year - Valentine's boxes were created and given out to teachers on Feb 14th to take home and share with their families. 5 boxes given to janitorial staff. 5 boxes given to cafeteria staff. Gluten free options were also available. Staff very appreciative; huge success!
- c. Melanie: March 7th will be the Multi-cultural Lunch (MCL) - PAC's biggest fundraiser. So far, will include food from China, Korea, France, Iran, and Russia. There will also be a table for drinks, desserts, and bubble tea. Melanie is training Anna and Gem to take over and teach others for next year. Tickets will be sold March 4th-6th, if sold too early Melanie has experienced that some kids lose their tickets or forget. School provides use of square and treasurer will calculate and deposit to PAC. Nora will send a sign-up reminder directly to the 65+ PAC volunteers on our list, and will coordinate with admin staff to send out e-mail blast to all parents two more times.

### 2. Wish-List Team - Nora

We have more than \$24,000 from the Gaming Grant for this school year and still have \$7000 to spend. Wishlist Team have sent out a second round for applications to teachers and especially

to student council and clubs. Meetings today to sort and approve new requests, but may still be underspent.

### 3. Grad Team - Lisa

- a. Winter formal was held January 25 for grades 11 and 12. 200 attended and the cafeteria was opened up this year for dancing. Vice Principal Anderson said kids preferred the set up this time. The other 3 schools were interested in learning more about the dance. Diane W. asked that vegan options for pizza and chips be available for future dances.
- b. Second parent social will be held on Feb 29 at Palermo Pizzeria. Cost is \$30/individual and \$50/couple. This includes pizza, drink, and dessert.

### 4. Parent Education Team - Diane

- a. Teens & Technology Workshop: Workshop on Jan. 23 was a great success, but permission not given to share recording. West Coast Family Centres waived the fees for all workshops. Can do screen shots.
- b. Phones in Class: Vice Principal Anderson talked about the ministry requiring schools to come up with policy on cell phone usage in the schools. Discussed how this can be a challenging issue in regards to teachers being liable for damage to cell phones if they are taken away, potentially students have more than one phone, cell phone lockers being used in the younger grades, parent/teacher responsibility. Will discuss at the workshop being held this month.
- c. Mobility/Traffic: Some students are coming up with ideas to promote cycling and active transportation to school, they will come to a future PAC meeting or outline how PAC may be able to help.

### 5. Legacy Team – Sam

- a. As per the updates and attached Legacy Projects Priorities list, the Legacy Team, in conjunction with the school administration and the PAC Executive recommend funding
  - \$5000 for field trips, immediately (to be administered through the principal), funds to come from 2023-24 Wishlist funds if any remains, and then from existing PAC reserves. Some low-income families are spread across grades. PAC believes that money shouldn't be a hurdle for kids to attend field trips. Victoria suggested sharing that PAC is subsidizing so parents are made aware.
  - \$2000-3000 for music instruments for Sentinel Band, immediately (which is in addition to the \$2000 approved by Wishlist Committee on October through Mr. Virag) and will come from PAC existing reserve funds.
  - Up to \$44,000 for "indoor and outdoor social spaces"(including seating areas and tables and possibly ping-pong) to be raised over the next 6-12 months with subsequent implementation by the school admin. Nora will put a parent interior designer in touch with admin to start the "indoor social spaces" process/plan.
- b. Fundraising will begin soon. Sam spoke to the student council and they are appreciative and happy to help. On March 12th Tenzen & Yvonne are planning a grade 8 Social at Bar Olo

owned by a Sentinel Alum. More will follow for the other grades. Info will go out to all parents with school cash online for fundraising and tax receipts given for donations made.

b. Team is still passionate about the gym floor, but a few steps at the School Board level need to be taken first.

c. Motion to approve: PAC Legacy Team will fundraise for projects as listed in the priorities list (attached); by Victoria Mendes and seconded by Melanie Miao: CARRIED

6. Donation: Grade 11 student, Avery, along with 5 other students, sold items at the holiday market and are splitting the profits and giving half (\$47.25) to PAC. They will be in touch to decide exactly where within PAC they want their money to be donated. Thank you to Avery and her group!

#### 7. District PAC - Joy

Two presentations at the last meeting.

a. Assessment and reporting of grade 8 and 9 - no letter-grades. "Proficient" is the goal. Extending is above and beyond. Parents should allow kids time through the year to meet these goals.

b. How to foster engagement of PAC. Joy stated that Nora is doing a great job as chair to foster engagement.

8. Community Liaisons - Diane, Melanie & Farzaneh ensuring communications to their networks.

#### 9. General School Update- Vice Principal, Shawn Anderson

a. Thank you for the Valentine's boxes.

b. Thank you for the Wishlist items and another opportunity to submit.

c. A new staff member, Monica Moy, will start in 2 weeks and will be working at the front reception desk.

d. Parent teacher conferences were held virtually. Teachers like this format. Mr. Anderson is looking for any feedback from parents as to preference of in person or virtual. Conference dates are booked early so don't always know what other dates may conflict.

e. Sentinel Stage is putting on MacBeth. Performances have been held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Another performance is today at 11 and the final performance is Friday night at 7:30. The performances have been excellent.

f. Grad chats are coming up with Mr. Finch.

g. Artona is returning for 60 plus students who did not opt to get their photos done. They will be given one free photo.

h. March 15 - April 2 Spring Break

i. April 2nd grad tickets will be going on sale.

j. Mr. Anderson discussed his passion for the grade 7 to grade 8 transition. What will set up the kids for success? Shared experiences and sentinel as a family. Added this year connecting to feeder schools. More connections so the younger students feel comfortable. Dawn Armstrong will be taking over peer tutoring. Space for grades to go at

lunch. Mr. Anderson believes this is the hardest transition period. Victoria brought up toxic academics and Diane W. brought up having other peer connections through extra curriculums with older grades and younger grades.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

## 2024-2025 LEGACY PROJECT PRIORITIES (updated at Feb 24)\*

LEGACY PROJECT PRIORITIES	VALUE (helps many students)	TIMELINE	COMPLEXITY	COST
1. Field Trip Fund (for day trips)	High	immediate	Low	\$5,000
2. Music Instruments	Low	immediate	Low	\$2-3,000
3. Indoor social spaces (adding seating, art, removing some lockers, construction)	High	12-18 months	Medium	\$15,000 (3 x \$5,000)
4. Outdoor benches and tables	High	12-18 months	Medium	\$9,000 (3000 x 3)
5. Outdoor ping-pong tables	Medium	12-18 months	Medium	\$20,000 (10,000 x 2)
6. Walking path	Low	2-3 years	High	\$100,000

\*Funding to help with Sentinel gym floor replacement is also welcomed if this project is approved to move forward by the SD45 administration.