

## SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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Held on Thursday, May 09, 2024  
In Person Meeting

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### **COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

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**PRESENT:** Joy Zhou, Farzaneh Bamani, Yvonne Lau, Shahrzad Pashaie, Maryam Morshedi, Arzoo Babul, Amy Chen, Chen Tan, Diane Shoar, Rong Zheng, Sam Ridgway, Tonia Liao, Dana Renaud, Echo Wu, Anna Chin, Gem Chu, Rob Spurgeon, Diane Wenzel, Effie Gomulia, Lisa Lau

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

Nora initiated the meeting with a warm welcome to Sentinel PAC and its broader membership. This gathering marks our Annual General Meeting, where, along with our regular agenda, we will review the initial draft of next year's budget. Furthermore, we will conduct elections for those interested in serving on the executive in next year.

Motion: "to approve the Agenda" moved by Anna Chin, seconded by Joy Zhou. CARRIED.

Motion: "to approve the Apr 11 Minutes" moved by Diane Shoar, seconded by Maryam Morshedi. CARRIED.

### **Updates:**

#### **1. Events Team - Anna, Melanie, Gem**

- a. Anna summarized that this year's event team worked on various initiatives, including a Christmas chocolate fundraiser, and staff appreciation Holiday lunch, Valentine's gift boxes, Multicultural lunch, and the Year-End staff appreciation luncheon planned for June 25th. It's important that our activities align with serving both staff and students, and we look forward to more meaningful activities next year!

#### **2. Parent Education - Diane**

- a. Diane mentioned that this year, we organized five workshops. The third one, sponsored by the West Coast Family Center on April 23, focused on Teens & Anxiety. We gained valuable tips applicable not just to our children but also to us as parents. We highly recommend attending the upcoming workshop on May 28 at 7:00 pm, which will delve into Developing Resilient Teens.

- b. An upcoming exciting event is a two-week campaign focused on reducing traffic around the school, starting from May 27. We will distribute raffle tickets and candies to students at designated drop-off locations, which are approximately a five-minute walk from the school. Upon receiving a raffle ticket, students will write their name on the back and drop it off at the school office. A winner will be randomly selected to receive a \$15 Park Royal gift card each day for 2 weeks. We are in need of volunteers, so please consider joining us.
- c. Three Grade 11 students who approached PAC wanting to do this. We are simply supporting what the students want to do. In September, we will re-do the initiative and plan to bring in by-law and police officers as well!

### 3. Legacy Team - Sam

- a. Sam noted that we've had three parent socials (for grades 9, 10, and 11) since the last meeting. Including the grade 8 social, we raised a total of \$17,000. Specifically, the grade 11 parent socials raised about \$7,500!
- b. Yvonne mentioned that we met with parent Sophie Burke, professional interior designer who generously donated her time to the "Indoor & Outdoor Social Spaces" project. The school plans to select 3 or 4 locations where we will remove lockers and add seating for students. Additionally, we intend to purchase furniture such as high tables. These changes will hopefully be done over the summer, so that students and parents can see some changes in September! Another aspect we hope to leverage for fundraising is student involvement. It's essential to engage and excite the students about the developments they'll be witnessing.
- c. We must keep in mind that we should schedule the parent events for September, October, and November, to get things going earlier. They were successful in bringing parents together and getting some more involved for the future, and perhaps even bigger projects next year!
- d. Gem proposed the idea of providing microwaves for students. Nora pointed out that this would increase the custodians' workload, but she would discuss it with Mike once more.

**MOTION: "to allocate \$17,000 to the Sentinel Administration for the 'indoor and outdoor social spaces project'" moved by Farzaneh Bamani, seconded by Effie Gomulia. CARRIED.**

### 4. GRAD Team - Victoria / Lisa

- a. AP exams are currently underway.
- b. Tickets for Commencement at Westside Church are currently available for purchase on School Cash Online at \$20 per person. Grad dinner event tickets are also on sale until June 22, priced at \$135 for students and \$155 for adults. The event will take place at the Convention Centre. Caps and gowns will be distributed on Friday, June 7. Typically, graduating students are charged \$50 for these items, but this year, there won't be any additional costs. Grad teacher Lauren is planning to involve parents in exciting activities for the upcoming year.

### 5. Wish-List Team - Dana

- a. To recap the year, Dana mentioned we conducted two rounds of asking teachers and clubs and also asked Bo for input on our budget progress and how it aligns with our initial expectations, along with the feedback from staff on these matters.
- b. Bo noted that although our approved total amount is almost \$24,000, the invoice amounts received so far are only around \$8,000. She suggested scheduling another meeting to strategize how to manage the Wishlist programs effectively. Bo proposed focusing the Wishlist funds

on larger items rather than smaller ones, recommending a lump sum allocation to the Principal for decisions since, often teachers submit requests on behalf of a club or group, while the students generate the great ideas for activities. This would avoid adding extra work for teachers and keeps the students motivated and empowered to make things happen.

- c. We will have a meeting later with Belinda, Dana, Melanie, Effie, and Alison to discuss this matter.

#### 6. District PAC - Joy

- a. A significant improvement was made as BC Hydro covered all expenses, totaling \$400,000, to bring upgraded electrical services to Sentinel. West Vancouver schools incurred a cost of \$75,000 for internal upgrades. This has sparked envy among other schools.
- b. Here are some key points from Chris Kennedy's superintendent report. On April 30, a virtual AI event drew over 170 parents, which is much more than what we can get in an in-person event.
- c. WVS is partnering with West Vancouver Memorial library to host the event meeting with the author of book Races, an educator, Olympian, and advocate Valerie Jerome, the sister of Harry Jerome, at Kay Meek on May 22, Wednesday evening. The event will be hosted by CBC broadcaster Kevin Evans. The West Vancouver track is named Harry Jerome. Races is a very powerful book that lets us know more about the history of this area. It is a free event and anyone is welcome to attend.
- d. The track project is going on very quickly, and most of the work will be done when schools come back in the fall. This will be the only official competitive track on the North Shore. There will also be a "bubble" for soccer on the gravel field.
- e. During discussions, Chris also addressed the issue of vaping rates in schools, noting a continued decline based on survey data. According to recent surveys conducted by the schools, 24% of secondary school students have tried vaping, 15% have tried smoking, and 44% have experimented with alcohol. The age group most likely to try vaping is between 13 and 14 years old. Encouragingly, our school district has seen a reduction in vaping rates.
- f. There were two presentations: the first by Brad Baker, a member of the Squamish nation, educator and associate, on deepening our understanding and conversations on Indigenous education, and the second by Maria Bird and Tanja Imhoff on PAC succession planning.

#### 7. Chair's Report - Nora - 2023-2024 Report

This year we began by brainstorming a vision statement, and activities and energy have flowed from this: "**Growing our diverse school community through fun activities that support student needs**".

We created five "Teams" including the:

- Events Team;
- Grad Team;
- Legacy Team;
- Parent Education Team; and
- Wishlist Team

The activities, education, and fundraising that we will have organized (or helped to organize) by year-end are listed in the attached appendix, including:

- a total of 10 PAC meetings;
- a series of 5 parent education workshops;
- 3 different staff appreciation events;



- b. Another massive thank you to Lisa, Victoria, and the other Grade 12 parents.
- c. We have numerous teams competing in various sports championships such as badminton, soccer, boys' volleyball, and track and field. Among them are exceptional young athletes participating in the North Shore championships!
- d. Our kids' art show at the Ferry Building is currently underway.
- e. We have the Spring concert coming up, including the cabaret scheduled for the 30th and 31st.
- f. We have our French students participating in a Quebec exchange.
- g. Grade 7 visits are coming at the end of the month.
- h. AP exams are underway.
- i. A huge shout-out to our Parent Ed team for organizing a number of events.
- j. We have an additional event that has recently been scheduled for a live session on May 23rd at 7pm. Ex-Sentinel counsellor, current private sector counsellor Drew, will be conducting a presentation on ADHD and supporting students with that condition. This event is free and sponsored by the school, open to everyone, and will take place in the school theatre.
- k. We will have some significant staff changes next year. We are bidding farewell to a wealth of knowledge as four key staff members, including Mr. Wilson, Mr. Johnson, and Miss Pinto, are retiring. Collectively, they have contributed immensely to our school community over the years. Additionally, one of our vice principals, Kathy Grant, has been a staff member in schools for an astounding 46 years, is also retiring.
- l. Nora and I have a meeting scheduled later this month to review the 2024-2025 calendar, which outlines upcoming dates and events, as well as to approve scholarships.
- m. A major change for next year is transitioning from two online parent-teacher conferences to just one, scheduled for late January.
- n. The next school year will evenly balance the number of school days between day one and day two schedules.
- o. Some school fees are termed consumable and cover material used in art classes, food preparation in culinary classes and similar activities where students take home their work.
- p. The provincial government is emphasizing restricted cell phone use during instructional time unless directed by teachers for educational purposes.
- q. Next year, we've got four international trip proposals under consideration. One trip is planned for Spain and Portugal, another for the UK, a French immersion group is looking to visit France, and there's a proposal for a trip to the Dominican Republic for house building. We emphasize the importance of having a robust insurance policy for international trips, particularly concerning cancellation or postponement. Due to current insurance market conditions, obtaining 100% true cancellation coverage is challenging. Efforts are being made to secure the best possible policy.
- r. The sale of Grad banquet tickets is online. Table selection will be available on May 23rd and 24th. Students will bring their receipts to the school and have the opportunity to choose their seating preferences.
- s. Our final day of attendance and school block rotation is on Monday, June 24th.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.