

# SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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Held on Thursday, September 12, 2024  
In-Person Meeting

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## EXECUTIVE IN ATTENDANCE:

Nora Gambioli (sepac@wvschools.ca)	Chair	Tonia Liao	Vice-Chair
Belinda (Bo) Jia	Treasurer	Joy Zhou	DPAC Representative
Yvonne Lau	Secretary		

## GRADE REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Grade 8	Amy Chen
Grade 9	Farzaneh Bamani
Grade 10	Maryam Morshedi & Chen Tan
Grade 11	Echo Wu
Grade 12	Gem Chu

**PRESENT:** Anna Chin, Dana Renaud, Diane Shoar, Amy Chen, Sam Ridgway, Gem Chu, Maryam Morshedi, Chen Tan, Echo Wu, Timmy Huang, Demi Xue, Sharon Lee-Flynn, Elham Yazdi, Kerry Farhadi, Zohreh Ansai, Tokram Rouhani, Joy Zhou, Jasmine Ni, Rong Zheng, Rob Spurgeon, Lei Zhou, Sue Polat, Zeynep Olat, Koosha Kheradmandnia, Macy Yik, Marina Kosheleva, Maryam Ghalamkary, Dan Tan, Echo Chen, Jenny (Grade 10 Parent), Venus (Gr 9 Parent), Reza Heydarpour, Emma Xiang, Shirin Zarafshan, Jenny Yu, Zoe Li, Leslie Qi, Mahood Afjool, Baoping Liu, Michelle Morgan

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8:45am - Coffee chat.

### **Meeting was called to order at 9:30am.**

1. Nora started the meeting by welcoming all to Sentinel PAC and members at large.
2. Motion to approve the Agenda by Joy Zhou, second by Anna Chin. CARRIED.  
Motion to approve Minutes from June 14, 2024 by Tonia Liao, second by Joy Zhou.  
CARRIED.

### 3. Introduction of PAC Executives and Grade Representatives

#### Updates / Reports:

#### 4. 2024-25 Draft Budget – Belinda Jia

- Financials: 2023-24 Actual and 2024-25 draft budget circulated.
- 2024-25 Draft Budget – Highlights:
  - o Changed from cash-based (2023-24) to accrual accounting (2024-25) principles, so to better reflect on real financial position of PAC.
  - o **Income:** Gaming grant is set; other income is a projection, not actual. This is based on what we set for fundraising and how we do.
  - o **Expenses:** In 3 categories:
    - Parent connection & PAC admin
    - Staff Appreciation Events
    - Student Support Programs
  - o For Discussion:
    - Reserve of GIC – \$63000. This is an amount accumulated over years. PAC can consider spending a portion of it on projects that PAC believes are worthwhile.
    - Reserve of \$8000 from Gaming Grant. Can consider using for 2024-25 year.
  - o Final budget is due to pass in November 2024 meeting.

#### 5. Events – Anna Chin

##### Key Events planned for 2024-25:

- Used book sales – to collect now and due to run the sale in November.
- Holiday decorating – a tradition ***for parents to help students*** decorate for Christmas, Lunar New Year and Persian New Year
- Staff Appreciation – Winter Holiday Lunch, Valentine’s Baked Goods, Year-End Lunch (parents contribution and volunteer)
- Multi-Cultural Lunch - March 6! Parents of different cultural backgrounds host tables to sell food and treats. Calling for coordinators.

#### 6. Wish-List – Dana Renaud

- We gather wishes/needs from teachers, clubs, sports teams that need funding or money. The WishList Team sorts through these applications by category and reviews with Principal Finch to decide how these needs can be met (Gaming Grant, current school budget, etc...). It is assessed based on the motto for the year and how it will benefit the students body. Intakes for Wishlist are gathered in Oct & Jan. We have budgeted \$24000

+ and also have \$8000 from previous years for the Wishlist budget this year.

7. Parent Education – Empowering Parents, Enriching Futures – Diane Shoar

- 2023-24: ParentEd held 5 online events and a traffic initiative campaign in May 2024.
- 2024-25:
  - Traffic Initiative Campaign (Sep 3-13, and May 2025): encourage use of alternative transportation (scooter, e-bikes) and alternative drop-off location (outside school premises) to parents. Safety Bliz in collaboration with WVPD & Bylaw (Collab Day on Sep 26).
    - Feedback: Map was very helpful to Grade 8 parents.
  - Parent Education Workshops
    - **Cell Phone in Schools** (Virtual Presentation - Sep 17-7pm): this is arranged in response to the province-wide school policy on personal device usage. Cari Wilson (VP of Technology and Innovation at WVSD) is the speaker, and the session is moderated by Mike Finch. Posters are circulated in Parent Whatsapp groups and eBulletin these two weeks.
    - **Mentoring for Boys, Dads, and Mom:** in collaboration with Boys Club Network.
    - **Teens & Parent Mental Well-Being:** (Tuesday in Feb / April 2025). Sponsored by Westcoast Family Centres.
    - **Parents as Education & Career Coaches** (1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2025)
    - **Artificial Intelligence: Why you should care about the world of AI** (Nov 19 6-8pm @ WV Community Centre)
      - Forum hosted by Enhance West Van
  - Mock Crash Scenario (April 2025): hosted by ICBC & North Shore Safety Council
  - Post-Secondary Info Sessions:
    - Grade 12 parent night (Sep 24): Grade requirement, Post-secondary Information, CLC (Career Life Connection)
    - To supplement DPAC's Canadian Post-Secondary Info Session, ParentEd will organize a US University Info Section hosted by Boston University
    - Grade 11 parent course planning (Jan 2025)

8. Legacy Team – Sam Ridgway

- This is a team that focuses on fundraising for special, long-term projects that are important to Sentinel community
- 2023-24: Priority - Student social spaces. Easing pressure cafeteria to other areas of school. Through Parent Socials, the team raised CAD17000. First phase of indoor social spaces will be done by Christmas 2024.
- 2024-25: Goal is to raise CAD40000 to complete indoor social spaces, with an eye for some bigger projects (gym floor).
  - o Parent socials: community building and fundraising (ticket sales & donation)
    - Grade 8: Oct 2
    - Grade 9: Oct 9
    - Grade 10: Oct 16
    - Grade 11: Oct 30
  - o Silent Auction: bringing local businesses to support Sentinel
  - o Spring Gala: Depending on the direction on gym floor, we may host one this year (or in next school year)

#### 9. Grad Team - Gem Chu

- Semi-Formal in October (Shipyards).
- Grade 12 Post-Secondary Info Session.

#### 10. School Team – Principal Mike Finch

- Introducing: Vice Principal Crystal Tanfara (previously VP of WVSS, DVP of International Programs of WVSD). She is also a grade 8 parent!
- Administrators by Grade:
  - o Shawn Anderson – Grade 8 & 10.
  - o Crystal is responsible for Grade 9 & 11.
  - o Mike Finch – Grade 12.
- Unlike elementary schools where PAC drives many initiatives on behalf of students, here initiatives are mostly student-led where PAC and administrators are to support. PAC is a solution-oriented place to support students by working in collaboration with the administrators.
- Updates:
  - o Renovations over the summer:
    - Portables are painted.
    - Boilers are upgrade.
    - One of girls' washroom is upgraded (one more left this summer).

- Lockers are removed, and students are involved to decide how the spaces will be used as social spaces with plans confirmed by Dec 2024.
- Sentinel Community is involved in Summer Olympics 2024:
  - Nick Zhang – Fencing
  - Alison Carruthers (School Accountant)’s niece Julie **Bosteau** – Swimming.
- In 2023-24: Of the 244 Grade 12 students, 241 graduated in June. 98% are pursuing post-secondary schools. A grade 12 student / Sentinel alumni (Ryan Sabat) died a tragic accident in the summer, and a scholarship is WV Community Foundation is created in his name. Any support from the Sentinel Community to their family and the scholarship is appreciated - through the WV Community Foundation.
- 2024-25:
  - Class Placements: With 1200 students and staff in place, counsellors work hard to the requests and land them in classes. Due to space and class limitations, priority to requests goes to grade 12 for their graduation and post-secondary, and then grade 11 onwards.
  - Sentinel is a busy place – especially September. Keep an eye on the eBulletin and encourage your kids to be involved!
  - On Grads: there are 220+ Grade 12 students: there is a whole host of Grad events that we support (Winter Carnival, Semi Formal, Banquet, Social Events) but there are student-initiative and run events (that are not supported by school, i.e. no staff supervision) – e.g. Big White in Kelowna, Car Rally, Grad Kidnap, Sleep Out, etc... Decision to participate is a conversation that should be had between parents and students.
  - Cell phones and device policy: “when the teacher asks you to put away, you put away. When the teacher asks you to bring it out for educational purposes, bring it out”. early indication is kids are coping well.
  - On PAC’s involvement: PAC typically raises funds to support enhancement and extra-curricular activities outside (capital funding), scholarships. While school

boards have been protective about PAC's involvement in capital projects in the past, School Board is now open for PAC engagement to support large initiatives like gym floor installation (approx CAD250,000 - CAD300,000). As school and PAC, if we can reduce School Board financial burden significantly, to, perhaps CAD200,000, we could make this happen, potentially as soon as Summer 2025!

- Another potential initiative is to upgrade electronic devices in our computer labs, which costs CAD60000 in total. An upgrade to the Media Lab was done over the summer.

### **Priorities for 2024-25:**

10.1. Sentinel PAC's Motto (2023-24): Growing our diverse school community through fun activities that support student needs.

10.2. New ideas to consider:

#### THEMES:

- Positive Growth mindset.
- Developing Support.
- Inclusive (e.g. new students).
- Engage
- Peer Mentoring.
- Refresh Tech / Innovate

#### PRIORITIES

- Spending \$\$
- Grads
- Include Grade 8s, and Gr 8 parents
- Student Clubs
- Educate students "mentally" (community)

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10am

Next PAC meeting – Thu October 10, 2025 9am-11am.