

# SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Held on Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:00AM - 11:00AM  
In-Person Meeting

## 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	Chen Tan
Grade 11	Echo Wu
Grade 12	Gem Chu

**PRESENT:** Demi Xue, Dan Tan, Ting-Hway Wong, Tenzin Khangsar, Marina Kosheleva, Allison Cheung, Echo Chen, Rong Zheng, Sam Ridgeway, Dana Renaud, Rob Spurgeon, Principal Mike Finch.

8:45am - Coffee chat.

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

Nora started the meeting by welcoming all to Sentinel PAC and members at large.

Motion to approve the Agenda by Tonia Liao, second by Diane Shoar. CARRIED.

Motion to approve Minutes from September 10, 2024 by Allison Cheung, second by Zoe Li. CARRIED.

## Themes & Priorities

Nora presented the themes and priorities in the last PAC's brainstorming session.

- Themes: Developing, Support, Include & Engage.
- Priorities: Student clubs, Grads spend \$\$\$, new students, Grade 8's & parents, Peer Mentoring.

## PAC Updates / Reports:

### 1. Wishlist Team - Nora & Dana

It is a process of reallocation of the PAC received from the government (i.e. the gaming grant, which is based on the number of students in the school). There are tight restrictions on how funds can be used, for example, 1. related to curriculum but not the curriculum itself (e.g. no text books)

Process of fund reallocation:

- A questionnaire will be sent out to the teachers and student clubs on their requests for funding. Due date: end October

- PAC's Wish List team gathers wishes/needs from teachers, clubs, sports teams that need funding or money and sorts through these applications by category.
- PAC reviews these requests with Principal Mike Finch to decide how these needs can be met (be it from gaming grants, school budget, etc...). The needs are assessed based on the motto for the year and how addressing these needs will benefit the students body. W
- Funding: PAC anticipates receiving \$24,000 for this year. Combined with \$8,000 left over from previous years, in total we have \$32,000 to disperse for wishlist for this year.
- A call out is made to PAC volunteers to join this team

## 2. Parent Education Team – Diane Shoar

### Parent Education Workshops

- **Cell Phone in Schools (Virtual Presentation - Sep 17-7pm):** This event was shared with the other two secondary schools. 55 participants attended. The success of implementation of the district's new policy on personal devices is also dependent on parents' cooperation. While the attendance is lower than expected, it is an encouraging sign that parents were already aware of this policy. Presentation is shared with Sentinel Parents on e-Bulletin.
- **Traffic Poll:** Following the Traffic Initiative Campaign on Sep 3-13, a poll was conducted based on the outcome. Two questions were asked, with 80 responses: "Have you noticed any traffic improvements recently since the implementation of the traffic initiative?" Nearly 70% of respondents acknowledges some improvements, suggesting that the initiative had a positive impact for many parents, but traffic issues might not have completely resolved. A second question: "Do you use the recommended drop-off locations instead of driving onto the school premises for drop-off?" Just over half of respondents consistently use recommended drop off areas, suggesting good compliance. However, 40.5% indicate they only do this sometimes, suggesting further communications may be needed to encourage a more consistent use.
- **Upcoming parent education events:**
  - o Mentoring for Boys, Dads, and Mom: in collaboration with Boys Club Network (online or in person).
  - o DPAC Parent Education: Empowering the Future - an in person event on Thursday October 24, 2024 at Rockridge Secondary.
- **Volunteers:** 17 new members have joined the parent team, totalling 30 members in this team!

## 3. Events Team – Rong

- **Used book / school supplies sales:** School supplies' collection will began on Fri Oct 12 (SAT, AP), with target sales date on Nov 20-24 at Foyer.
- **Senior Girls Volleyball Provincials:** Sentinel will host the Senior Girls Volleyball Provincials tournament this year (end Nov - early Dec)! Parent volunteers are needed to help support the event!
- **Staff Appreciation:** the first one is Winter Holiday Lunch (which requires parents contribution and volunteer)
- **Multicultural lunch (March 6):** call out for volunteers / hosts representing different countries to reflect the diversity of Sentinel. A proposal is made to PAC to sponsor the cost of food for the countries with smaller representation so as to remove any financial burden that may be placed on the hosts.
- **Christmas decoration:** PAC volunteers work alongside with students on decorating the school. Given the activities in December, the decoration will be done on/before end of November.

## 4. Grad Team - Gem Chu

- Upcoming parent social on October 22. Principal Mike Finch and Ms. Ulinder, one of school's counsellors, will attend.

- A student-only semi-formal will take place on November 1st at The Pinnacle in North Vancouver. A call of Grade 11 and 12 volunteers was made.

#### 5. Legacy Team – Sam Ridgway

- Two socials have been hosted (Grade 8 & Grade 9). We are trying to make it less about fundraising but more social and community building.
- Current project - Student social spaces. A local business donated timber via PAC to be used for building furniture used by the social space. Woodwork teacher Mr. Visser and students will work on these throughout the course of the year.
- Next project: gym floor. Await greenlight and clarity from PAC on raising money, before deciding whether to proceed with fundraising initiatives such as silent auction, spring gala or soliciting corporate donations.

#### 6. District PAC - Joy Zhou

- Enrollment: in-district enrollment is steady, relying on students from outside of the district. Funding driven 100% by student numbers. Up by 100 students this year over last. For the first time in a decade it appears that local enrollment is up; question – is it more young families in the district, or more families choosing public?
- 7346 total students in 18 schools throughout the district. Fundable 6982 / 364 international students. We are pretty much at capacity in our schools, some flexibility in western schools.
- WVSS is the largest school again this year; Irwin Park is the largest elementary school.
- 1552 ELL students within the district.
- 127 Indigenous ancestry
- 715 grade 12 students / 391 kindergarten. Very small number of k's, concerning enrollment trend. Note – many international students come in grades 11 & 12.
- Academies – 438 students, up 9% from prior year. 128 are out of district students.
- Ignite your Passion programs – 215 students, also up 9% from prior year; 46 are out of district students.
- District Programs – 255 students. Combined programs for all high schools (eg. Outdoor Recreation, District Honour Choir, YELL entrepreneur program). Students go to any high school, but travel to the host school for the program. Ensures enough students to run these programs.
- Mike Finch made a wonderful presentation on how administrators co-operate so well with Sentinel PAC, highlighting the wonderful partnership and joint goal to improve the learning experience of Sentinel students.

#### 7. 2024-25 Budget & Surplus - Nora

Sentinel PAC has \$63,000 in cash that was built up over past years, and another \$8,000 from Wishlist, which we can use. A Sentinel PAC executive meeting was held on Sep 26 to brainstorm a list of projects that this surplus can assist in funding. Attached to this minute is the project priorities draft presented at the meeting. Some of these projects are:

- **New Gym floor:** per Principal Mike Finch, WVSD's Superintendent, Treasurer, Facilities have acknowledged the Sentinel Gym floor is the #1 priority to do before next school year as long as there is no other critical / emergency fix. This amounts to 30% of WVSD's entire maintenance budget for the year.
- **Inclusion & Belonging Group:** Student-led assistance with welcoming & integration of new students and visitors to the school.

- **No Vaping Education / Enforcement:** With additional funds, in addition to sensors (which may need to be wired in). From the Sentinel administrator’s perspective, it is not a rampant issue and is under control. The fund can be used to bring in experts or counsellors to do student education on this. A parent has volunteered “how to reinforce this message with the kids”. It is not an epidemic, but definitely it is a way for youth to explore and push boundaries. It is a small subset of the population, and the administrator has a good grasp of what the issue is. The administrator prefers to use an educational way to do so.
- **Benevolent / Helping Hand Fund:** emergency fund to help students or families of Sentinel in need. The school also has access to a fund so this is not needed.
- **Outdoor ping-pong tables:** outdoor social space
- **School computer replacement / upgrades:** this is an ongoing cost to the school, and school administrators would appreciate PAC to consider funding this cost on going forward. School administrators are working together with the teachers to put together an inventory of its hardware and its dates to understand their computer hardware needs in the years ahead so PAC and school can budget better.
- **Entrance signs:** The current entrance sign is small and rusting and dated and needs an update.

With weighted votes, attendees voted on these projects:

- 51 - New Gym Floor donation
  - 34 - Indoor / outdoor social spaces
  - 14 - no vaping enforcement
  - 13 - inclusion & belonging group
  - 11 - social computer replacement / upgrades
  - 6 - outdoor ping pong table
- A motion will be made in November on the use of the supplemental budget for these projects based on the vote.

### School Update – Principal Mike Finch

- Mike commends Sentinel PAC for such collaborative relationships in improving the school and its community.
- **Events from last six weeks:**
  - o Information meeting
  - o Terry Fox fundraising
  - o Truth & Reconciliation week
  - o Meet the teacher night
  - o Clubs day
  - o Post-secondary fair (15+ BC post-secondary events)
  - o All Candidates Day for Grade 11 events to attend at Collingwood (Mr. Chase)
- **Upcoming events:**
  - o Student vote
  - o BC Election hosting site
  - o Jazz Cafe
  - o Inclusion Conversation (Nov 26) - “Understanding”. 40+ countries are represented in school.
  - o Grade 10 & 12 numeracy & literacy assessment (Ministry mandated)
  - o Interim reports at end October
  - o No parent-teacher conference in November, and only in January.
  - o Grade 9 - work with your parent day (Nov 6)

- Nov 8 - Remembrance Day assembly (Mr. Tanfer)
- Nov 12-13 - Immunization (grade 9)
- International excursion: French trip (Spring), Spain & Portugal (Spring), Dominican Republic (May), Sister school grade 10 immersion school exchange - subsidized by the government and YMCA.
- 2025-26 School Admissions: it will be open on Tue Oct 15 for students in WVSD catchment. Students to Sentinel's feeder schools (Cedardale, Chartwell, Westcot, PJ) no need to apply
- **Updates to PAC project:**
  - **Gym Floor:** see above
  - **Social Spaces:** Slabs of cedars are donated to Sentinel and are prepped by the woodwork shop and its students. Benches will be added to landings for in-between floors at stairs. Art department is looking at the bigger vision on the wall that is opened up from removing the lockers. The wall canvas will be included in the 2025-26 curriculum.
  - **Computer lab:** would appreciate the PAC to consider setting aside some operating budget to fund older computers on a rolling basis. 2,000-3,000 cyber attacks in the system daily. District is not able to support protection for both Mac and PC. Life-time of 5-6 years. (254 & 258).
  - **Wishlist:** emails will be sent out to teachers, with a 2-week window for the teachers to submit their application, due by Oct 25.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Next PAC meeting – Thu November 14, 2025 9am-11am.

**2024-25 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET - PROJECT PRIORITIES (DRAFT)**

PROJECT PRIORITIES	VALUE (helps many students)	TIMELINE (months)	COMPLEXITY	COST ESTIMATE
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS - \$63,000</b>				
<b>Indoor &amp; outdoor social spaces</b> (seating/benches, tables, murals, power outlets)	High	12-18 months	medium	<b>\$24,000</b> \$15,000 (3 x 5000) \$9,000 (3 x 3000)
<b>New Gym Floor</b> (painting & logo)	High	10-12 months	low	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Belonging Group</b> (new students transition & mentorship)	High	Immediate	low	<b>\$3000</b>
<b>No-Vaping Enforcement</b> (detectors?)	High	3-4 months	medium	<b>\$5000</b>

<b>Benevolent/Helping Hand Fund</b>	Low	immediate	low	<b>\$3000</b>
<b>Outdoor ping-pong tables</b>	Medium	12-18 months	medium	<b>\$20,000</b> (\$10,000 x 2)
<b>School Computer replacement/upgrades</b>	High	ongoing	low	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Sentinel Entrance sign(s)</b>	High	12 months	medium	<b>\$5000</b>
<b>Planting Trees</b>	High	12 months	low	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>OPERATING/WISHLIST FUNDS - \$8000</b>				
<b>Student Clubs</b>	High	This year	low	<b>\$8000</b>
<b>Grad Activities</b>	Medium	ongoing	low	<b>\$5000</b>
<b>Field Trip Fund</b>	High	ongoing	low	<b>\$5000</b>