

# ECOLE SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:00AM - 11:00AM  
In-Person Meeting – Sentinel Library

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Nora Gambioli	Chair	sepac@wvschools	Anna Chin	Events Team
Belinda Jia	Treasurer		Dana Renaud	Wishlist Team
Yvonne Lau	Secretary		Sam Ridgeway	Legacy Team
Joy Zhou	DPAC Rep		Farzenah Bamani	Grade 9 Rep
Diane Shoar	Parent Ed Team		Chen Tan	Grade 10 Rep
Gem Chu	Grad Team		Echo Wu	Grade 11 Rep

**AND:** Xenia Egoror, Rong Zheng, Marina Kosheleva, Zoe Li, Maryam Moshedi, Chen Tan, ShanShan Xu, Kerry Fahardi, Liam Cammack, Sharon Lee Flynn, Tenzin Khangsar, Principal Mike Finch

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8:30am – Coffee; **Meeting was called to order at 9:20am.**

**Motion to approve the February 13, 2025 Agenda by Farzaneh Bamani, second by Joy Zhou. CARRIED.**  
**Motion to approve Minutes from January, 2024 by Farzaneh Bamani, second by Yvonne Lau. CARRIED.**

## School Update – Principal Mike Finch

### Events:

- **Valentine’s Day treats for staff:** Big thank you for the special treats for the staff, recognizing their effort and work with the students
- o **Multicultural Lunch** is coming up in 3 weeks! The fundraising, spirit, energy is so well received.
- o **PAC Wishlist:** Staff is reminded Feb 14th is the last day of 2nd wishlist submission.
- o **Sentinel Theatre:** The Little Mermaid at Kay Meek together with Sentinel’s Theatre and Music (Orchestra) program. Tickets are on sale on School Cash Online. February 24-28. Last show is already sold out!
- o **Jazz Cafe** - will take place Thu March 6, 2025.
- o **Grad Chat**, Hosted by Principal and Counsellors, this event will address various topics related to Grade 12 grads, including keeping the momentum in the last three months of schools, including in-school scholarships process (application due end of April, managed by a school scholarship team).
- o **Sentinel Athletics** teams are doing great!
- o **Senior Girls Basketball** qualified for Provincials; will take place on Feb 26-March 1 in Langley.
- o All **Ski and Snowboard teams** qualify for Provincials - Feb 23-26.
- o **Wrestling** - A few members qualified for Provincials!
- o Ask: School is still looking for a coach for Track & Field for the upcoming season.
- o **School Facilities upgrades:**

**Gym Floor:** Thanks for the boost by PAC, and the confirmed green light from school district, Sentinel will have a NEW Gym Floor! District has hired a floor provider (Titan). Next steps:

- Today: School logo redesign. Decisions on lines and fixtures for the gym floor
- Spring Break: the stage will be removed to expand the floor.
- Mid-May: Sentinel will finalize details of the floor with the vendor.
- Mid-June: the gym will be shut down and work/demolition starts.
- Early July: the new floor will be installed, along with new equipment such as scoreboard, padding for walls, notice board, recognition boards, electric boards to display gym rosters, et
- September: upgraded gym is ready!

**Indoor Social Spaces:** Installation is mostly done! The wood benches done by Mr. Visser look amazing. A nice gift card from PAC has been given to Mr. Visser for taking his personal time to get the benches done (weekend, after school hours). Currently 7-8 benches are installed, with 2 more to come. Thanks to the Sentinel staff who helped move these heavy benches. 4 tables and 16 chairs which were purchased through Social Spaces funding are also set up on the hallway on the third floor and enjoyed by students!

**Change Room as Next Potential Renovation:** Goal is to convert the dated and underutilized change rooms into weight room / flex room / classroom.

- **Academic:**
  - o **Senior Modern arts Language Programs:** Local / BC universities are the last ones to utilize senior (grade 11 & 12) language classes as requirements for entrance in arts programs, and this may no longer be a requirement. This may have an impact on modern language arts programs, where if they are to take a grade 12 arts course then the secondary school may make them take another language arts program.
  - o **Course selection** process is underway, done with grade 8 and currently for grade 9. It is a good idea for conversations to take place between students and parents, so the courses selections are agreed.
- **Administration:**
  - o **Admission:** Staff are currently working through the long list of students who have applied to Sentinel. Similar to last year, demand for grade 8 exceeds the number of opening seats. Sentinel is at 97% capacity. Decision is based on whether the student is in-catchment, has siblings already attending Sentinel, in-district or out-of-District.
    - 1st week of Feb: in-catchment (feeder school), and priority list with siblings.
    - March: in-district and out-catchment students will be informed.
  - o **Learning Updates:** Friday March 7. This one is critical for Grade 12 students for post-secondary applications and admissions.
  - o **School trustee election** - April 5, 2025. Vote!
  - o **2024-25 Budget Feedback:** Chris Kennedy, our WVSD Superintendent, is asking for [2024-25 budget feedback](#), with March 15 being the deadline for submitting feedback. Please direct the feedback to Karen Leeson ([kleeson@wvschools.ca](mailto:kleeson@wvschools.ca)).
  - o **Staffing Changes:** Several are on leave for different reasons:
    - Medical Leave: Ms. Higgs (end of year). Mme Lleres (FI substitute Victoria Williamson)
    - Maternity Leave: Brianna Lang. Joy Sparks
  - o Principal Finch is reviewing the process and scheduling for next school year:
    - **Parent-teacher conference:** It has been online the past few years. Parents are asked their preference on online or in person. Some discussion on the merit of having an online vs in person parent-teacher conference next year. Online is much more convenient and in-person is more community driven.
    - **Fit schedule.** Currently it is on Mon-Thu 11:00-11:50am. This is also a flex time for other things (e.g. Grad Chat).

## PAC Updates / Reports:

### 1. Events Team - Anna Chin

- a. Multicultural Lunch: Perfect Potluck request for volunteers and donations will be sent out via e-Bulletin today, via whatsapp by grades and via direct email from Nora. Table coordinators are identified (10 cultures & 2 desserts) Table coordinators will be provided with the documents / guideline to read, and a meeting will be held amongst table coordinators. Gem proposed for the Yearbook team to all PAC activities.
- b. Valentine's Day appreciation: parents donated over \$1,100 to pay for the goodies for the Sentinel staff, Gem and Nora bought all the 100 gifts items which will be given to every member of the staff today at lunchtime.

### 2. Wishlist - Dana Renaud

- a. Fall 2024 is the first intake for the wishlist. Spring 2025 intake has started, anticipating requests from ski teams and other provincial sports teams. A new request from the French Immersion department to support the upcoming exchange. The full list of new requests will be reviewed with Principal Finch. Dana will be stepping down in the upcoming school year and is calling for a new parent to take over. Dana will create a standard "gifting / granting" guideline for funding extracurricular activities for future decision making.

### 3. Grad Team – Gem Chu

- a. Winter Formal on February 6 was a success! Sentinel staff helped prepare and order food and decorations, and mock casinos (black jack, roulette) with the help of Sentinel parents. It was held in Cafeteria, Gym and Foyer. Grade 12 & 11 students had a great time.
- b. Grad Carnival will take place in May, which will take place at the gym.

### 4. Mobility & Parent Education – Empowering Parents, Enriching Futures – Diane Shoar

- a. **Parent Education Online Series: Mindful Connections - Parents & Teens Thrive Together**
  - i. The first workshop, Understanding & Supporting Teen Mental Health: February 4, 2025. Despite the school closure, 31 parents, including Mr. Anderson, attended. Kristy Ambrose, a Parent Educator from Westcoast Family Centres, shared value insights and effective strategies for supporting teen mental health. Next time, we will do a “trial run” to minimize any technical difficulties.
  - ii. Next workshop: April 29, 2025 - Topic: Mindfulness and Burnout Prevention.
- b. **Updates on Mobility:**
  - i. We received updates from the municipal district regarding several requests made in November. These include the installation of "No Stop" signs in front of the school, a Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) at the intersection of Cross Creek Road & Sutton Place, and the approval of pickup/drop-off zones between the Fire Hall and Sutton Place. These measures are currently being followed up on and are in progress.
  - ii. Carpooling APP: Nora and Diane escalated the carpooling app initiative to the district level to address security concerns and expand the pool of participants. However, the district has recommended starting with a pilot program at Sentinel, where the experience can be evaluated and then shared with other schools. This approach is necessary due to privacy concerns related to carpooling that the district must manage. We have identified a couple of carpooling apps and consulted Cari Wilson, VP of Innovation and Technology for WV Schools, for her professional opinion. She has recommended one of the apps. We will now confer with Ms. Wilson and Mr. Finch to move forward with launching the program.
  - iii. Several parents expressed concerns about how students may receive it as they may either be shy or reluctant to join someone else in the school. In principle, PAC agrees its worth exploring further and will wait for Ms. Wilson’s feedback.

#### 5. **Legacy Team - Sam Ridgeway.**

- a. **Spartan Games** - Thu April 16 7pm-9pm. From what Sam gathered in the meeting with the Sentinel Athletics directors, there have been conflicting views whether students welcome participating in this event with their parents. Sam is looking for new ideas for games, and in the process of brainstorming internally within the team. The actual plan will be presented in the next PAC in March.
- b. **Silent Auction** - Donation toolkit is prepared, Auction platform is set up. Now in full throttle for soliciting donations, with a target to get at least 70 items for auctions. To encourage bids, it is recommended to have the auction in person at Spartan Games with a few items being hyped up.

#### 6. **Persian New Year (Nowruz)**

- a. Several parents will be working alongside with students to decorate the school for Persian New Year (Nowruz). Some parents also wish to bring lunch for staff. Given Nowruz falls during Spring Break, decoration could be done prior to Spring Break, and food could be arranged for the staff after Spring Break.

#### 7. **DPAC - Joy Zhou**

- a. Due to the snow, the last DPAC meeting was held online. Presentation is given on ways to support student voice and choice. Two programs were spotlighted are FAST (lifeguard certificate) and YELL (entrepreneurship), targeting senior students.
- b. DPAC tip of the month: PAC should think about By-Laws, Parent Engagement and Succession Planning. Tonia will review the by-laws.
- c. Gaming grant application is being transitioned into a new system. Belinda is responsible for the upcoming school year’s application.
- d. School traffic grant of \$300 - to date, only 2 schools applied. Encourage more schools to apply.
- e. Update on WV Place for Sport track: it will not be fully ready (with spongy red surface installed) by track season this year (temp must be high enough for installation).

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00am**

**Next PAC meeting – Thu March 13, 2025 9am-11am.**