

# ECOLE SENTINEL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Nora Gambioli	Chair	Anna Chin	Events Team
Tonia Liao	Co-Chair	Sam Ridgeway	Legacy Team
Belinda Jia	Treasurer	Dana Renaud	Wishlist Team
Yvonne Lau	Secretary	Farzenah Bamani	Grade 9 Rep
Joy Zhou	DPAC Rep	Chen Tan	Grade 10 Rep
Gem Chu	Grad Team		

**AND:** Xenia Egoror, Maryam Moshedi, Rong Zheng, Kerry Fahardi, Liam Cammack, XiaoBin Li, Principal Mike Finch,

8:30am – Coffee;

**Meeting was called to order at 9:10am.**

**Motion to approve the March 13, 2025 Agenda by Tonia Liao, second by Farzaneh Bamani. CARRIED.**

**Motion to approve Minutes from February 13, 2025 by Farzaneh Bamani, second by Yvonne Lau . CARRIED.**

## PAC Updates / Reports:

- **Mobility & Parent Education – Empowering Parents, Enriching Futures – Nora Gambioli**
  - o **Parent Education Online Series: Mindful Connections - Parents & Teens Thrive Together**
    - Next workshop: April 29, 2025, 7pm - Topic: Mindfulness and Burnout Prevention. The workshop is delivered by Kristy Ambrose – Parent Educator from Westcoast Family Centres.
  - o **Updates on Mobility:**
    - While we are awaiting progress from the municipality on installing “no stop” sign in front of school, a parent has offered to donate the signs! We are now awaiting final confirmation.
    - The student club “Stop the Traffic” hosted a bike workshop – today March 13, 2025!
    - Carpooling App initiative is in discussion with Mr. Finch.
    - Safety Blitz will take place in Spring, where by-law officers will be on site to remind people about safety and traffic
- **Grad Team – Gem Chu**
  - o Grads are currently busy with scholarship applications, including community scholarships in West Vancouver. Those interested can complete the application and submit to the office (Kat). Deadline is May 2. They are now also tasked to prepare documents for diploma and yearbook.
  - o Details about commencement (June 14 – Westside Church) and grad banquet (June 21) will come out in April.
  - o Last sanctioned grad event: Grad Carnival in May. PAC’s fundraising effort as lowered the price to \$10-\$15 for the students.
- **By-Laws Team – Tonia Liao**
  - o DPAC has formed a by-law committee, which Tonia is a part of as a DPAC Director. The goal is to support WV school PACs in reviewing and updating their bylaws.
  - o Sentinel’s by-laws are outdated – last updated April 2014! Given the changes with technology (online meeting, voting, social media practices), Sentinel is joining the review meetings organized by the DPAC by-law committees.

- The by-law review is headed by Tonia and Yvonne. Despite it being not recently updated, it is still quite comprehensive and is a solid foundation for us. Tonia and Yvonne will draft a proposed modification and will present to PAC for review. The goal is to finalize and approve the by-laws at Sentinel PAC's upcoming annual general meeting before the end of the school year (May or June).
- **Wishlist Team - Dana Renaud**
  - The wishlists for 2024-25 (both intakes) are all reviewed and approved, totalling over \$30K in distribution. This includes the \$6,000 left over from prior years. Wishlist grants from the second intake are informed this week. Dana has a wealth of knowledge on this wishlist team and is hoping to pass the baton next year. Tonia has agreed to step in to lead Wishlist 2025-26!
- **Events Team - Anna Chin**
  - **MCL:** Special gratitude to the school and staff in making this happen! This year,
    - there were 10 tables, including regional tables such as SE Asia and Latin. More than 200 volunteers for food preparation and onsite service. Japanese table is set up with Chinese parents stepped in. Ticket sales totalled \$14,600, which is higher than prior years. 60% of ticket sales were sold on the day of event. In addition to ticket sales, PAC received a community grant of \$1500 from RBC as well as donation from parents who funded the ingredients and food for the event. With the success of MCL this year, it is enough to fund \$13,000 of scholarships for 26 grad students.
    - Post-event reflection for next year: Anna and team would like to involve more parents from different cultures involved (donation and involvement). A suggestion is made to add music (a spotify playlist) for the event. We should consider shortening the ticket sales period, since most ticket sales take place on the day of event. There may be opportunity to organize the line up better. As this is lunch, we should consider making the food more nutritious.
  - Transition to next year: To help prepare future leader of MCL, Anna also added on the coordination handbook that she received from Melanie (last year's leader). Looking for a new team lead for future MCL – Kerry and Gem have verbally committed. For succession planning, it is recommended to have more than one leader.
- **Legacy Team – Sam Ridgeway**
  - Fundraising for the gym upgrades kicks off after Spring Break.
    - **Online Auction:** Over 100+ items with \$60K retail value. Zoe will help on the marketing and promotion, starting today on e-Bulletin and supported by social media and grade WhatsApp groups. Auction will be done in stages, with new releases of items to keep engagement. It will end on April 16 9:00pm to coincide with the Spartan Games & Social Night.
    - **Spartan Games & Social Night: April 16 6:30-9:30pm** held at Sentinel. This is a casino style games and a social eventing. Mr. Virag has agreed to offer his time to arrange some music for the event. Mr. Finch and the administration will be involved to give information about the gym upgrades project. There will be a food truck, refreshments, chips for casino games. Ticket sales at \$25 per person, with opportunity to upsell (chips, food). Anna, Gem (events), Zoe (marketing), and Astrid and Dana (events / hosting) will be involved.
- **DPAC - Joy Zhou**
  - There is a school trustee election on April 5. 3 candidates are in the running, one of which was elected before. Early voting at municipal city hall.
  - 2 by-law meetings have been held to help WV Schools PAC to review and update bylaws.
  - Call out for new international students for 2025-26 school year.

#### **Sentinel Administration – Principal Mike Finch**

- Acknowledge all the work PAC is doing!
- **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
  - **MCL:** It is an amazing community and spirit building event with great fundraising result.
  - **PAC Wishlist:** The amount of work involved is amazing, and staff feel very supported.
- **Learning Update:**
  - Staff put in a lot of effort to give authentic and building feedback. Mr. Finch would like parents to recognize the commitment the staff has put into supporting the students
- **New staff members:**

- Brianna Lang just went on maternity leave. Pascal Powell, ex Pauline Johnson and ex-Sentinels taking over. To support her absence. Lauren Till has decades of experience teaching modern language and English. Annette Coutte has a wealth of experience in classroom as well.
  - Mme Natalie Lleres is on an infinite medical leave of absence. Victoria Williamson has brought on great energy and transition is very smooth.
  - **Sentinel Theatre Production & Orchestra:** Little Mermaid. Well- received.
  - **Sentinel Athletics** teams are doing great!
    - **Senior Girls Basketball** places 13<sup>th</sup> in provincials!
    - **Ski and Snowboard teams** (travel funded by Sentinel PAC) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall at Provincials.
    - **Wrestling** - A few members qualified for Provincials!
    - Ask: School is still looking for a coach for Track & Field for the upcoming season.
  - **Grad Chats:** Scholarships and upcoming events are brought up. Note to parents that there are sanctioned school events (school supported) and unsanctioned school event (grad kidnap, grad skip day, car rally, ski day, grad campout) which are organized by the grade 12 students. Please be mindful on what is happening at these unsanctioned school events. **Also a friendly reminder to the grade 12 that end of school year is in fact June.**
  - **Course selection:** Students have submitted all course selection. Counsellors are working on the scheduling. Students will be given an initial plan by June 2025 so they can make any last-minute change before 2025-26 school year starts.
  - **School Facilities upgrades:**
    - Gym Floor:** Sentinel will have a new Gym Floor! Vendor will submit 3-4 mock ups of options for consideration, together with some logos, it will be presented on April 16 parent social event and to also solicit student feedback. Next steps:
      - Today: Stage has been removed.
      - Mid-May: Sentinel will finalize details of the floor with the vendor.
      - Mid-June: the gym will be shut down and work/demolition starts.
      - July 3: 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, etc...
      - September: upgraded gym is ready!
- Literacy 12 assessment:** It is a mandatory assessment from the Ministry of Education. Results are back. With the scale of 1-4 (4 being highest), 40% students received 4 (vs 30% within district, 15% in provincial public school). 55% students received 3. The assessment can be re-written for another time.
- French Immersion Literacy assessment:** of 39 FI students, 5% received 4 (0.2% at provincial school average) 53% get 3 (30% provincial average).
- Out of country field trips for upcoming school year (2025-26):**
- Portugal (Spring Break)
  - England (Spring Break)
  - Japan (Spring Break)
  - Dominican Republic (May)
- 5<sup>th</sup> inclusion conversation. Topic on decisions – March 31 during FIT. After Spring Break.**
- Grad assessments: Numeracy 10 (April 7-11).**
- Quebec exchange:** last week of April – we host Quebec kids here. We go there at end of May.
- AP exam: May 5-16.** As of this year, all exams are written digitally in the main gym. No use of gym these two weeks.
- Renovation:** To increase capacity of school: the change room will be renovated. Goal is to convert the dated and underutilized change rooms into weight room / flex room / classroom.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:55am**

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