



Virtual PAC Meeting Minutes: Wednesday January 19, 2022

- **Meeting convened at:** 7:00pm
- *Participants:* 7 attendees
- 1. **WELCOME:** Due to Covid-19 and social distancing measures, a PAC meeting was held online over Microsoft Teams.
- 2. **INTRODUCTIONS**
 - a. PAC CHAIR -- Ms. Kelly Hambleton
 - b. TREASURER -- Ms. Tammy Ross (regrets)
 - c. SECRETARY – Ms. Marlene Wu
 - d. MEMBERS-AT-LARGE -- Ms. Cigdem Cinarogl (regrets), Ms. Eliza Ko, Ms. Karen Pezzuto, Mr. Alaric Wang
 - e. PRINCIPAL – Ms. Annie Varghese
 - f. VICE PRINCIPALS – Mr. Lee Banta, Ms. Rosalind Poon (regrets)
- 3. **DISCUSSION:** Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning (*Ms. Ellen Hsu, teacher consultant in Richmond*)
Promoting Positive Learning Through PLT
 - What kind of person do you want our child to grow up to be? –words that attendees wrote: kind, compassionate, generous, community thinkers, considerate, creative, responsible
 - “We want our children to be thrivers, and not strivers”
 - Strive vs. Thrive:
 - Strive = to devote serious effort or energy or to compete or struggle or to contend toward a goal. Striving is not bad quality, struggles are not a bad thing; the motivation for strive is the goal/the end product
 - Thrive = more about the process/journey (which can either what makes us or breaks us) of growing, flourishing, progressing, developing, prospering
 - Book reference/resource: “Thrivers” (*author Michele Borba*) – looks at why some kids struggle while other kids might shine (kids feel so much pressure, feel overwhelmed/over-scheduled)
 - 7 character strengths that help reduce feelings of emptiness and being overwhelmed –empathy, self-confidence, self-control, integrity, curiosity, perseverance, optimism
 - equipping kids with these character strengths will help them with choice, and control over their time and destiny (develop positive sense of agency)
 - BC Curriculum has shifted to develop core competencies to help kids thrive:
 - a. communication (connect, engage, collaborate)
 - b. creative thinking (develop new ideas myself & with others)
 - c. personal & social (self-determination, contributing to community, & building relationships)
 - Richmond School District’s strategic plan and goals:
 - a. learners have increased capacity to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing world;
 - b. foster resilient and healthy life-long learners
 - Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): self-management, self-awareness, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, social awareness; leads to short-term (improved attitudes about self, others, tasks, etc.), intermediate (academic success, less emotional distress, etc.), and long-term (career readiness, civic engagement, etc.) student outcomes
 - Personal Learning Time (PLT)
 - provides a variety of learning environments: “campfire” (gather around a speaker), “cave” (individual learning), or “waterhole” (collaborate in a group)
 - provides students decisions and choice-making skills by giving them a sense of agency, opportunity to be able to adjust their learning
 - “It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.” ~Ernest Hemmingway

4. BUSINESS MEETING:

- a. Adopt minutes from December 8, 2021 meeting
1st motion: Karen Pezzuto 2nd motion: Eliza Ko
- b. Adopt agenda for January 19, 2022 meeting
1st motion: Karen Pezzuto 2nd motion: Leanne Santha

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Ms. Annie Varghese, Mr. Lee Banta)

- a. Big thank you to PAC, all the parent volunteers, and StuCo for helping with Breakfast With Santa
 - amazing to watch the "crew" (parents) pack all those Christmas goodie bags in record time
 - grateful for the parents that came out to serve breakfast, keeping things safe as possible for the Gr.12s; acknowledgment to Ms. Karen Pezzuto for arranging the sponsorship of Starbucks hot chocolate and coffee and Ms. Marlene Wu for delivering to school
 - StuCo volunteers did an amazing job decorating and setting the atmosphere
- b. Delayed return-to-school (post winter break)
 - gave opportunity to work on and put some enhanced health and safety protocols in place
 - powerpoint orientation was presented virtually to all the students first day back (available to parents on school website); staff also went through full orientation and were briefed
 - Lunch time protocol (an additional adjustment made this Monday 17Jan): now Gr.11 & 12s for lunch can either eat in their 3rd block classrooms for first 15mins, eat outside or go home; then afterwards may go and socialize in the common areas
 - earlier opening of doors: 8am -school exterior doors open; 8:15am -classroom doors open
 - Goal: students to feel good about coming to school, feel safe and well taken care of
 - open to feedback/questions/concerns: feel free to contact school administration staff
- c. Grad assessment: on January 26 & 27
 - GLA10 (for all Gr.10s) and GLA12 (opened up to any Gr.12's who want to (re-)write it in response to UBC's recent admission requirement)
 - reduced density by opening up more classrooms and altered bell schedule to accommodate and reduce disruption regular class times (arrive at 8:15am, GLA will start at 8:30-11:30am [PLT will occur during that time for those not writing it]; regular classes will start at 11:30am)
- d. Semester 2 timetables will be emailed out end of next week
- e. Upcoming dates:
 - January 26: Grade 7 parents orientation (via MicroSoft Teams webinar)
 - January 28: semester turn around day; no regular classes scheduled (some teachers may open classrooms for specific students)
 - January 31: Pro D day
 - February 1: first day of Semester 2
 - first week of Semester 2: look out for the schedule for next year's course selection presentation, which will be done virtually over 4 PLTs

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: no new updates

7. NEW BUSINESS: no new updates

8. RICHMOND DISTRICT PARENTS ASSOCIATION REPORT (*position open*)

- a. looking for a parent to fill this position (meeting occurs once/month); reach out to SLSS PAC if interested

9. DRY AFTER GRAD (DAG) (Ms. Leanne Santha)

- a. had meeting January 12, 2022; meetings will occur on Wednesdays the week before PAC's
- b. decided on theme, working on figuring out the entertainment (magician hypnotist)
- c. bottle drive only at Ironwood location; no deadline; open all year long for ongoing SLSS DAG fundraising
- d. questions, comments, or to volunteer contact DAG: slssdag2022@gmail.com

For more information on PAC or if you should have questions for the PAC, please contact: pacslss38@gmail.com

NEXT PAC MEETING: Wednesday February 9, 2022

Meeting adjourned at: 8:03pm