



Virtual PAC Meeting Minutes: Wednesday March 9, 2022

- **Meeting convened at:** 7:00pm
- **Participants:** 15 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 (regrets)
 - f. VICE PRINCIPALS – Mr. Lee Banta, Ms. Rosalind Poon (regrets)
- 3. **PRESENTATION:** Post-Secondary and Career Options (*Ms. Jacqueline Digeso, SLSS Career Information Advisor*)
 - a. *Her role: career counsellor (worked at UBC for over 30 yrs in a number of capacities)*
 - *mainly work with and support Gr. 11s and 12s to help plan for their post-secondary studies*
 - *send out weekly emails to senior students re: upcoming post-secondary events, learning opportunities, volunteer opportunities*
 - *but also welcome students from any grades to see her (for example, during course planning met with some Gr.9s and 10s)*
 - *have a number of resource materials available to students in her office (university calendars; materials for resumes, summer jobs, volunteer work; build interview skills)*
 - b. *Primary focus for Gr.12s*
 - *help them with post-secondary/university applications (starts in the Fall, from Oct to mid-Jan)*
 - *create monthly newsletters with relevant articles (eg. how to pick the right dorm room, how to accept or decline an offer, how to be successful in the 1st year, etc.)*
 - *work with Mr. Banta on scholarship program at SLSS*
 - c. *University/College Fairs: hopefully will bring it back this fall for Gr. 10s and 11s (which has not occurred since COVID; moving away from the online sessions that have been happening in lieu)*
 - *creates opportunity for students to interact one-on-one with recruiters; encourages students to be proactive in their post-secondary decisions*
 - d. *Happy to chat/meet with parents; just send an email to set up an appointment (hours: generally Mon to Thur 10:30-3:30pm)*
- 4. **BUSINESS MEETING:**
 - a. Adopt minutes from February 9, 2022 meeting
1st motion: Karen Pezzuto 2nd motion: Eliza Ko
 - b. Adopt agenda for February 9, 2022 meeting
1st motion: Karen Pezzuto 2nd motion: Eliza Ko
- 5. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** (*Mr. Lee Banta*)
 - a. February 15: Grade 9's Social Responsibility Day – focussed on SOGI
 - b. Program planning: completed the 1st stages; once all that data is collated the time table construction begins (which is primarily driven by the course selections that students make, hence the importance of thoughtful decisions and careful considerations from the students)
 - c. Scholarship program: will be open for online application from March 11 to April 14th
 - highly encourage all Gr.12s apply; make sure application is complete and submitted before deadline
 - recipients will be informed at the commencement ceremony in June
 - d. Athletics: Winter athletics: has come to a close (with end of basketball season); Spring athletics: will begin soon (girls soccer, badminton, tennis, ultimate, volleyball)

- e. Post-Spring Break (March 30 & 31st): all Gr.10-12s will be participating in the annual student survey across the province (gather info about student's experiences in our schools in order to look at ways to improve learning environment for them); survey also available to staff and parent communities
- f. New online learning policy: Ministry of Ed is changing how online courses are offered in the province
 - effective July 1, 2022, students will have 2 options for online learning:
 - within current school district
 - through a Provincial online learning school
 - students will not be able to enroll in online courses offered at a different school district or through independent online schools
 - for Richmond, we have Richmond Virtual School (which is a hybrid-model)
 - more details to come as we hear more from the Ministry
- g. Queries from parents:
 - SOGI info: was this shared with parents? Can students opt out of it?
 - Not the specifics but admin can provide that for any parents who are interested
 - Yes, students can opt out (just let office know if child will be absent from school)
 - School scholarships and district scholarships: are they different? Is financial need a requirement?
 - Yes, they are different. District ones are a voucher (\$1250 scholarship)
 - No, financial need is not a requirement, but can be a consideration
 - Indigenous Studies will be a prerequisite starting 2023-2024 school year?
 - Moving forward, as part of the Truth and Reconciliation process the graduation program will require students to have at least 4 credits related to Indigenous Studies. This is new information, so more details will be coming
 - PLT – If and how the general parent population was engaged in the process? Were the ultimate decision makers the teachers? Do parents have an avenue to voice their concerns?
 - the 1st time (last year): it came about fairly quickly for everyone and didn't have a whole lot of time to a conversation and make the discussion
 - this time (this year): had more time, therefore the formal survey was sent out
 - no, teachers didn't get to decide if PLT was happening (rather it was the district); teachers at each school got to decide how it was going to be set up
 - the survey's purpose was to give parents the opportunity to voice their concerns
 - Spring Dance dress code, formal or semi-formal (showing up different on Instagram vs. WAAG)?
 - not sure, will check Mr. Mah and let parents know
 - How many PLT surveys were received?
 - don't have exact numbers – about 2000 district-wide, perhaps 200 from SLSS
 - Will there be a Gr.10 Spectrum trip?
 - currently, the district is not supporting overnight trips, but suspects it may be reviewed

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** no new updates

7. **NEW BUSINESS:** no new updates

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

- a. Currently, no meetings taking place right now but will continue to check-in regularly for any updates
- b. Volunteer needed to represent our PAC. The district PAC is hosting Zoom meetings that are accessible to the public. Follow them on Facebook for more information about what's going on at the district level.

9. **DRY AFTER GRAD (DAG)**

- a. Date for the Grad Dinner/Dance has been tentatively set for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Tsawwassen Springs. Traditionally, DAG (Dry After Grad) follows the dinner dance in the late evening into the early morning at the school. This drug/alcohol free and safe event is coordinated by parents for the students.
- b. questions, comments, or to volunteer contact Leanne Santha, DAG co-chair: 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 April 13, 2022

Meeting adjourned at: 7:55pm