



## PAC Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

- **Meeting convened at:** 7:00pm
- **Participants:** 33 attendees
- 1. **WELCOME:** Held in person in the SLSS Library
- 2. **INTRODUCTIONS**
  - a. PAC CHAIR - Mr. Alaric Wang
  - b. PAC VICE CHAIR - Ms. Kelly Hambleton
  - c. TREASURER - Ms. Eliza Ko (regrets), Ms. Shelina Bindra
  - d. SECRETARIES - Mr. Ed Hung, Ms. Shirley Lim
  - e. DPAC REPRESENTATIVE - Mr. Volker Helmuth
  - f. MEMBERS-AT-LARGE - Ms. Dora Groumoutis, Ms. Marlene Wu
  - g. PRINCIPAL - Ms. Annie Varghese
  - h. VICE PRINCIPALS - Mr. Nik Nashlund (left after introductions), Ms. Bronwyn Fackler (regrets)
- 3. **BUSINESS MEETING:** (*Mr. Alaric Wang*)
  - a. Adopt minutes from June 14, 2023 meeting
    - i. *1st motion:* Dora Groumoutis      *2nd motion:* Shelina Bindra
  - b. Adopt agenda for September 20, 2023 meeting
    - i. *1st motion:* Ed Hung      *2nd motion:* Dora Groumoutis
- 4. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** (*Ms. Annie Varghese*)
  - a. The school community, staff and students are grateful for the PAC's support in the previous years and look forward to continued support for the 2023-2024 school year.
  - b. This year, SLSS is potentially the largest secondary school in the District, with over 1,200 students. The school had to hire additional staff and add more subject blocks to support the increased enrollment. The school's goal is to accommodate students who live in the catchment, however, the increase is reaching the physical capacity of the school.
  - c. Tomorrow (September 21) is Grade 8 Parents' Night. Parents are invited to attend the information session at 5:45pm, followed by a tour of the school, and meeting the teachers at 6:45pm. The parents will also have the opportunity to attend the subject block system (e.g. ABCD) in 10-minute blocks so that they have a feel of what the Grade 8s experience. Students are encouraged to make use of the support that the school provides.
  - d. The first Pro-D Day is on September 22. Connections Class is on September 27. There will be teacher conferences for two days during the semester.
  - e. September 28 is Grade 12 post-secondary information night. Students in Grades 10-12 can reach out to Ms. Digeso (Career Information Advisor) for more information on post-secondary and volunteering opportunities.
  - f. The first interim update will be available in mid October. The update will look different than previous years because of new Ministry guidelines in regard to proficiency skills.
  - g. There are 260 Grade 12 students this year, and is one of the largest graduating classes of SLSS. The Grade 8 intake this year is comparable to the previous years. The increase in enrollment is mostly from Grades 9 to 12. The school saw an increase in international students (likely due to the lifting of COVID restrictions) and the proportion of domestic and international students this year is about 50-50.
  - h. Please reach out to Ms. Varghese, Mr. Nashlund and Ms. Fackler if you have any questions.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT:** *(Ms. Shelina Bindra)*

- a. PAC submitted the Gaming Grant application and expects to receive the funds in mid October. The grant is approximately \$20,000 and is based on the school's student enrollment.
- b. The current bank balance is slightly below \$2,500. All cheques have been cleared and there are no outstanding payments.

**6. RICHMOND DISTRICT PARENTS ASSOCIATION REPORT** *(Mr. Volker Helmuth)*

- a. The DPAC Secretariat reached out to confirm SLSS' representative for this new school year and Mr. Volker confirmed that he will continue to be the school's representative.
- b. The DPAC has its own funding and uses it to organize presentations, speaker nights, information sessions, and workshops on PAC roles for the district's PACs. The DPAC liaises closely with the school board, and provides input for key decisions such as the hiring of the district superintendent, as well as related advocacy work.
- c. All parents can attend DPAC meetings.

**7. NEW BUSINESS** *(Mr. Alaric Wang)*

- a. World Teachers Day breakfast - October 5, 2023
  - PAC hosts breakfast for the teachers in the morning.
  - There will be sign up sheets for parents to contribute food and beverage for the morning. As well, there will be slots for parents to help out with the set-up the day before, and hosting the teachers on the morning of October 5.
  - There are about 60 teachers and 20-25 support staff, so PAC can plan based on 80 people.
  - The information will be sent through the school in its weekly WAAG and direct emails to the parents. The aim is to finalize both sign ups by September 30.
  - Based on last year's experience, dropping off contributions the day before will make the actual morning less chaotic.
  - Parents can contact Mr. Alaric Wang if there are questions.
- b. Grade 8 camp transportation summary
  - The school is waiting for a revised invoice from the bus company, and will forward it to PAC for reimbursement when received.
  - Before COVID, PAC has been supporting the Camp Leaders by covering the bulk of their camp fees. These leaders are usually Grade 11 or 12 students who organized, planned and led the camps over three days. Starting this year, there were changes to the Gaming Grant Funding Guidelines and PAC funds can no longer be used to support individual camp leaders. To continue with the tradition of supporting the Grade 8 camp while adhering to the guidelines, PAC will fund the transportation costs for the camp.
- c. Ideas for meeting topics this year
  - Past topics include mental health and online security. PAC is asking parents for ideas or suggestions on topics for this year. Please reach out to me Mr. Alaric Wang.
- d. Mode for future PAC meetings - the intention is for them to be in person. PAC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September to June. Dates are published on the school's website.
- e. How does PAC support Grade 12 grad events? PAC provides some support to the Dry After Grad Committee (DAG) but is not directly involved in the grad events. The Grad Committee, which consists of students and teachers, organizes all the grad events such as winter formal, boat cruise, and the formal dinner and dance. The DAG organizes the social event after the formal dinner.

- f. Venue for AP exams - SLSS hosts the AP exams for the courses that it offers in the school. The district schedules the AP exam venues so students who take AP courses that are not offered in SLSS should contact the district for more information.

-----  
For more information on PAC or if you should have questions for the PAC, please contact: [pacslss38@gmail.com](mailto:pacslss38@gmail.com)

**NEXT PAC MEETING:** Wednesday October 11, 2023 - mode to be determined

**Meeting adjourned at:** 7:54pm