



Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting Minutes

DETAILS:

PAC MEETING	Virtual PAC Meeting
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting
DATE	Monday, February 22 nd , 2021

PAC Executive:

PAC Chair: DJ Craig
 Vice Chair: Tanja Phillips
 PAC Treasurer: Lakhbir Johal
 PAC Secretary: Colette Mende
 District PAC Representative: Lakhbir Johal

COMMITTEES:

Canadian Parents for French ("CPF"): Tamsin L.
 District Parent Advisory Council ("DPAC"): Debora Z.
 Dry Grad Committee: Pam W.S. and Faye K.

Attendees:

Online MS Teams Call – 12 Participants including Principal, PAC Executives, CPF Rep, Dry Grad Committee and parents
 Absent: Tanja Phillips, Debora Z. (DPAC)

2020/2021 PAC MEETING DATES

2020	October 26th 2020, 7:00 pm (AGM, Budget & Elections)	
	November 30 th 2020, 7:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)	
2021	January 25 th 2021, 7:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)	May 31 st 2021, 7:00 pm (Virtual Meeting) June 21 st 2021, 7pm
	February 22 nd 2021, 7:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)	June 21 st 2021, 7pm September 27 th , 2021, 7:00pm
	March 29 th 2021, 7:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)	September 27 th , 2021, 7:00pm
	April 26 th 2021, 7:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)	October 25th 2021, 7:00 pm (AGM, Budget & Elections)



Parent Advisory Council

Minutes

7:03 PM

Call meeting to order – DJ Craig

7:04 PM

Move to accept agenda – Colette Mende 1st and 2nd by Tamsin L., all in favour

7:04 PM

Motion to accept minutes from January 25th meeting 1st by DJ and 2nd by Sarah K.
All in favour.

7:05 PM – 7:34

Ms. Claudine Davies- School Principal's Report - February – What's Happening at EMS:

Course Planning update for 2021

- Course planning included combining efforts for Grandview and EMS
- Course planning continues for one more week * important to ensure all students get selections in!
- Current total student enrolment estimate for next year is approximately **1400** students
- All of the out-of-catchment applications that were sent in before the deadline have been processed
- EMS could be losing up to 25 staff members

COVID Update:

- Noticing overall level of COVID fatigue
- Continuing to update our COVID protocols with the most recent announcements
- Currently, all students and staff are required to wear masks when not seated or standing at their desk
- We have had a good response to all mask wearing in the building, looking forward to the better weather after Spring Break, allowing students to spread out more in the open air
- No changes to protocols with the current noted variants. EMS continues to instill awareness by making regular announcements to keep everyone current and mindful of the existing protocols
- Ms. Davies addressed the issue raised at the last meeting of concerns in the time delays in reporting COVID positive incidences. In the case of EMS, asymptomatic cases were not discovered until another family member tested positive. Therefore, the student who was asymptomatic continued to go to school until the family noted a positive case. Fraser Health addresses family cases by tracking first symptoms and back dating 2 weeks.

Events/Themes:

- This week, Feb. 22nd – Feb.26th, in addition to the traditional Anti bullying day EMS is launching Acceptance Week – Each day this week will be recognized with a different colour and theme, encouraging all students and staff to show their kindness and school spirit.



Parent Advisory Council

Events/Themes continued...

The themes include:

1. Monday, Feb 22nd - Students were asked to wear black to support anti-racism
2. Tuesday, Feb 23rd - Students to wear blue to acknowledge Mental Health
3. Wednesday, Feb 24th - Pink Shirt Day, supporting Anti-Bullying and Inclusiveness
4. Thursday, Feb 25th - Students to wear green for the environment
5. Friday, February 26th - Students to wear rainbow colours to support acceptance

Social Media Concerns and Conflicts:

- Over the last month EMS has noticed an increase in Social Media concerns particularly for Grade 8 & 9's.
- Due to the current COVID environment EMS is noticing an increased use of devices at school, as well as more evident free time to access at home all of which is bringing some negative behavior and interactions online between the students. EMS Principal and staff have designed a 3 week guidance plan to address this focusing on Social Media habits with Grade 8 and 9 students.
- To address this will include the following actions:
 - A letter will be sent home to all of our Grade 8/9 parents advising of the themes that will be addressed and inviting families to work with the school to develop positive social media habits for all of our students.
 - For the next three weeks, EMS administration want to challenge all students to track the amount of time they are spending on Social Media sites, and be mindful of the messages that they are posting.
 - Introduction of daily themes will be made through discussion questions, video clips, and Digital homework challenges.
 - EMS administration will be sending out the link to the 'selfless' a documentary about Social Media, and in particular the world of selfies. The movie follows the mental health impact on teenagers of living with this constant comparison. It also follows a family who live off the grid and how their teens view themselves. This is a good opportunity to show and educate the students on the varied impacts of social media and mental health.
 - Teachers may use different clips and have different discussions in each class however; the theme for each day will be the same.
 - Parents may choose to also watch the film 'selfless', which has been sponsored for our viewing through PAC, or follow along with our daily focus, as this is a shared concern for the students. Some themes in the film should be discussed together, as they are not necessarily shared values or ideas with everyone (Please view it using a "critical lens"!).

Link: [selfless](#) Password: **AlwaysBeselfless2021**



Parent Advisory Council

- It is recommended to watch this film as a family, as it has many current and important messages. There is some information and messaging that parents may need to discuss as a family, as it may not be in sync with personal values or opinions.

Questions for Claudine Davies after Principal's Report

Question: Question was posed on how parents get access to the link for "Selfless"

Answer: The school will be sending details this week, while the focus at school will be grade 8 & 9's all families will be given access and encouraged to view.

Question: Question was posed can we share this in the PAC minutes and school newsletter?

Answer: Ms. Davies will review since PAC minutes and newsletter is accessible by general public we may need to have to provide the link to a more closed environment.

Question: A question was posed if the school would consider banning use of phones in class?

Answer: Due to COVID use of phones/electronics in class is used more frequently for various learning requirements. However, the administration is looking at implementing some challenges i.e. phone free periods/days.

Question: Question posed re EMS losing up to 25 teachers, is this due to Grandview opening?

Answer: No not due to the new school it is the natural attrition of younger teachers being disbursed throughout the district and the decrease in students due to the opening of Grandview.

Question: What is the expectation for afternoon classes online? Are students expected to be in contact with the teacher daily?

Answer: Yes Monday and Fridays students should be always be available; Tuesday and Thursdays depending on teachers schedule there may be reduced requirement but in general all learning hours are expected to be used for engaged learning.

Question: For on line learning can teachers only have contact 1 x week?

Answer: Teachers are limited to 10 students coming in so yes, normally that is only 1 x a week.

Question: If we have cohorts in September can we make sure that core academic classes be taught in the am?

Answer: With more time to plan, all department heads will be requested to complete preference list for the time tables. The hope will be that the scheduling will focus on optimal time assignment of classes.



Parent Advisory Council

7:35 PM

Chair Report

DJ Craig – Chair report

- Thanked all PAC executives for their time expended to carryout roles, feels we are all doing our best given the environment
- Hoping for a more back to normal in September – we will continue to work within our means to fulfill the PAC role and support EMS administration

7:36 PM

EMS Treasurer's Report- Lakhbir Johal

EMS Pac Account Balances as @ February 22nd, 2021:

1. Admin Account \$4,394.41

- Mainly from Parent PAC online donations
- Received and deposited chq from Surrey School District for \$438.00

2. Dry Grad Account \$2, 651.47

Pending 2 payments:

- 2019-2020 Dry Grad Scholarships \$500 each
 - Updated Faye about the funds in account, the deposits left in lieu of funds in account are for this year's dry grad class.
- Discussed the \$1000 left for 2020-2021 Ulysses Scholarship - waiting for names from Ms. Canino

Total Available: \$151.47

3. Gaming Account \$42,041.54

4 cheques were written and cashed this month:

- 1) Youth Care Workers – food and supplies
- 2) Youth Care Workers – bus passes
- 3) Administration – Selfless Workshop
- 4) English Department – Writing Contest

- Approved budget for 2020-2021 was \$37,400; we have paid out thus far \$12,909.70 and still have approximately \$18,690.30 still outstanding to pay out.
- Action request: Please remind teachers and staff to get their cheque requests in prior to Spring Break for reimbursement.

Question: Is the Ulysses scholarship funds for last year?

Answer: There is an amount outstanding from last year however the current planning is for this year.



Parent Advisory Council

7:58PM

DPAC Report – Debora Z. absent emailed report

Highlights from DPAC meeting held January 27th, online zoom meeting - presented by Lakhbir Johal:

- 2 Resolutions are being put forward –
 1. FSA's – Grade 4,7 & 10's – looking at how to address the contentious issue of the Fraser Institute scoring and ensure parents understand the importance to understand where their children are in terms of the curriculum milestones.
 2. Unique funding for Surrey School District – specifically the district portable costs of 4.5 million. It is felt that this should be a provincial cost as it is infrastructure costs and takes away a significant amount of funding that should be available for resources and kids at need.
- DPAC is putting on a Mental Health presentation on March 2nd -
 - Focus will be on different ways to understand our kids brain development
 - Key presenter will be Dr Shimi Kang* an award-winning Harvard-trained doctor, researcher, media expert, keynote speaker, and author of the #1 national bestselling parenting book The Dolphin Parent. Dr. Kang is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia, founder of the Provincial Youth Addictions Program at BC Children's Hospital, and the past Medical Director for Child and Youth Mental Health for the city of Vancouver.

**Link for Dr. Kang's Dolphin Kids Virtual Presentation Registration:*

https://ca01web.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5lodu6rqTsjGdTSTBvJVxW85s3eql5Uauxc?fbclid=IwARoOjB_OtfdWyOCR54kHx_x-PDpYQ97Wbgo6Wm188is3ngoMhEkAdiHUHxc

Question: How and why are teachers influencing parent to not have children write FSA's

Answer: It is being communicated as optional but should not Surrey district has a very low participation of approximately 52% vs. other districts at 92%. The perception needs to be changed.

Other points from DOAC meeting minutes:

The District report has been provided online. Please check the link bellow for District updates:

<http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/District-News-DPAC-meeting-January-2021.pdf>



Parent Advisory Council

DPAC Report continued...

- Michelle Schmidt – Student Support Director of Instructions addressed some parents concerns and answered some questions, such as what is an IEP (Individual Education Plan), who is who in the Student Support Team, and who a parent should contact first, if they believe the IEP is not being followed or implemented as it should be by the school. According to Ms. Schmidt, the parent should always start with the class teacher, then the Principal of the school, and then, escalate to the District Superintendence if the initial approaches resulted unsuccessful.

Individual Plan of Education Guide for Parents can be found in this link:

<http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Individual-Education-Plan-Guide.pdf>

Who is who in the District Student Support Team can be found in the following link:

<http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Student-Support-Honeycomb.pdf>

- Clarification was made that the PACs that are willing to participate in the BCCPAC AGM and haven't paid the fees yet won't be able to vote.
- **Next DPAC meeting to be held online, via ZOOM, on this coming Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021 at 7pm. All the parents are welcome.** Please visit the DPAC website to consult the agenda and click on the link bellow to pre-register your attendance:

Future meetings scheduled:

April 28, 2021

May 26, 2021: AGM

7:50 PM

CPF Report –presented by Tamsin L.

CPF tentative dates for the Grade 12 Awards (graduating FRIM or Core French students):

This month – information sent to all Surrey high schools

April 19 – 4th quarter starts

May 3 – Deadline for students to return applications to CPF

May 17 – CPF judges deadline for chosen recipients

May 25 – First Surrey high school commencement

The CPF Awards are open to all students taking French language; it is not solely for French immersion students.

DELTA Exams – awaiting information, last year Grade 12's missed the ability to write in the spring due to COVID as there was not enough time to initiate a virtual testing environment. The hope is that this year there will be an online opportunity. Awaiting updates.



Parent Advisory Council

Question: A comment was made to inquire why EMS has dropped French Immersion Math 11 & 12 taught in French.

Answer: Each school plans differently which courses make up the French credits for the immersion program. Many feel that math is an English subject. EMS has now introduced 2 new programs that provide these credits. Entrepreneurship and Careers, the view is that these courses provide more opportunity to utilize French.

8:01 PM

Dry Grad-Pamela W.S.

- Current view is that there will be NO Dry Grad activities allowed as per the district update. Therefore no fundraising allowed
- It is felt that the grads should have something to look forward to date very little activities outside of spirit days. Continue to try to see what kind of fundraisers could be done to fund some sort of "gifts" for the grads. i.e. t-shirts, swag bag/box, or gift cards
- Other options to explore if acceptable –
 - Corporate sponsorship
 - Issue is gaming license – any online funding would require gaming license without it would put school at risk of losing/sanctioning gaming funds for future years.
 - Donations do not require a gaming requirement
 - Ask all EMS families to donate if able either in cash or gift card donations?
- White Rock Grant was discussed – told specifically that it must be used for Dry Grad event – should raise to see if they would reconsider as this is a unique situation. Last year grad class had to pay back the grant.
- Tax Receipts can only be issued if it is a PAC donation but not if it is noted a dry grad donation.

8:13 PM

New School/Grandview Heights Update

- Expecting approximately 1000 students
- Currently in process of hiring staff –
 - 25 Teachers
 - 40 Support & Admin staff
- Course scheduling will be same as EMS current planning of cohorts and quarterly program



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8:15 PM

Guest Speakers /Presentations–

- As noted Movie “Selfless” documentary to be presented to Grade 8 &9’s and made available to all EMS families
- General invitation for suggestions for other Guest Speakers - other options discussed at previous meeting were: Hilaryp – Therapeutic Comedy to change your world, focus is on inclusion, build self-confidence and overcome life’s anxieties. White Hatter – not considered a good “virtual fit”

8:16 PM

New Business/Questions:

Question: Recommendation to place a motion to consider making a “donation” of unused gaming funds to the dry grad accounts to cover scholarships (\$1000) for next year and legacy gift (\$1000). Given that this year’s grads have had next to no fundraising capability

Answer: Lakbhir will review and report back at next meeting if there are any restrictions in doing so. In general it was felt to be a good idea. Lakbhir clarified that gaming funds cannot be used for gift cards or Technology.

8: 25 PM

Move to Adjourn

****Next Meeting: March 29th, 2021****

Teams meeting Link:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Additional Information: Surrey School District -

*[Community Forum & Budget Consultations 2021](#) *Not discussed at PAC meeting*

In late February, the Surrey School District typically holds an in-person community forum and invites PAC representatives to attend sessions to learn more about the budget and other key priorities. In the interest of health and safety, the [2021 consultations](#) have been moved online. The presentations are pre-recorded so they can be viewed safely at home from this [web page](#).



Parent Advisory Council

This year's agenda includes:

- [Introduction](#) (Surrey Board of Education)
- [Budget 2021](#) (presenter: Simon Ayres, Assistant Secretary Treasurer)
- [Blended learning](#) (presenter: Assistant Superintendents Andrew Holland and Christy Northway)
- [Capital projects](#) (presenter Dave Riley, Director Capital Project Office)
- [Closing](#) (presenter: Jordan Tinney, Superintendent)

Consultations

Surrey Schools is inviting all staff, students, parents and members of the Surrey, White Rock and Barnston Island communities to learn about and provide input on the 2021-22 district budget. Participants can share their feedback via an [online survey](#), or reach out to us through email (consultations@surreyschools.ca), traditional mail or your local Parent Advisory Council representative. The survey will run until end of day, March 12.

It is important to remember that while the majority of the district's budget is pre-allocated to operating and capital costs (i.e. school construction, additions, seismic upgrades, teachers, educational assistants, programs/services and supplies); there is some room to address priorities identified by the community. This can include anything from funding scholarships, to classroom enhancement funds to new programs and social initiatives.