



Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting Minutes

DETAILS:

PAC MEETING	Virtual PAC Meeting
LOCATION	Virtual Meeting
DATE	Monday, January 25, 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"): Deborah Zilber
 Dry Grad Committee: Pam Wilson Sydor and Faye Karvat

Attendees:

Online MS Teams Call – 11 Participants including Principal, PAC Executives, CPF Rep, DPAC Rep, Dry Grad Committee and parents

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)



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Minutes

7:17 PM

Call meeting to order – DJ Craig

7:18 PM

Move to accept agenda – All in favour

7:19 PM

Motion to accept minutes from November 30th meeting by Lakhbir second by Tanja Phillips.
All in favour.

7:20 PM

Claudine Davies- School Principal's Report - January Update – What's Happening at EMS:

January News – COVID Update

- Managed Christmas COVID impact - difficult situation for students, families and staff
- Reviewed all risk exposures and revised all PE protocols/guidelines and implemented increased mitigation and control measures.
- PE guidelines were also reviewed by District and released today – key points/measure include;
 - Masks can and should be worn in all activities including PE
 - Increased cleaning of all shared equipment throughout the day
 - Limitation of high cardio activities particularly non distanced
 - No invasive games
- New system of reporting exposures at school
 - Fraser Health (FH) have changed communications, how they inform schools -
 - FH will no longer release a school bulletin at the end of an exposure
 - Self-monitoring and self-isolation letters will first be reviewed by school principalThis is an improved process as the school is more informed of the students contact and movement

Course Planning - September

- Current estimate of total students enrolled for September, 2020 = 1400 Students, a 25% decrease from current enrolment
 - Estimate 200 Grade 8's which is a significant decrease from prior years (from 400)
- All cross boundary applications will be reviewed by all south end schools prior to spring break
- First virtual parent info night held for grade 8 students – 140 parents attended
- Currently planning for a Quarterly/Learning cohort system for September
 - This can be easily flipped to a semester system should the opportunity arise
 - With more planning time there should be an improved course match in cohorts and balancing as well as allowing for specialty programs (Inquiry, Accelerated math).
 - The hope is to increase face to face teaching time for Grade 10-12 and return to a typical schedule quickly.



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Quarter 2 Ending

- Q2 ends this Friday January, 29th
- Two completion days Thursday & Friday to finish projects/assignments
- Report cards available on MyEd, Friday, February 5th
- Grade 10 are completing their Literacy Assessment this week
- Mr. Ratslaff is moving to Richmond School District to become Principal
- We will welcome Ms. Farquhar from Kwantlen Park Secondary as our new Vice Principal. Kirsten Farquhar has extensive experience in the district and initially completed her student teaching at EMS.

Questions for Claudine Davies after Principal's Report

Question: A participant inquired on the Fraser health changes –particularly, what is it that you do differently (other than student, teacher privacy)? Specifically raising the issue that the time lag was too long and therefore likely resulting in more COVID contacts.

Answer: Claudine gets a security code to check on a particular student who has tested positive to ensure the right communication is sent out. Claudine noted that it is very helpful if a parent phones and tells them they have tested and allows the school to speak to the teachers. This allows for a much quicker communication to inform parents which allows everyone the ability to decide what they want to do which in turn equates to timely and better decisions.

Question: Have there been any notable impacts on student performance and/or engagement due to the quarterly structure 3 hours per course?

Answer: Overall kids seem to be doing well. The teachers have noted that they are not able to cover as much material in the afternoon classes versus am due to attention spans. However, they have also noted fewer behavioural issues which could be part of the more structured program (only 2 places to be and same cohort).

Question: A question was posed related to the FH letter and the media's message, clarification on was it 50 cases or 50 kids? In addition the letter sent on January 11th seemed to indicate that a lot of kids did not return, was January attendance way down and has it bounced back?

Answer: Claudine confirmed it was 50 students/staff in the school. 50 people have however not come forward. The letter was alarming, and confusing for all including staff. Prior to Jordan Tinney's letter, Claudine met with staff to ensure it was handled carefully. The first week was focused on compassion and understanding. Everyone needs to decide what they can and cannot do and the school is there to support them (1st week approximately 30% did not attend). Week #2 was focused on encouraging to come back (approximately 10% did not attend), and the 3rd week they saw that pretty much all were back, very few that did not come back at all. It certainly was an unsettling event;



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Claudine has spoken to colleagues around the district who have had more cases but not all at once as EMS did.

Question: Question related to how can the PAC help get the message out to parents that their involvement in communicating directly with the school can make a difference – suggestion that something be stated in the newsletter.

Answer: Claudine stated it would be a good idea to include some communication in the EMS Newsletter and will action.

Question: How does the school manage the distancing during lunch hour?

Answer: It is difficult but students are wearing masks outside. The most risky time is in the first 10- 15 minutes when they meet up with friends then they tend to spread out. If students stay inside they must remain in their am cohort class. There are also regular PA announcements reminding students of expected behaviour. Fraser Health states the safest is in their academic class at desk facing one way wearing a mask.

Question: Question was posed about current bullying activity (face to face and online) seem to hear less, are you seeing less?

Answer: In general fewer behaviour referrals this year, not sure perhaps due to the more structured environment and less interaction will all kids. Social media is still a concern and the social media presentation will be held in Q3, it is still an ongoing concern. It does not mean less is going on it could be more subtle or they are just hearing less of it.

7:45PM Chair Report

DJ Craig – Chair report

- Expressed thanks to all PAC executive members and contributors
- Emphasized again that we are here to support the school in all ways that we can

7:51 PM EMS Treasurer's Report- Lakhbir Johal

EMS Pac Account Balances as @ January 26th, 2021:

Dry Grad Account \$2, 651.47

- Pending three 2019-2020 Dry Grad Scholarships \$500, 2 x \$1,000
- Cleared 2020 Legacy Gift of \$2,020.
- **Total Available: \$151.42**

Admin Account \$3,956.41

- Mainly from Parent PAC online donations



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Gaming Account \$43,441.53

- Cleared purchases by Band Department – drum set and saxophone, Youth Worker expenses, Christmas Hampers, iPads for BASES, Band, and Youth Worker
- So far approximately \$14,000 spent from 2020-2021 Gaming Funds

Question: An inquiry was made if teachers are requesting their approved funds, is it slower?

Answer: Only 13, 682 has been requested to date, in general slow compared to prior years. More than 50% of approved funding is still outstanding.

Action: Claudine will remind/encourage teachers to fulfill their funding requests.

Re Gaming Funds: We have 3 years to spend the gaming funds so we are fine, we should perhaps consider higher funding amounts next year, recommend that teachers put forward full requirements to be considered.

7:58PM

DPAC Report – Debora Zilber presented

- The DPAC Meeting was held online, via ZOOM, on November 25th
Minutes: <http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/DPAC-GM-Minutes-2020.11.25-draft.pdf>
- Next meeting to be held January 27th - all parents welcome to attend
Agenda : <http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/DPAC-agenda-2021.01.27.pdf>
Future meetings scheduled:
Feb. 24, 2021
April 28, 2021
May 26, 2021: AGM
- November meeting presented “Hilarapy Presentation” a unique brand of comedy therapy
More details can be found here: <https://hilarapy.com/>

If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact info@surreydpac.ca

More information about DPAC is available at www.surreydpac.ca.

Other:

- Lakhbir reminded all that BCPAC is looking for resolutions inviting all PAC's to bring forward resolutions for consideration.
- BCCPAC offers Scholarships that EMS Grade 12 students are eligible to apply for through our PAC membership. Asked Ms Davies to provide information to Grade 12 that such a scholarship is available to them.



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8:02 PM

CPF Report –presented by Tamsin Lehn

- CPF had a short meeting on Jan 14; discussed 2 main topics:
- \$200 per school is available from CPF to fund a French cultural event during the month of February. Limited opportunities this year in what can be done but encourage all schools French departments to think about what they can do for the students. They can submit details of that event or item to CPF and it can be reimbursed.
- CPF funds student awards each year to Grade 12 students, for use in post-secondary. CPF will contact the schools directly this spring and provide the opportunity for students to apply for this. In previous years, there have been short essay applications and questionnaires. It is expected that this year's application will be a questionnaire. CPF will ensure that we include all FRAL 12 and core French 12 students, even if they attended French or Français in Q1 or Q2.
- More details will come directly to the school

8:06 PM

Dry Grad-Pamela Wilson-Sydor

- Trying to see what can be done, has been speaking with VP Mr. Cohen
- There has been a restriction on most activities
- Permission for plant sale by catalogue for fundraiser is possible but limited use of funds
- Surrey School board no events planned
- Extra spirit days will be planned
- May use funds for a gift for the unique year? Prior year purchased gift cards (Best buy etc.)
- Waiting for the next EMS grad zoom meeting
- Looking at possibilities of a Zoom dry grad? Goodie bags, gift cards etc.
- Suggestions included calling it a "Virtual Gala"
- Cautioned re fundraising activity if no source for funds. Gaming grant requirements for any raffles, 50/50 draws – must be very specific.
- Reminded of last year's funds held in deposit – should request what vendors could offer in lieu/virtually?
Deposits Held:
 - \$5,269.22 Vancouver Party works
 - \$283.34 DJ Services
 - \$300 Rick Mearns Magician
- Legacy Gift should be planned

8:12 PM

PAC BBQ - On Standby



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8:13 PM Grandview Heights Update

Lakhbir provided an update:

- Correspondence will be sent out soon
- Construction is approximately 80% complete
- Course selection to be completed March 1st (some good offerings; dance, French, band, co-op etc...)
- No Grade 12's in first year
- Mascot has been confirmed – Grandview Heights Grizzlies
 - Colors – Browns
 - Refer to Twitter account

8:17 PM

Guest Speakers /Presentations–

- Prior guest speaker session was a success
- **Q3** - Movie - “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.
- Other options discussed -
 - Hilarapy presentation <https://hilarapy.com/>

Details: **Using the Power of Therapeutic Comedy to Change *Your* World**

- Hilarapy's proven Seven Secret Steps to mine comedy from your own difficult lived experience
 - How to discover powerful tools to build confidence and overcome life's anxieties as well as learn meditation techniques, visualization, and breathing exercises to give your life balance and serenity
 - How to use comedy therapy tools to access the transformative power of humour (even if you've never written a joke)
 - How to use therapeutic comedy to transcend limited beliefs and negative thinking
 - How to truly 'own' who you are and change your world
- The White Hatter? Prefer to bring him back when assemblies are allowed does not think it would be a 'virtual' fit

8:26 PM

New Business

- No comments

8: 27PM

Move to Adjourn by DJ. All in favour

****Next Meeting: February 22, 2021****

Teams meeting Link:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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