

To the Sullivan Heights Parent Community,

Hello,

My name is Darrin Winning. For those that don't know me, I am the current PAC President/Chair. I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to the entire parent community. I have had the pleasure and privilege of being involved in the Sullivan Heights School Community for the last 9 years. I joined the PAC on day one and found myself taking on the role of President in Year 2, so it's been quite the run!

For those that haven't been involved in PAC before, below is an excerpt from our Constitution & Bylaws that explains the PAC role:

The purposes of this organization shall be:

1. To promote the interests of public education in general and, in particular, the interests of Sullivan Heights Secondary;
2. To contribute to a sense of community within the school and between the school, the home and the neighbourhood;
3. To provide leadership within the school community and to promote the involvement of parents in all aspects of our children's education;
4. To promote issues enhancing the education and welfare of the students and encourage parent participation in the school;
5. To assist the principal and staff in ensuring that the highest safety standards are maintained within the school and neighbourhood;
6. To encourage and support programs in the school which promote the involvement of parents;
7. In consultation with the principal and staff, to organize activities and programs where appropriate;
8. To raise funds as needed to purchase equipment and materials and to support programs for the school;
9. To assist parents in obtaining information about the school, and in communicating with teachers and administration about their child's progress or other concerns;
10. To provide a forum for discussion of educational issues at the school, district and provincial levels;
11. To advise the school's administrators of parents' views on school programs, policies and facilities;
12. To advise the district parent advisory council (DPAC) of members' views on district and provincial policies, and to make recommendations where appropriate;
13. To promote a positive image of the school within the local community and the Surrey School District at large.

I have had two daughters graduate through the years and currently have one remaining daughter in Grade 11. This means that my time at Sullivan is very quickly coming to an end. The 2024/25 year will be my last. As such, the time has come that it is imperative that a new parent take over the role of Chairing the PAC. In addition to myself, the current PAC Treasurer (Avinash Maniram) also has one remaining child in Grades 11 and will be departing the school community in the 2024/25 year. Essentially, this means that the core of the PAC executive will need to be taken over.

These are volunteer positions but crucial to the overall operation of the school community - most notably, in assuring that the School receives funding from the BC Gaming Commission. This is the primary source of funding for costs that go outside of the standard Provincial and District provisions. These Gaming funds are used to support school clubs, sports teams, musical and theatric productions, students in need of additional assistance as well as a variety of field trips and school beautification projects. With a school of 1900 students plus, this Gaming fund amounts to approximately \$38,000 each year. A functioning PAC is a requirement of the Gaming Commission for the receipt of Gaming funds. Without intending to be ominous, if the PAC ceases to exist after our departures, those Gaming funds will not be available to the school community and the number of extra-curricular activities will be drastically impacted.

Some of you have had experience in Elementary School PACs. The High School PAC is a very different experience. We really only meet 6 times a year and those meetings (outside of the first of the year) never take longer than 1 hour (usually no more than 45 minutes). As a PAC executive, there are some additional volunteer time commitments, but nothing excessive.

As you may have surmised, I am writing to you today to appeal to the parent community at large for someone to step up and volunteer to take over the executive roles:

- President
- Vice President (currently unfulfilled)
- Treasurer

There are also some sub-committee roles that remain currently unfilled:

- Communications
- DPAC (District PAC)

In a perfect world, all of the roles would be taken over this year (2023/24), so that the current group of executives can assist in the transition. At this time, I invite anyone interested in being more involved in the school community and ultimately ensuring that our children's education needs are enhanced, to reach out to me directly at president@sullivanstarspac.ca to discuss the roles and responsibilities in more detail.

I thank you all for taking the time to read this and look forward to assisting in the transition to a new generation of parents taking an active role in our youths' education.

Sincerely,

Darrin Winning - PAC President

Avinash Maniram - PAC Treasurer

Beth Cameron - PAC Secretary