

**Mount Sentinel Secondary PAC
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday April 6, 2009
Held at Winlaw Elementary School**

Attendance: Katia Dolan, Susan Wilson, Nat Barabonoff, Stacy Kabatoff, Kathie Varney, Kim Drew, Jan Brown, Sally Mackenzie, Andy Leathwood (Principal), Kristi Crowe (Principal)

Regrets: Jenny Henri, Barb Lindsay Trustee

1. Welcome/Call to order/Additions to agenda

- Katia Dolan welcomed those present at 6:35 pm.

Presentation by Kristi Crowe, Principal of Winlaw Elementary

- During the recent literacy development plan, it was determined that residents of the Slocan Valley are one of only a handful of communities across the province who do not have access to a public library. The BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) provides Community Connections Grants to school districts who partner with local municipal governments to provide services to the public. Our school district applied for a grant and together with the RDCK and the City of Nelson have created the Nelson Public Library Pilot Project to provide services to Slocan Valley residents using Winlaw Elementary school as a pick-up and drop-off point.
- The Project is now up and running ☺ Residents of the Slocan Valley will have to purchase a membership (\$45/person for one year, \$23/person for ½ year – all school aged children receive a free membership) from the Nelson Library which will give access to the province wide network of books, videos, DVDs, magazines, etc. available. People can order library resources online and pick them up at the Winlaw School. People can also drop off their books back to the Winlaw School, not only from the Nelson Library but library resources from across the province can be dropped off at Winlaw school.
- The Nelson Library will be set up at Winlaw School on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 pm for the public to come and view library resources. Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) will be hosting events such as Family Literacy night, where families will be encouraged to come to the library. The Nelson Library will also be hosting training sessions at Winlaw School. Sessions such as how to use the online order system, wild bees and homework help for students will be open to the public on Thursdays. For a complete list of upcoming training sessions please visit <http://nelson.bclibrary.ca>

2. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of minutes from March 2 by consensus

3. Principal's Report

1. Project Cuba — we had a fascinating trip, staying with two families in the interior of Cuba, and getting a glimpse of life in a poor socialist country. The people are generous, welcoming and vibrant. The social networks provide the basics, and the "revolution" is front and centre in everything. We did get the opportunity to provide much service, as in past trips, as the people are exceptionally self reliant. It was a very valuable learning experience for everyone.

Andy added that the school will be working with the Cuban government to provide additional experiences for students next year.

2. Course Selection — students will be choosing programs for next year the week of April 14-17. Teachers will describe program offerings and counselors will be available to go over grad credits. I strongly encourage all parents to talk to their son/daughter about courses for next year, and to call one of our counselors if they have questions.
3. Satisfaction Surveys — students have filled them out and we encourage parents to do so as well. We use the results for school planning, in conjunction with classroom assessment and other information.
4. Trades Orientation — our grade 11's attended a trades orientation at Selkirk College last week. Hopefully it will improve the knowledge of students in trades offerings.

The school is talking with FortisBC and local logging companies to expose students to various apprenticeship opportunities in the electrical field and heavy equipment operation.

5. New programs for next year:
 - Quest for Community — this will be an "academy" where students in grade 12 spend a full semester with one or two teachers, exploring issues related to sustainable communities, social justice and service. We will be presenting this to the Board for approval in May.

When approved, this program will be unique in the province. It may attract post secondary institutes to collaborate with schools.

- Peace and Youth Culture 12 — this is an online course developed by Tamara Malloff and offered through DESK. Tamara is teaching the first section of it this semester.
6. Girls soccer and club volleyball are up and running.
 7. We are still planning on a trip to Europe in late May.
 8. At the same time, other students will be involved for two days in alternate learning activities such as canoeing, kayaking, dance, horseback riding etc.

Beyond the Classroom will take place on Thursday and Friday May 21 and 22. Beyond the Classroom will give students the experience of learning outside of regularly held classes. PAC is pleased to provide up to \$2000 towards this initiative.

9. Andy Leathwood, Shelly Malloff and Kathie Knapic were sent to Vancouver to give a presentation on the collaborative teaching practices our staff uses. They gave their presentation during a web cast that was viewed at over 60 sites by educators across the province. The web cast focused on Assessment for Learning to help struggling students.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Gaming - \$7482.90/ Regular - \$3091.25

5. Secretary

- Correspondence:
 - BCCPAC AGM notice and resolution booklet

6. DPAC

- Next DPAC meeting will be April 23 starting at 9:00 am at the Nelson Board Office.
- The district surveyed parents and employees to determine if they'd like to continue with the two-week Spring Break. 61% of parents agreed with having a two-week Spring Break. The district will present various strategies to offer an extra week including having staff do their Pro D days in the summer. The board must circulate the proposed calendar for approval before by May 31.

- The district is currently going through a Transportation Review to find efficiencies in providing busing to students. Some areas the district may be looking at is centralized school bus stops, reducing the walk limits to schools and bus stops and stopping out of catchment bussing. There was a lot of discussion around out of catchment bussing and how that could affect several families who share custody of children. The consultants will be holding public meetings to discuss with parents what levels of busing service is expected and needed. They will then present their information to the board the first week of May. The Board will have to decide what changes are to take place, and when.

7. Trustee

- Barb Lindsay sends her regrets.

8. School Planning Council (SPC)

- Next SPC meeting will be Thursday April 23 at 4:00 pm. The Council will review the several pieces of data to include in May's School Planning Day.
- Due to work commitments, Jenny Henri is no longer able to be an elected parent rep to this council. SPC meetings are open to all parents.

9. Gaming Funding Update

- Katia shared with the group the Gaming Funding spreadsheet to date.

10. Healthy School Committee Report

- The meeting on March 3 was attended by Andy and three teachers. Susan was unable to attend, but will attend the next one.
- The Committee talked about three items: Healthy Foods, Sexual Health and Daily Physical Activity (DPA).
- The Committee reviewed what's being offered in the canteen and vending machines. It was decided to keep the prices as low as possible, sacrificing some of the profit margins. Healthy foods generally cost more.
- The school currently uses a resource binder recently created by the district's Sexual Health Committee, to provide information to teachers who are teaching Sexual Health. Currently teachers in Grades 7-10 have been trained by the district to provide an age-appropriate Sexual Health program to students. There has been discussion at the district level to include Grades 11 and 12 as those students have been asking for more detailed, specific sexual health information.
- Daily Physical Activity (DPA) has been mandated by the Ministry to provide 150 minutes of physical activity to secondary students. This has been problematic as the ministry also requires documentation. The school is working on a web based blog format for students to record their minutes. Currently, the school offers 4 times daily for sports activities and there are yoga, dance and martial arts clubs.

11. 2009 Survey Results

- There was a question around PAC executive members allowing their names to go into draws for PAC purchased prizes. All agreed that executive members should be encouraged to put their names into draws and ensure a non-PAC member is on hand to draw winning name.
- There were a few typos and missed calculations which Susan will fix. Results will be posted on the web site and shared with school staff.

- Susan and Sally will go over the survey results and pull out a couple of key areas to share with staff at the School Planning Day.
- There were several comments about the school's web site. It has been recently updated so parents may not be aware. It was decided PAC should create a newsletter for the next round of report cards to inform parents of the updated web site, where PAC spends its money and other areas of interest. Susan will ask Sue when the newsletter must be submitted by.

12. Grad Bursary Committee

- We have \$1000 for the bursary this year. Bursary amounts will be determined at May's PAC meeting.
- Bursary committee is Nat, Maria and Katia.
- Susan will send the application form to the counseling department after Easter weekend. Grads have until Friday May 22 to submit their applications.

13. Festival Nelson

- A letter was sent to PAC from the Festival Nelson organization suggesting PAC could offer a \$250-\$300 award to a Mt. Sentinel student who participates in Festival Nelson.
- Several questions were discussed. Stacy graciously offered to look further into this.

14. BCCPAC Resolutions

- BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils is holding their AGM from April 30 – May 3. DPAC will be holding a BCCPAC Resolutions meeting, to debate the resolutions put forward to the AGM, on Thursday April 16 at the school board office from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Recommendations will be shared with PACs.
- It was decided PAC will hold their own Resolution meeting to review the recommendations from DPAC and provide voting instructions. Stacy offered her home on Monday April 20 starting at 6:30 pm.

15. Assessment Committee Report

- Tabled until May, when Glen can come and share more information.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 pm

The next Mt. Sentinel PAC meeting will be Monday May 4, 6:30 pm at the school.