

**Mount Sentinel Secondary PAC  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday December 1, 2008  
Held at Mt. Sentinel School**

**Attendance:** Katia Dolan, Susan Wilson, Wendy Niminiken, Jan Brown, Sally Mackenzie, Kathie Varney, Nat Barabonoff, Stacey Kabatoff, Barb Lindsay (Trustee Elect)

Regrets: Jenny Henri, Andy Leathwood (Principal)

**1. Welcome**

- Katia Dolan Chairperson, welcomed those present at 6:00 pm to the PAC Christmas Party, and invited everyone to share in refreshments

**2. Call to order/Approval of Agenda**

- Called to order at 6:35 pm
- Added 13.) Gifts for Staff, 14.) PAC Christmas party costs and 15.) PAC Survey

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of minutes from November 3 by consensus

**4. Principal's Report**

- Report Cards – first formal report cards went out on Friday, Nov 21. If any parents have concerns, please suggest they contact the subject area teacher. We have a committee in the school who is looking at how we report our grades, and will be looking at making some changes for next year. The District also has a committee to look at this, and Glen Campbell and Shellie Maloff are on this committee.

*There were several comments around Report Cards. Susan explained how some marks such as attendance, homework handed in, etc. do not accurately reflect a student's knowledge of a subject, thus the review of how grades are calculated. Other comments included few teacher remarks in a Secondary school report card.*

- Volleyball Provincials – we hosted the Single A girls Provincial Tournament from Nov 27-29. It was a great affair which ran very smoothly. A number of teachers and parents volunteered a great deal of time to make this event happen, especially Joe Moreira. Our girls won the bronze medal. Our Senior Boys travelled to Kelowna for the AA provincials, and came 13<sup>th</sup>. Any parents whose son or daughter played volleyball at any level should thank the coaches.
- Nov 10 Professional Day – staff was together on that day to discuss issues related to assessment and grading. It was a very valuable day, and many discussions have carried on about the best way to facilitate learning. We will carry on discussing these issues at each staff meeting. Teachers have formed collaborative partnerships and are working on projects related to our school goals. Our school is being recognized in the District as a leader in these areas.
- Reading and Writing Assessment – all students in grades 7-9 have gone through a reading and writing assessment. The entire staff (all that were available) got together to go through the writing assessments in grades 8 and 9, and discussed trends they saw. A small team of teachers is going through the reading assessments, and all of the data will be analyzed to identify classwide trends. We will then meet in grade groups to discuss what we have found, and try and come up with strategies to deal with literacy issues in all subject areas. Our plan is to meet several times throughout the year to discuss the students in each grade, as we find the collaboration very effective in improving student learning.

*It was explained that these assessment have provided valuable information to teachers, who have been able to alter their teaching strategies to help students raise their class marks, although a desire was expressed to have the older students included in this assessment. There was a concern students may feel "dumb" after taking this assessment, with some opting out.*

- Basketball – we will be getting basketball practices up and running by next week. There should be boys and girls teams at all levels – 7/8, 9/10 and senior.
- Rafe Mair – Rafe Mair is in the school today with our grades 11 and 12 to discuss independent power projects, and issues related to resource management.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

- Gaming - \$10220.11/ Regular - \$2610.67
- A SportsFunder cheque was disbursed from Gaming

## 6. Secretary

- Correspondence:
  - Draft policies currently being field tested: #102, Board Meeting Procedures, #115 Communication Protocols for Trustees, #200 Prevention of Violence in the Workplace, #320 Scholarships and Bursaries. These can be viewed on the school district web site's main page under "Draft Polices" – [www.sd8.bc.ca](http://www.sd8.bc.ca)
  - Celebration Central Party Supplies information
  - Letter from Superintendent Pat Dooley regarding student transportation review
  - Reo Rafting Resort information
  - Colin Christopher, The Hypnotist info sheet

## 7. DPAC

- Next DPAC meeting will be on Thursday December 18 at 9:00 am at the Nelson Board Office, 570 Johnstone Rd. The DPAC Christmas Party will take place on the same day, starting at 11:30 am. All parents are invited to join senior staff, trustees and SD8 employees in a light lunch and door prizes.
- DPAC is asking PACs for feedback on Full-Day and Pre-Kindergarten. The Ministry of Education recently announced an interest in providing these programs. Discussion took place around Kindergarten readiness and who would be responsible for providing this program: Early Childhood Educators or classroom teachers?
- DPAC is looking into surveying parents, in partnership with local childcare societies, to gather a broad perspective of this topic. More will be discussed the December 18 meeting.

## 8. Trustee

- Barb Lindsay was introduced as our Trustee Elect. She will be sworn in and take office at the December 9 Board of Education meeting.
- Barb welcomes parents to contact her. Please visit her web site: [www.barblindsay.com](http://www.barblindsay.com)
- It was asked of Barb to be accessible to parents to receive input on issues, and have those issues be brought to the board table on behalf of parents.
- Barb was asked the two questions Mt. Sentinel PAC prepared for the November 5 forum but were unable to ask:

1.) What do you see your job as school trustee to be?

Barb: To listen to the school community – especially students. Wants to provide the best education possible while meeting the needs of students. Feels students learn best when they are connected to something meaningful.

2.) What is your experience in financial and budgetary management?

Barb: Handled classroom budgets while teaching in this school district. More recently was head of the English Department for Early Learning for a private school in the Middle East. Is familiar with setting goals and dealing with limited resources.

## 9. School Planning Council (SPC)

- Wendy explained what an SPC is and how it works within the school.

- Sally Mackenzie expressed an interested in being the third elected parent to this council.

#### **10. Gaming Funding Update**

- Joe Moreira provided an explanation surrounding the PA system he requested funds for.  
**MOTION:** To approve Gaming Funding Committee Recommendation #8 for a PA system to the amount of \$800.  
Jan/Wendy – Carried

#### **11. Poinsettia Grad Bursary Fund Raiser Update**

- Susan and Wendy are pleased to announce 216 plants were order, raising over \$1000 for the Grad bursary.
- Plants will be delivered on Friday December 5: Sally to help from 4:00 – 5:00 pm, Jan to help 5:00 – 7:00 pm.
- It was agreed upon to give secretaries Suzanne and Sue each a poinsettia for all their help with this fund raiser.

#### **12. Healthy School Committee – request meeting with parents**

- Susan will contact Andy, Glen and Joe to set up a meeting with the Healthy School Committee.
- Aimee Ward and Denise Waurychuk, Selkirk College nursing students interested in our Healthy School Committee will also be contacted.
- The Healthy School Committee will discuss not only food in the vending machines, but also topics like sexual health and daily physical activity.
- An announcement will go out via email when the meeting date/time is set.

#### **13. Gifts for Staff**

- Secretary Suzanne Morris is leaving Mt. Sentinel to be the Student Services Coordinator for the school district. She'll be leaving in December. Teacher Ron Konkin is retiring in December.

**MOTION:** to purchase a gift for Suzanne up to \$100

Katia/Jan – carried

**MOTION:** to purchase a gift for Ron Konkin up to \$50.

Sally/Stacy – carried

- Nat offered to organize the gifts. It was suggested a Spa package for Suzanne and Home Hardware Gift Certificate for Ron.
- Suzanne will be invited to supper with parents, to express individual thanks for all her support of students and parents over the year. Parents will be notified of the date/time.

#### **14. PAC Christmas Party Costs**

**MOTION:** PAC support the cost of the food for the Christmas Party up to \$75.

Nat/Jan – carried

#### **15. PAC Survey**

- Mt. Sentinel PAC has surveyed parents and students over the past several years. The current survey results are posted on the web site - <http://www.msss.sd8.bc.ca/pac07.htm>
- Survey should be ready to go into report cards being sent home on February 13.
- Susan will ask parents via email if anyone is interested in helping compile survey questions. A draft survey will be presented at the January 2009 meeting.
- Parents will also be survey via email regarding the meeting time, with the possibility of the February meeting being held right after school.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:45 pm**

The next Mt. Sentinel PAC meeting will be Monday January 12, 2009 at 6:30 pm