

**MOUNT SENTINEL SECONDARY SCHOOL
PAC MEETING – MINUTES
Monday June 11, 2012**

Attendance:

Jan Brown	Kathie Varney	Susan Wilson
Linda Verishine	Glen Campbell	Natalie Barabonoff
Katia Dolan	Wendy Niminiken	Barb Lindsay
Shellie Maloff	Stacey Kabatoff	Carrie Reilly
Darlene Falle	Maria Klement	Sally Mackenzie

Year End Celebration was a great success. Many thanks and best wishes were bestowed on Katia Dolan for her countless years involved with the Mt. Sentinel PAC helping students and families. Her energy and passion will be missed!

1.) Call to Order/Introduction/Additions to Agenda

- Susan Wilson (Chair) called meeting to order at 6:35 pm, welcomed all attending and introductions were made

2.) Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- Previous minutes of May 7, 2012 were accepted

3.) Principal & Vice Principal Reports

- Budget & Staff Updates

The district changed the Per Pupil Funding (PPF) formula this year resulting in six staff layoffs: Travis Sherstobitoff (Sequoia), Ruby Peppard (Quest), Tekki Brown-Hrynw, Jacqueline Skands, Corey Scott, Laurryn Gerzymisch. Many senior elective courses are affected. Art, French, Mechanics, Quest are specialty classes which have been directly affected by staff layoffs.

Last year Mt. Sentinel was funded based on a 16:1 PPF, but this year it will be 18:1 resulting in a loss of 25 blocks. Class sizes need to be around 23 students per class to meet this new PPF formula.

Grade 7 student numbers for 2012/2013 are very low. Only 35 enrolled so far (23 from Brent Kennedy, 10 from Winlaw Elem. & 2 from Robson Elem.) which is contributing to the difficult staff decisions. Distributed Learning through Distance Education School of the Kootenays (DESK) is an option to solve some of the low enrolled courses for senior students.

Glen is working with district senior staff to ensure the quality of education at Mt. Sentinel is not affected by these budget cuts and asks for our patience as he works out staffing solutions. First meeting will be Tuesday June 12 to discuss where Mt. Sentinel is with the changes happening due to the budget cuts and what can be done to deal with the shortage of staff for specialty classes such as art, French, mechanics, etc. There may be forced district transfers to ensure core subjects will be offered which could include the transfer of teachers away from Mt. Sentinel.

The low enrollment numbers is forcing the school to look at more multi-aged classes to make the ratio/funding work and still keep senior elective courses running. Multi-aged education focuses on learning ability rather an age group. There is no academic difference between a single class or multi-age class and about half of the blocks at Mt. Sentinel already offer two or more grades in one. Staff is fully prepared to embrace multi-aged learning and shift focus from traditional classes to new skills, creative thinking/problem solving, ability, inquiry based and theoretical based learning.

There were questions around how exams, grade credit and levels fall look with the multi-aged model of teaching. There is no anticipated difference to how exam or grades are handled and some areas in BC are currently teaching in this new model with very good success and interesting results. To support this new model teaching the staff, parents and students need to understand the changes. This change to multi-aged learning will be a daily, on-going effort and not be crammed into Pro D days

- Student Transportation

There will be an information meeting to be held at Mt. Sentinel school on Monday June 18. Larry Brown and Kim Morris will be on hand to answer questions parents have about the changes to the bus routes and the new rider fees. There were concerns over the short notice given to parents about this meeting and the PAC will do everything they can to ensure as many parents in the four Slocan Valley Schools are notified.

Rider fees will be charged beginning in September 2012 for students using a bus to take them to an out of catchment school. The annual fee is \$200 and there were many concerns expressed over families unable to pay this additional fee.

The district is reviewing bus routes in our area. The North to South routes (Slocan to the school) seem to be ok at this time however East & West (Nelson/Bonnington to Glade/Shoreacres) routes will be affected. There is talk of eliminating the Nelson to South Slocan bus affecting 17 students currently attending Mt. Sentinel. Unfortunately, there are no proposed routes for the public to discuss and its hopeful the district will share something at the June 18 meeting.

These changes are designed to streamline the bussing system and has the potential to eliminate some out of catchment bus routes. Currently 116 students are transported out of the BK/Mt. Sentinel catchment into Nelson. There was some discussion as to why choose to send their students out of catchment but there is no clear answer. Those parents in SD 20 who choose to send their children to BK and Mt. Sentinel will face additional bus fees in that school district, on top of the \$200 from SD 8.

The PAC will write a letter to Larry Brown expressing parents' concerns about the proposed busing changes and fees.

- New look to the school day come September 2012

Shellie Maloff announced that the block schedule will be changed to a Balanced Time Table - three blocks/105 min per block with two 35 minute breaks. These will be called "nutrition breaks" allowing student to eat twice a day. The hot lunch program is expected to run during one of these

breaks. The Breakfast program is also expected to start up again in September.

- 2012 Graduation class – 68 graduates will be leaving the school. Best wishes to these young adults on their new journeys!

4.) Treasurer's Report

- Regular: \$1137.60
- Gaming: \$4553.05 - there are still a few cheques to be written

5.) Secretary Report

- Purdy's Fundraising brochures
- BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils magazines
- QSP Family Reading Program & fundraising magazine
- BCCPAC Spring magazine
- BC Teachers' Federation – Teacher magazine May/June Issue

6.) DPAC Report

- June 21 Parent Celebration starting at 5:00 pm with regular meeting to follow. Anyone interested in attending please RSVP to DPAC Secretary Sheri Walsh at sheridpac@gmail.com

7.) Trustee Report

- Barb Lindsay voiced her concerns regarding all the bussing and budget issues. She was surprised at the poor communication and found everything unsettling. She is very unhappy with the decisions being made and the lack of respect in the district.

8.) School Planning Council

- The council has not been very active this year as a result of the teacher job action. For further notes, please read the Principal's report.

9.) Gaming Funding Update

- Quest: allotted \$1000 for financial hardship and \$500 for horticultural program. There are concerns Quest has over spent their allotment.
- The honourarium does not fall within the gaming funding criteria and this will be the last year we can offer Quest this allotment.

Motion: PAC allow Quest to use the honorarium portion of their gaming allotment towards any Horticulture Program expense overage.

Kathie Varney/Sally Mackenzie - carried

10.) PAC Survey Results

- Winners of the draw are:
 - 1) Dig Garden certificate: Danielle Jackson
 - 2) Home Hardware –Winlaw: Anne Weir
 - 3) 4 Seasons Greenhouse – Dawn Enns

11.) Staff Appreciation Lunch

- Staff appreciation lunch date set for Tuesday June 19
- Volunteers are needed to help out early in day to get the lunch organized.

MOTION: PAC support the staff appreciation lunch up to \$200.

Stacey Kabatoff/Jan Brown – carried

12.) Changes to School Courses 2012/2013 season

- Please refer to the Principal & Vice Principal Report

13.) Grad 2012 Update

- Cap & Gown Ceremony will be Friday June 15 starting at 7:00 pm at the school.
Luncheon on Saturday June 16 at the Prestige. Grand march at the school starting at 3:00 pm.
- Volunteers are needed to help organize both Friday and Saturday events.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 pm

NEXT PAC MEETING: Monday, September 10, 2012 - 6:30 pm
Everyone is welcome to attend!!!!