

**Mount Sentinel Secondary PAC  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday October 6, 2008  
Held at Mt. Sentinel School**

**Attendance:** Katia Dolan, Susan Wilson, Wendy Niminiken, Jenny Henri, Jan Brown, Glen Campbell (Vice-Principal), Joe Moreira (Teacher), Penny Tees (Trustee), Aimee Ward and Denise Waurychuk (Selkirk College nursing students), Don Warthe (Teacher), Heather Shippit (Teacher)

**1. Welcome/ Sign In/ Additions to Agenda**

- Katia Dolan Chairperson, welcomed those present. Meeting called to order at 3:35 pm

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of minutes from September 8 by consensus

**3. Presentation: Healthy School Committee**

- Aimee Ward and Denise Waurychuk, Selkirk College nursing students presented a letter to PAC expressing their desire to work with the students and parents through the school's Healthy School Committee
- The Student Nursing Program can provide support to schools to help meet the health needs of students
- Secondary students were surveyed on subjects such as stress, STDs, etc. A copy of the results were circulated and will be made available via email
- Joe Moreira and Glen Campbell will head the school's Healthy School Committee (HSC)
- The HSC will oversee areas such as the vending machines, canteen and the new daily physical activity requirements
- Students and parents are welcome to join the committee, and an invitation was extended to the two student nurses. Parents can contact Glen for the next HSC meeting date.
- Joe shared some ideas and concerns about the vending machines:
  - Few secondary schools are in full compliance with the Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools Guidelines (Guidelines) due partly to a lack of supply of foods that meet the Guidelines.
  - Mt. Sentinel School is in compliance, but students are not pleased with the limited selection and thus sales are down this year. Students are choosing to go to Burger Brake and Maple Leaf store.
  - The food and beverages currently being offered cost more, so the school is raising less funds than before. The idea is not only to raise funds for extra-curricular programs but to provide a service to students. There may need to be a price adjustment in the vending machines.
- There were questions about the water fountains. Mt. Sentinel currently has three fountains. The school's water comes from an approved well however the taste varied from fountain to fountain. The school has installed water cooling systems (not purifiers) and adjusts the water pressure to ensure water is not wasted by overflowing the fountains.
- Joe gave an update on the school's canteen. He operates it four days a week (Mon-Fri) by offering students a variety of meal options that follow the Guidelines as close as possible. This is in addition to the Foods Program's Hot Lunch program. On occasion the menu can be posted in

advance or announced the day before, however the canteen is run by volunteers so this is not always possible.

- There has been talk of students selling chocolate bars and cans of pop from their lockers. The staff is aware of the “chatter” but so far has not seen any selling going on at Mt. Sentinel. Staff will keep an ear out and deal with the students at that time.

### **3A. Presentation: Beyond the Classroom Project**

- Heather Shippit and Don Warthe submitted gaming funding requests for a project the entire school will take part in on May 21 and 22, 2009.
- Beyond the Classroom is all about students being given an opportunity to learn beyond the traditional classroom setting.
- The school is committed to two days of learning not in a classroom and may include such activities as bike riding on the Rails to Trails path, fixing up the courtyard and physical activities like swimming, bowling and yoga classes.
- Transportation will be required for those activities off school property.
- School district Maintenance has committed to restore the courtyard starting May 1, 2009. This has been many years in the making and students and staff are very excited about this project finally getting the go-ahead. Students will be working with Don Warthe on the new layout of the courtyard. Parents interested in helping can contact Don at the school.

### **4. Principal's Report**

- Glen filled in for Principal Andy Leathwood.
- The September 22 Pro D day saw a great deal of collaborative work, and self-directed goals. Teachers create a program or concept that engages students, then shares these ideas with colleagues creating excitement and a great deal of collaboration between staff members. A portion of each staff meeting is also devoted to staff collaboration.
- Teachers exhibiting a collaborative setting model good practices to students. Several teachers use a collaborative approach in their classroom showing students the value in it.
- A question came up around internet bullying. Glen shared that the Health and Career Education (HCE) program has some anti-bullying components built in. The school’s code of conduct also addresses how students are to be treated, and how they should treat others. When an incident happens off school property, but affects a school or students, staff can step up. If a parent is concerned it is recommended parents print off the offensive material (chat dialogue, photos, etc) and bring it to the attention of a staff member.
- On October 8, the Grade 7, 8 and 9’s will have an hour long presentation by Merlynn Horton of Safe OnLine Outreach Society (SOLOS). Merlynn’s presentation is geared at showing students how far reaching the internet can be: once photos and chat dialogue is posted it is on the web for ever.
- Computer teacher Ron Konkin will be retiring in December. Tamara Maloff will take over maintenance of the web site.
- The federal candidates held a forum at Mt. Sentinel School earlier today to engage students in the voting process. The school registered with Student Vote ([www.studentvote.ca](http://www.studentvote.ca)) a nation-wide program that encourages students to take part in elections. Students were given an opportunity to vote on their local federal candidates and results from schools across Canada will be shared after the federal election.

- There was a suggestion the school could do something similar with the municipal elections coming up.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

- Gaming - \$2210.44/ Regular - \$2610.15

## 6. Secretary

- Correspondence:
  - Various fund raising info
  - ArtStarts program application
  - Wildsight information on field trips
  - Garfield Weston Awards recognizing Mt. Sentinel as a School of Distinction in the category of Determination in Academic Achievement
  - Georama Growers' info about poinsettias
  - Devry Greenhouse info about poinsettias

## 7. DPAC

- Next DPAC meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and take place on Thursday October 30 at 6:00 pm at the Nelson Board Office, 570 Johnstone Rd. All parents are welcome to put their name forward for executive positions. The regular meeting will immediately follow.
- Nominations for the second annual Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence are now open. The deadline for nominations is November 21, 2008. Please visit <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/teacherawards/> for more information. Penny sat on the selection committee for last year's award and found it very exciting to see how many teachers are making a difference to students. Over 1500 were received last year with 30 prizes being awarded. Local teacher, Yvonne Dodd of Jewett Elementary was recognized for her contribution to the school and school community.
- The BCCPAC Fall Conference will take place from October 23-26 in Vancouver. DPAC is currently taking names of interested parents to are willing to attend. Please contact DPAC Chair Susan Wilson for more information – [swilson@direct.ca](mailto:swilson@direct.ca) or 250-226-7751.
- October 7 Merlynn Horton of SOLOS will be presenting Parenting in the Cyber-Age at Trafalgar school in Nelson starting at 7:00 pm. For more information about SOLOS please visit [www.safeonlineoutreach.com](http://www.safeonlineoutreach.com).

## 8. Trustee

- Penny shared with the PAC she will not be seeking another term as trustee after representing students and parents for 18 years. So far, there are three interested candidates. Nominations close on Friday October 10 at 4:00 pm. Penny found her years on the board to be a very rewarding experience. Penny will continue to assist school boards and districts through a consulting business. Her expertise can also be transferred to non-profit groups and municipalities.
- The school district financial statements were approved at the last board meeting. The district is in their final year of a 5-year debt repayment plan. This year's budget will be tight. Enrolment was higher than expected, but due to funding protection there won't be any more money coming for extra students. Enrolment is up primarily due to new families, especially in the Creston area.

*The Mt. Sentinel PAC would like to thank Penny for her many years of service as a trustee. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.*

### **9. School Planning Council (SPC)**

- The School Plan to Strengthen Learning has now been signed off by parents and staff.
- The school's goal is to "...improve the performance of vulnerable students" by working towards increasing the number of students who get 65% or higher in all classes and to get 95% of students to Dogwood Graduation.

### **10. Gaming Funding**

- Several applications have been received. A Committee will be struck to go through them and provide recommendations at the next PAC meeting.

### **11. Fruit and Veggie Program**

- Joe Moreira is the teacher in charge of this program.
- The first shipment of fruit (350 lbs of pears) arrived in late September. The food will be delivered once a month with a two-week supply. Storage will become an issue, as the cooler isn't big enough to accommodate the food. The school has applied for a grant to help purchase a fridge to store the food in.
- Joe shared that there's always been apples available free of charge to students, and this new program will compliment this.
- A question came up as to where the food is from. Joe shared that the food is BC grown, probably not from local growers but from the Okanagan.

### **12. Phone Tree**

- The PAC was asked to form a Phone Tree in the case of an emergency.
- Penny shared that the district is responsible for emergency procedures and crisis control and PACs should not be responsible for this task.
- Andy will be informed the PAC will no longer be working on a Phone Tree.

### **13. Updated email list**

- Susan and Wendy updated the email parent list.

### **14. Poinsettias**

- Wendy and Susan will contact the Grad Parent Council for assistance and report back at the next PAC meeting.

### **Meeting Adjourned 6:05 pm**

The Annual General Meeting was moved to Burger Brake so parents would have an opportunity to eat before the Slokan Valley PAC meeting.

The next Mt. Sentinel PAC meeting will be Monday November 3, 6:30 pm.