

**Mount Sentinel Secondary PAC  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday September 14, 2009  
Held at Mt. Sentinel School**

**Attendance:** Katia Dolan, Susan Wilson, Kathie Varney, Wendy Niminiken, Nat Barabonoff, Darlene Falle, Maria Clement, Jenny Henri, Marilyn Ayers, Sally Mackenzie, Tamara Malloff (Teacher-Librarian), Glen Campbell (Principal), Blair D'Andrea (Vice-principal)

**1. Welcome/Call to order/Additions to agenda**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of minutes from June 1 by consensus

**3. Acceptable Use Policy presentation by Tamara Malloff**

- Parents viewed a YouTube video "Vision of K-12 Students Today" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viHwBiEaJ6Y>) that showed the need for students to be able to express themselves digitally in public education.
- Tamara shared the updated Mt. Sentinel web site, highlighting the Social Studies 9 page where students can Wiki and Blog information and the Library and Media Centre ([http://www.msss.sd8.bc.ca/mtsnt\\_website\\_09/index.html](http://www.msss.sd8.bc.ca/mtsnt_website_09/index.html)). Many students today are very familiar with technology and are referred to as "Digital Natives" where most parents are simply "Digital Tourists."
- Tamara shared the recently updated Acceptable Use Policy, which will be signed by both students and parents prior to students using the computer labs. Students are routinely taught technical etiquette and the school does not allow social networking sites such as Facebook and MSN to be used. Students are told internet usage is a privilege not a right, and those privileges can be taken away if students do not conduct themselves in an appropriate manor.
- Students have access to both the library and media centre before school, during lunch hour and sometimes after school depending on Tamara's schedule.
- There is a push towards as much of a paperless culture as possible, where students can use technology to post their homework and take part in classroom discussions via blogs and Wiki pages. Some students prefer to participate in discussions via the computer as they do not feel intimidated standing in front of a classroom.

**4. Principal's Report**

- a) Inauguration Speech
  - Glen is very excited and happy to be Principal at Mt. Sentinel. He's spent 15 years being a Vice-Principal and is looking forward to working with staff in his new capacity. Glen shared how he's a life-long learner and will enjoy the challenge of this new position
- b) Report
  - He and the new Vice-Principal Blair D'Andrea worked over the summer, and Glen appreciates and welcomes Blair's new outlook and challenges.

- There are two new faces at Mt. Sentinel this year: Lauren Gerzymisch will take over the Art Department and Sacha Kalabis will teach Math and Science 9. Lisa Baccus will continue to work with Ms. Skands with the French program.
- There are 385 students, with several new enrolments from outside the district boundary area.
- Sports Day was a tremendous success. Kids were excited and participated in all activities.

c) Parent Open Night

- There was discussion around how the evening would look. It was decided to hold the evening on Thursday October 8 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for parents to come to the school and meet staff in an informal setting. PAC will organize hot dogs, veggies and drinks and the school will encourage students, especially those in Grade 7 and 8 to bring their parents. “Bring a parent, get a free hot dog” will be the tag line.
- Parents will ask for volunteers to roast hot dogs on the BBQ, and promote this event in the email reminders. The school will promote the event in the first newsletter to come out the last week in September, and on the web site.

**MOTION:** PAC support the Open Night up to \$400.00

Kathie/Sally – carried

## 5. Vice-Principal Introduction

- Blair D’Andrea expressed how happy he is to be part of the Mt. Sentinel staff and looks forward to building a positive relationship with students and parents.
- He’s already dealt with minor discipline issues and is impressed with the level of respect the students have for staff.

## 6. Treasurer’s Report

- Gaming - \$3045.81/ Regular - \$1788.54

## 7. Secretary

- Correspondence:
  - Draft policies for feedback
  - BCAA Teen Driving Strategies for Parents booklet
  - BCCPAC Fall mail out
- A letter from MLA Katrine Conroy was shared about the 50% cut to PAC gaming funds. Briefly, the Direct Access Grants to PACs was first given out eight years ago at a rate of \$20 per FTE student. This September there was an announcement that PACs will only receive \$10 per student, due to the economic downturn and the belief that the money will be spent “...in the classroom.”
- Minister of Housing and Social Development Rich Coleman was quoted in the Victoria Times-Columnist that he’s not heard many complaints about the change in funding. It was noted that many PACs have not met yet and were not able to make comments. It is expected the Minister will hear from parents expressing their disappointment in the next few weeks.

## 8. DPAC

- DPAC held a retreat in August to review goals for the coming school year.
- Next DPAC meeting September 24 at 6:00 pm at the Nelson Board Office. All parents are welcome to attend.

## **9. Trustee**

- No report

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

- A meeting date has not been set yet.

## **11. Gaming Funding**

- PAC will get an updated application form out to staff and student groups this week. Despite the reduction in Gaming funds, we expect to have some money to allocate this year.
- We will set a meeting date for the Gaming Funding Committee to review applications sometime in October, with an expectation the committee will come up with recommendations to PAC for the November meeting. Nat, Katia and Wendy expressed interest in the committee.

## **12. PAC Vision for 2009-10 school year**

- Katia requested feedback from parents and staff “**What do you consider is important for a Vision/Mission and/or Goals for PAC this school year?** (Vision/Mission could include what you see as the Purpose, Business, & Values of PAC)”
- Responses will be shared at the next meeting.

## **13. Nomination Committee – form/strike**

- It was decided to call for nominations via email and through the school newsletter. Susan will collect all names put forward for nomination and present them to the AGM in October

## **Meeting Adjourned 8:35 pm**

The next Mt. Sentinel PAC meeting will be Monday October 5, at the school. The AGM will start at 6:30 pm with the regular meeting to take place immediately following.