

Sands Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Location	Library and via Zoom
Meeting Date:	February 21, 2023
Meeting Time:	7:00 p.m.
Meeting Facilitator:	Roshael Slezash
Attendees:	<p>Vice President: Roshael Slezash Treasurer: Suzana Topic Secretary: Elaine Addison DPAC representative: Catharine Russell Dry Grad Liaison: Ken Charnetski Emergency Preparedness: Tony Nathan Principal: Rick Mesich</p> <p>Attendees: Gladys We, Deborah</p> <p>Regrets: Razia Khan</p>

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- approved

Principal's Update

- exciting to be meeting face to face
- Emma the Musical: The Sands Theater Program will be presenting "Emma the Musical" with Matinee shows on March 7 th and 8 th starting at 12:30 pm and evening shows on March 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th starting at 7:00 pm in the Canteen. The cast provided a sample of the production at the Fine Arts evening on January 26th. Tickets can be purchased at the school for \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. \$10.00 for children under 10 years of age.
- 2023-24 Timetable Decision Making: We are in the process of deciding on the schedule we will be adopting for the long term. The decision-making process will need to conclude by February 28 th when we need to inform the district of our decision. We have conducted several conversations with staff regarding the values we want to see in

our schedule moving forward and identified which schedule will best meet the needs of students and staff. Some of the values included:

- Manageable/Balanced workload
- Mental Health
- Continuity of learning
- Continuity of support

We are reviewing the surveys conducted last Spring by students, staff, and families and provided families with an opportunity to provide feedback via email over the past month. Families will be notified of the final decision by March 9th, prior to Spring Break.

- Course Planning 2023-24: The Course Planning process has started where we hosted a grade 7 Family Night and a Grades 8-11 Family Night in January. Ms. Macintosh and Mr. Randhawa visited the elementary schools in our catchment to guide the students on how to use MyEd to select courses and which courses are set and which courses will have some options for choice. Currently, Mr. Randhawa is visiting classrooms to review the process with our students in grades 8-11. We are hoping to have all course selections completed by Friday, March 3rd.
- Semester 2 Reporting Timeline: In the updated Calendar documented that was sent to families in January, the Reporting Timeline was adjusted to create a more informed process to make the Parent Teacher Interviews productive.
 - March 9th – Interim Reports posted for families whose children are receiving 60% or below with a plan for improvement.
 - April 25th - Mid-semester Report Card published.
 - May 9th - Parent Teacher Interviews (afternoon & evening interview opportunities)
- Indigenous Focused Grad Credit: As part of the Province of British Columbia's commitments to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), announced that it is implementing a new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement. Expected to take effect in the 2023-24 school year, this requirement will ensure all secondary students complete Indigenous-focused coursework before they graduate from B.C.'s K-12 education system. This means that students must complete a 4 credit Indigenous-focused course as part of the 80 credits required for graduation. As a result of this announcement by the Ministry of Education, students will have an opportunity to select from the following list of courses to satisfy the Indigenous-focused requirement and either their English or Social Studies requirement:
 - B.C. First Peoples 12
 - English First Peoples – Literary Studies + New Media 11
- Grad Wear Sales: The Grad Council will be creating an opportunity for Grads of 2023 to purchase Grad Wear from February 27th to March 10th. The clothing options will

include hoodies, sweatpants, toques, and Letterman Jackets. A link will be sent out to all grade 12 students and their families by next Monday.

- Pink Shirt Day – Wednesday, February 22nd: Tomorrow, February 22nd, is Pink Shirt Day where wearing a pink shirt signifies a stand against bullying behaviour. Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying after a grade 10 student was harassed and threatened for wearing pink. These students bought dozens of pink shirts and distributed them to their classmates to wear the next day. We are encouraging all students and staff to wear pink tomorrow to stand together against hurtful behaviour.
- Yearend Schedule:
 - Semester 2 End of Year Schedule
 - June 21 Day 2 9:30 am start Blocks B & D
 - June 22 Day 1 8:30 am start Office Hours (8:30-9:30 am) Blocks A & C
 - June 23 Day 2 Adjusted Schedule
 - June 26 “I” Day
 - June 27 “I” Day
 - June 29 Semester 2 Final Report Card published
 - June 30 Last Day of School
- Student Behaviour Concerns:
 - Since Winter Break, we have been dealing with student behaviours that are not kind towards their peers. We are experiencing students who are making hurtful and inappropriate comments that are racist, sexist, homophobic, and transphobic. There have been more and more instances surfacing where students are reporting their experiences. We are taking steps to educate our student body that making hurtful comments is not a “joke”, but is inappropriate and rude.
 - We held an Anti-Racism Symposium on February 6th and 7th facilitated by Angela Ma Brown who is an Anti-racism educator. Angela’s focus was to describe racism in all its forms, then empower students to be active witnesses. We are planning to have grade assemblies to inform our students of this issue and to educate them on being part of the solution. Staff will be provided with a script for future Flex Time to have an in-depth conversation with the students in their classes.
 - Our student-led Anti-racism committee has launched a campaign to promote our school mission that focuses on an inclusive and nurturing community. This issue is a societal issue and is now permeating our schools. One example is the theories of Andrew Tate who is a former Kick Boxing Champion and Tik Tok star who promotes violence against women. An experience Ms. Macintosh shares is at a grade 8 mentorship meeting; she discussed forms of hate in society. She

mentioned Andrew Tate and the male students reacted in a positive way while the female students were disgusted.

- We are investigating a family night on this issue to educate parents on what their children may be consuming on the internet. We need to deal with this issue as a community.
- Kudos to the anti-racism group for their ongoing announcements encouraging inclusion
- PAC member suggestion was to have mentorship group go to feeder schools to talk to Gr 7 students
- Hoping to begin an intramural sports program plans for next year
- Mental health program: will be more robust next year, PHE classes are implementing mental health info into classes

Treasurer's Report: Suzana Topic

- cheques signed and sent out
- a new batch will be sent out soon
- will get 3 signatories as soon as feasible

DPAC update: Catharine Russell

- initiative for sex ed curriculum to become standardized across province
- meeting is next Monday with trustees, all welcome to attend and ask trustee questions, can Zoom in too

Dry Grad update: Ken Charnetski

- Email sent out to all parents inviting all to participate and volunteer
- Tickets sales March 7
- entertainment booked and deposits paid

Emergency Preparedness: Tony Nathan

- spoke with Ms. McIntosh, there is some concern around frozen water bags, will look into the bin in warmer weather after spring break
- Sands in a designated shelter during a disaster

Next Meeting

- April 18, 2023

Adjourned: 8:34