

Sands Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Location	Online via Zoom
Meeting Date:	January 17, 2023
Meeting Time:	7:00 p.m.
Meeting Facilitator:	Suzana Topic
Attendees:	Chair: Razia Khan 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 Attendees: Gladys We, L. Shortridge, Deborah

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome: 7:14

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- approved

Principal's Update

- Family Hampers: Our school community created 23 hampers that were distributed to vulnerable families in our community. This initiative involved various staff and students and the efforts had a tremendous impact on the lives of others. Thank you to Ms. Watters and Ms. Kirby for leading this campaign.
- 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 28th when we need to inform the district of our decision. We will be reviewing survey data from last year, hosting feedback opportunities with our staff, and providing parents with an opportunity to provide feedback. We will be notifying our school community of the decision before Spring Break.
- Black Excellence Day: Today, the Sands Secondary School community celebrated Black Excellence Day, which recognizes the start of Black History Month. Sands Secondary

student, Dieulane Miller, was recognized for her artistic talents after submitting a design to be potentially used on the Black Excellence Day shirts. Her design won the competition and is now on all Black Excellence Day shirts. Congratulations Dieulane! Shirts can be purchased at <https://marigold-wrasse-pdwl.squarespace.com/>

- Course Planning: The Course planning process will be starting shortly where students will be making course requests for next year. It is crucial that students and families take time in their decision making as all decisions for how many classes we offer are based on these decisions. The timeline for the Course Planning process is as follows:
 - February 2nd Grades 9-11 Family Meeting (in person)
 - February 13th -28th Counsellors visit classes to guide students through the process to make course requests.
 - March 3rd Systems close to make individual selections
- Semester 1 Report Card: Semester 1 final marks will be released to students and families on February 9th. Report Cards will be viewable on the MyED Parent and Student Portals. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please reach out to the classroom teacher by email.
- 6. Long Block Days Schedule – January 25th and 26th: On January 25th and 26th, we will be adjusting our schedule to accommodate long blocks for teachers to provide students with semester ending assessments and projects. The schedules will be:
 - Wednesday, January 25th
 - Block B 9:30 am – 11:40 am
 - Block D 12:30 pm – 2:40 pm
 - Thursday, January 26th
 - Teacher Office Hours 8:30 am – 9:20 am
 - Block A 9:30 am – 11:40 am
 - Block C 12:30 pm – 2:40 pm
- “I” Days – January 30th and 31st: It is expected that students have completed all assessments prior to January 26th, 2023. Many teachers will have individualized marks cut-off dates so that students can organize themselves to have assessments completed for the end of the semester and to prepare for final assessments that may occur during the long block days. The purpose of “I-Days” is for students to work with staff to complete missing assessments due to extenuating circumstances such as a long period of absence due to illness. Students may also be invited by their teacher to demonstrate learning if they are failing a course and are within range of passing. Students are not expected to attend “I-Days” unless they have been invited by their teacher. Teachers will inform their students closer to the end of the semester regarding their attendance and participation in the “I-Days”.
- Grad Photos – January 16th-22nd: Artona Studios will be offering our grade 12 students the opportunity to take Grad Photos from January 16th – 22nd. Artona will be placing a

portable studio at Sands Secondary, so students do not need to travel to the Artona Studio in Vancouver.

- Grade 12 Parent Meeting: Ms. Sansregret, Career Counsellor, will invite Grade 12 parents to a virtual meeting on Wednesday, February 8th at 6:00 pm to discuss Post-Secondary applications and scholarship
- Gr. 7 parent night tomorrow, registration opens on Feb 6

Treasurer's Report: Suzana Topic

- nothing to report at this time, no invoices received

DPAC update: Catharine Russell

- presentation on mental health

Dry Grad update: Ken Charnetski

- November meeting, decorations were sorted and cleaned up last week, next meeting tomorrow

Emergency Preparedness: Tony Nathan

- emailing with Ms. McIntosh in November, trying to set up a time to meet during daylight

Other Business:

- Discuss returning to in-person meetings: the decision is to return to in-person with a Zoom link for those who can't attend

Next Meeting

- February 21

Adjourned: 7:48