

Sands Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Location	Library
Meeting Date:	September 19, 2023
Meeting Time:	7:06 p.m.
Meeting Facilitator:	Roshael Slezash
Attendees:	Chair: vacant Vice President: Roshael Slezash Secretary: Elaine Addison DPAC representative: Catharine Russell Dry Grad Liaison: vacant Emergency Preparedness: vacant Principal: Rick Mesich Vice Principal: Tom Inkster Regrets: Suzana Topic Attendees: Amanda Berera, Wisam Alkarawi, Defodji

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and introductions

Elections deferred until next month as not enough attendees

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- approved

Reading of Sands PAC Purpose of the Council: Roshael Slezash

Principal's Update

- New staff:
 - Tom Inkster – Vice Principal
 - Jenny Jimenez – Modern Languages
 - Justin Chang – Math & Inclusive Learning
 - Anh Huynh – Modern Languages

- Subreena Sidhu – Youth Care Worker
 - Kim Stringer -Education Assistant
 - Sukhpreet Sidhu, Education Assistant
 - Sheila Moleschi – Education Assistant
 - Katrina Smyth – LST & Math
 - Carly Fong – Education Assistant
 - Colin Abernethy – Counsellor
 - Ashley Ampuero – Spanish
 - Robert Taylor – Social Studies
- Although COVID-19 is not as concerning as it has been in the past, we still need to recognize that the virus is still in our communities and can be impactful on some people. The safety guidelines are like the guidelines from last June that include:
 - Washing your hands regularly
 - Sneezing and coughing in the crease of your elbow
 - Staying home if you are sick and follow the BCCDC Guidelines
 - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19>
 - Wearing a mask is a personal choice
 - If we can follow these guidelines regularly, then we will keep our school community safe from spreading COVID-19.
- School Upgrades:
 - Building exterior painted
 - Cameras upgraded and cameras added
 - Sound system mixer upgraded (Gym)
 - Office renovated
 - Library furniture upgrade
 - School telephone replacement – to come
 - Portable Chromebook Cart (Remedy)
 - Library Computers Upgraded
- Staffing
 - a. We have 1 vacant Social Studies, English and Leadership position for Semester 1 and 1 vacant Grad Quest and Learning Support position for Semester 2.
 - b. Our school population is at 720 students
- Grade Assemblies
 - a. We met with all students on September 12 th to review our Code of Conduct

expectations. The topics included:

- i. Personal responsibilities (academics, attendance & respect)
 - ii. Serious behaviour concerns (vaping/smoking, weapons, drugs, theft, damage to property)
 - iii. Cell phones
 - iv. Social media responsibilities
 - v. Being a positive digital citizen
 - vi. Academic Honesty
 - vii. Lockers
 - viii. Don't be a bystander
- Student Recognition Award
 - We are going to start recognizing students for their positive contributions to their own learning, to other people's learning and to the school community, in general.
 - Students will be nominated by staff on a weekly basis who observe students who meet and exceed the award criteria on a weekly basis.
 - Every Friday, students will be called down to the main office to accept their award and to learn the teacher who nominated them and why they were nominated.
 - For being recognized, students will receive a gift certificate to the Canteen.
 - Grade 8 Transition
 - a. August BBQ- Invited students and families to a community barbeque to reduce stress and anxiety over the first day of high school.
 - b. Mentorship Meetings – each grade 8 student will be in a small group with a senior mentor who will answer questions and facilitate discussions on various topics throughout the school year.
 - c. Grade 8 Retreat - students had a day to meet their peers, to experience team building activities and to develop strategies to help them navigate the high school culture.
 - Grad Boat Cruise
 - The Grad Boat Cruise will take place on Wednesday, September 20th . Ticket sales were sold up until yesterday at lunch. Tickets were \$150.00 which includes transportation to and from Coal Harbour, a buffet dinner, a 3-hour boat tour and a DJ for dancing. This is always a special evening for our upcoming graduates to start acknowledging their final year in public high school.
 - Students will arrive at the front of the school by 4:00pm to meet the buses. The buses will leave the school at 4:30pm to Coal Harbour. The ship will depart Coal

Harbour at 6:00pm and return to the harbour by 9:00pm. Students will return to Sands Secondary by approximately 9:30pm.

- Emergency Preparedness Bin:
 - Need to inventory bin contents.

- Received a recommendation last year from the Staff Committee regarding cancelling Parent Teacher Conferences as these meetings are not an effective way to communicate with families as they regularly do not see the families of students who are having difficulty. The COVID environment proved that there are other ways to communicate effectively without having face-to-face meetings twice a year. They feel that the PTI meetings have little to no effect on improving learning or meeting learning outcomes. We will be surveying parents/guardians to obtain their feedback on this issue before making a final decision.

- Athletics:
- Various athletic teams are starting for the Fall season. The teams running include:
 - Grade 8 Boys Volleyball
 - Grade 8 Girls Volleyball
 - Senior Boys Soccer
 - Junior Boys Volleyball
 - Senior Boys Volleyball
 - Junior Girls Volleyball
 - Senior Girls Volleyball
 - Swim Team
 - intramurals will start within the next month

Vice Principal

- Gr 8 BBQ was a success, the raffle was fun
- Retreat was on Friday, will send out a Google form to Gr 8 for feedback, observed students participating and a positive experience, meet others, team building at Deas Island park
- Mentorship: work to support Gr 8s, will formally start next week, learn from someone who is caring, compassion, take on topics that are important to the Gr 8, need to look into visiting Gr 7s

Treasurer:

- Principal will contact Suzana about sending request form out to the teachers

DPAC update: Catharine Russell

- Superintendent spoke for over an hour
- looking for parent input into report card reporting, no letters grades from 8 - 10
- looking at universal lunch program
- heavy respiratory illness year
- DPAC and district starting a new initial on safety in schools - 4 evening over Zoom: emergency preparedness, Delta Police liaison, emergency response in school, report on substance abuse
- BCCPAC membership renewal time
- Zoom licensing available for PAC meetings through DPAC
- Sands will host first meeting of the new year

Dry Grad update:

- no news yet

Emergency Preparedness:

- inventory still needs to be done
- bins have been insulated so temperature will not fluctuate
- need to look into the possibility of relocating to more solid ground

Next Meeting

- October 17, 2023
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Adjourned: 8:12