



MEETING NOTES

Attendees

Kimberley Rogers (Chair), Deidre Murphy (Co-chair/Secretary), Paula Marchese (Member at Large), Kelly McClaren (Member at Large), Terryanne Lyon (Member at Large), Manjit Aitken, Hazel Currie, Akemi Konings, Catrin De Groot, Kimberly Smit

Regrets

Carla Unger (Treasurer), Kerry Pridmore (VCPAC Rep)

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement

2. Reports

- No reports

3. PAC Allocation of Funds for School Archives Project

- As discussed at the last PAC meeting, the Alumni Association has been working with the school on establishing a place to house school archives, as well as to display school memorabilia and student work, and asked if the PAC would like to contribute.
- The idea of a PAC contribution was discussed and agreed in principle at the last meeting. Kimberley spoke to the Association and they have requested \$3350 towards the display case (total cost will be approximately \$20,000).
- The PAC Executive voted on this amount and put it forward to the wider PAC.
- Resolution put forward for the PAC to allocate \$3350 towards the display showcase.
- Resolution passed unanimously.
- A parent reported that some students have expressed disappointment that they are going to lose the space under the staircase (where the display case will go), as a place to sit and socialize.
- The school has talked to students about the use of the space, and while it may be the case that students won't value the archive as adults might, there is other space for them to hang out.

4. SD61 Budget 2021-2022

- The District is projecting a \$7.1 million deficit next year. This is a departure from previous years when budgets have been fairly stable.
- A link to a PowerPoint with details on the budget is available on the District website: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/91/2021/04/Budget-2021-2022-Special->

[Open-Board-SEcond-Reading-on-the-Floor-FINAL-REVISED-2021-04-13-003.pdf](#) (relevant information starts on Slide 10).

High-level summary:

- Reductions will impact administrative, teaching, clerical, and board office staff
- There will be a reallocation of funding for counsellors (not a reduction)
- Funding for utilities will be reduced, with funding for COVID-19 contingency
- Changes to inclusion/education assistant staffing
- The drop in international students has had a big impact on high schools in particular (resulting in less funding)
- The largest reductions are to music, with changes to music programs impacting middle schools more than high schools
- Changes to investments in technology (e.g. not investing in ChromeBooks, but in temporary teacher laptops and infrastructure)

Questions from parents:

- How will this impact band and choir at the high school?
 - Not at risk of band or choir being cut; the risk is if fewer students come from middle schools. The school can offer band and choir as long as there are enough students.
- Is there still a possibility of out-of-timetable classes no longer receiving funding (i.e. moving from head-count to course funding)?
 - It keeps being postponed. There aren't any concrete plans, but it's possible and would have an impact if it happened.

Music Education – Advocating Committee

- Paula (PAC rep and Oak Bay Band rep) talked to parents about a local committee that is advocating for music education.
- A recent meeting had over 120 people in attendance, including parents, teachers, and community partners (Tapestry Music, UVIC, Long and McQuade Music, etc.).
- A number of things are happening over the next six weeks until trustees vote, including a letter-writing campaign, a rally, etc.

Parents and caregivers who want to volunteer and participate in advocating for music education, should fill out this Google form:

group: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gUS6xw6cmxNoqkSGmY3iTUMK6OdRd92UGRpRG5JCBqk/vi-ewform?ts=607cfe99&fbclid=IwAR3kpsdWXhqm0bnma-4HiGHvw98viRwRhpoqBp5caTVsDFRendy3KOWVQKk&edit_requested=true

For additional information and to connect with like-minded community partners, parents are invited to join the conversation on this Facebook page: Save SD61 Music Programs (Including Elementary Strings): https://www.facebook.com/groups/3028393680776761?sorting_setting=CHRONOLOGICAL

The school district website has more info on the budget, FAQs and more: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/financial/?fbclid=IwAR3Fflk-he42L4g-3SVuta-Lj69n3vW3F52zeM-VnlyVanqIWpMUQOzN9Ss>

5. Administration Report

Staff Transfers and New Staff

- Vice-Principal Melanie Paas is being transferred to Lambrick Park in September
- Jennifer Wignall, current Vice-Principal at Spectrum High School, will be joining Oak Bay

Drug Awareness

- As explained in the recent school newsletter, middle and high schools in Greater Victoria were asked to share information with parents about the increased toxicity of drugs in the city and the associated heightened risks. The age of people overdosing is getting younger and includes students in middle school.
- The school has posted information in the counselor's area and is doing more individual intervention and discussions, as it is not able to do assemblies due to COVID protocols.

COVID-19

- After Spring break, there was a lot of talk in the community about students [testing positive for COVID-19] at Oak Bay and why the school wasn't speaking to it.
- There is a process in place for sharing information between the Health Authority, schools, and parents. The school is not informed by the Health Authority unless a student or staff member is in the building and tests positive. Accordingly, if a student or staff member contracted COVID during spring break and isolated, the school was out of the communication loop and was therefore not able to communicate with parents.
- Island Health notified the school of one case of exposure in the school. The school went into contact tracing with Island Health, who determines who will receive a letter re exposure (whether in school, class and whether the child needs to self-isolate for 14 days as they are at a higher risk). The process was thorough.

Questions from parents:

- What happens with common areas in the event of exposure?
 - The principal would contact the student's teacher and ask whether the student left the classroom, for how long, etc. The amount of time outside the classroom would determine further action.
- Does the school keep track of students participating in sport and other clubs?
 - This is a joint responsibility between the school and parents.

School Goals

- Staff recently considered school goals for the coming year, including:
 - 1) Cultural responsiveness – How to be a culturally responsive educator. Examine personal and systemic biases, attitudes and beliefs; focus on teacher-student interactions; multicultural learning environments; inclusive of all cultures and learners; address inequities for diverse learners; and understand and appreciate Indigenous worldviews, histories, and perspectives.
 - 2) Wellness – Create an inclusive school environment with a focus on all learners' overall wellness. This includes: mental health, healthy relationships (consent), effective strategies, substance use, sex education, and nutrition.

- After much discussion, staff decided to focus on student wellness (cultural responsiveness will still be given consideration, though to a lesser extent). Work will include:
 - Creation of a comprehensive grade 9 – 12 Wellness plan (a wellness coordinator will be responsible for putting the plan together)
 - Professional learning for all staff on wellness (supporting social emotional learning and mental health literacy) during PD Days during the 2021-2022 school year
 - Increasing student levels of feeling safe and sense of belonging (Student Learning Survey data)

Grad

- Grad dates - June 23 and 24. There will be a stage walk on those days for students. The stage walk will be video recorded.
- The grad committee will meet again in early May

Question from parents:

- Will lunches resume next year?
 - The plan is to resume lunches, but it depends on COVID and whether it's safe to do so.

6. Other Business

Staff appreciation breakfast/lunch

- Paula has volunteered to coordinate. Tom will outline protocols. Can't do a buffet; only individually wrapped or boxed containers/packages.
- Potential date – May 21 (Pro-D day). Tom will confirm date. Approximately 100 staff.
- Option is to take money from the PAC budget to cover this. Paula will do some research and share options and quotes with the PAC Executive.

7. Adjournment

- Next meeting PAC AGM – May 17, 7pm via Zoom
 - Elect PAC Executive for next year
 - Parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out if they are interested in joining the PAC Executive