



MEETING NOTES

Attendees

Tom Aerts (Principal), Kimberley Rogers (Chair), Kerry Pridmore (Vice Chair), Carla Unger (Treasurer), Deidre Murphy (Secretary), Paula Marchese, Kelly McClaren (Member at Large), Hazel Currie, Kimberly Smit, Craig Hickie, Jill Forrester, Adriana Condello, Stephanie Novak, Kristine Dollinger, Isadora DeBortoli, Tessa McLoughlin, Victoria Korby-Fuchs, Cheryl Hadfield, Mercedes Calvert, Amanda Ouellet

1. Introductions and Territorial Acknowledgement

Deidre acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territories of the Lkwungen peoples, following which individuals introduced themselves.

Kimberley gave a brief overview of the PAC. Last year was less active than usual due to COVID; the PAC is looking to be more active this year. Parents are encouraged to contact the PAC Executive with suggestions or ideas re how the PAC might support the school, as well as with any questions they may have.

We will have to see how things go before deciding whether the PAC will meet in person or online for the rest of the year.

2. Reports

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary - No reports

Treasurer Report - Carla Unger, Treasurer

- All applications for PAC funds (raised through the Parent Contribution Fund and the BC Gaming Grant) were granted last year. Funds for all applications have been dispersed.
- Significant projects that received grant money include the installation of new gym doors, which allow for increased capacity in the gym, as well as the building of an archival display case under the social staircase (still in progress), which was initiated by the school alumni association.
- Examples of activities and resources that received funding last year include:
 - Athletics – uniforms
 - Laptops
 - Reading program (books)
 - Connect to Care group (wellness activities and initiatives led by students with school support)

- Food for students (in the counselling area)
- The PAC carried forward a surplus of \$9400 between the Parent Contribution Fund and the Gaming Grant.
- Funding applications will go out to the school community this week, with a deadline of October 18. Gaming Grant funds are sourced through grant applications, which have criteria for how they are used. More information is available on the school website. All parents are welcome to contribute to the decision-making process re the funding applications at the November PAC meeting.

Questions from parents:

- Does the PAC fundraise during the year?
The PAC doesn't fundraise, though it does ask parents to contribute to a voluntary Parent Contribution Fund at the start of the year. Individual groups, including sports teams, band, choir, etc., do fundraising activities.
- What grants does the PAC receive?
The PAC applies for and receives an annual Gaming Grant. If anyone is aware of other grants the PAC can apply for, please let Carla (PAC Treasurer) know.

Administration Report – Tom Aerts, Principal

Health and safety update - COVID 19

School is very different this year (in comparison to last year), though some things are the same.

What's the same

- Masks are worn inside the building at all times
- Daily health check (students are not to come to school if ill), with clear criteria
- Hand sanitizing
- Extra cleaning and disinfecting
- Steps in place if someone is ill at school
- Seating plans in classroom - contact tracing

What's different

- Full-time school
- No cohorts
- School gatherings/events allowed (the school is doing this gradually, starting with smaller in-person gatherings that will increase as time goes on)
- Physical distancing is now limited to personal space
- Eating and drinking inside
- Lockers are back in use
- Bathrooms are no longer limited in terms of number of people
- Water fountains are no longer restricted
- Food sales will be up and running this year (haven't started yet)
- Masks outside are optional
- Communication of COVID exposures to the school community will involve communication with those directly

affected/in close proximity, not the entire school community. Clusters and outbreaks - a notice will be sent to the whole school community.

Bell schedule

- The school has moved to a semester system (from a quarterly system last year, and a linear system preceding COVID), with four classes per day inside the timetable (some students may have classes outside the timetable)
- School hours are 9 am - 3 pm, with two classes in the morning, followed by a 50-minute lunch break, and two afternoon classes
- Focus Blocks - four 45-minute blocks during weekdays when students choose what subject they want to work on, and where they want to work. Allow students to catch up on/focus on courses they may need to spend more time on. Students sign in when they arrive at a classroom (don't have to sign up).
- Wednesday Team Planning for teachers occurs once or twice a month. There is no instruction during this time, and students are not expected to attend school (though there will be space in the school if students want to attend). Team planning dates for the 2021/2022 school year: September 29, October 13, October 27, November 24, December 8, January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23, March 9, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, and June 1 (see the school calendar [21/22 Year at a Glance- FINAL \(sd61.bc.ca\)](#)).

Meet the Teacher Night - Tuesday September 21

Opportunity for teachers to introduce themselves, go over the course, expectations, etc. Usually these meetings would be held in person, but due to COVID this is not possible.

- Block A - 6.30 pm
- Block B - 6.50 pm
- Block C - 7.10 pm
- Block D - 7.30 pm
- Outside the timetable - 7.50 pm

Advisory

Advisory classes are held once a week for 20 minutes. Advisories are organized by grade: grades 9/11, and grades 10/12. Advisories are not curriculum-based, but provide an opportunity for community-building and communication.

Pro-D day for teachers/staff - Monique Gray-Smith will lead a day focused on reconciliation and how to move forward in a positive way.

Sports

- Sports are back
- There was a great turnout for sport trials/teams
- The following sports are currently running: cross country, boys' soccer, rowing, volleyball, field

hockey

- It isn't clear if spectators will be allowed for indoor sports; the School District hasn't advised schools on this yet

Cops for Cancer

Over \$4000 was raised in the recent bottle drive, and an additional \$4,000 in the car wash. Upcoming events:

- Online auction - September 21 – 30
- Garage sale - September 25
- Head shave - September 29
- Riders Visit - October 1

School Goals

Last year staff decided on a school goal of school wellness of all members of the school community, with a particular focus on:

- Mental health
- Healthy relationships (consent)
- Effective strategies
- Substance use
- Sex education
- Nutrition

Staff will have professional learning opportunities to support social-emotional learning and mental health literacy.

Parent questions

Is there a bell system in place in the school?

The school no longer has bells to signal the end of classes, lunch, etc. This provides a calmer tone throughout the school, avoids conditioning students to bells, and allows teachers to bring lessons to a natural close. So far the no-bell approach is working well; students are mostly on time, and there is a calmer tone in the school.

What cafeteria facilities does the school have?

The cafeteria space for students to eat lunch in (has microwaves, tables and chairs) + school cafeteria where meals are prepared that students can purchase. Concession stand will open gradually and increase as the school year goes on

Could food trucks be invited to the school at lunch hour?

This isn't something we have looked at, though we could do so.

How are parents notified of student absences?

Parents receive an email notification at night from the school in the event that their child has missed a class or classes.

What's the procedure if a student needs to leave a class early what do I do?

Students should sign out in the office, and parents should email the attendance line.

3. Opportunities to get involved with the PAC

- Vacancy on the PAC Executive for a representative for the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Council (VCPAC). Being a VCPAC rep is a good opportunity to hear what's happening at the District level. Meetings will be held on Zoom this year. If interested, please contact the PAC executive (names and contact information are on the PAC webpage: [Oak Bay High School PAC - Oak Bay High School \(sd61.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd61.bc.ca/pac)).
- Maintaining the PAC Facebook page [Oak Bay High School PAC - Home | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OakBayHighSchoolPAC)
- AGM and elections for the PAC are held in May

4. Other Business

- The PAC paid for school staff to get a coffee at Hide and Seek cafe at the end of last year as a way of showing parents' appreciation. Approximately 50% of staff took up the offer. As there wasn't a full turn out, the PAC may look at offering it again earlier in the year.
- Concern was expressed by parents re hazing and boys' treatment of girls in the school, and combatting the 'boys will be boys' mentality. It was suggested that a speaker series around language, how to treat people properly, how to stop hazing, etc. would be beneficial. The point was made that it is important to create safe spaces for everyone, regardless of gender. Education on the distinction between pornography and real life (due at least in part to students' easy access to the former) is also needed. It's not always clear what's expected of students in terms of relationships.
- The principal explained the things that are already in place at the school, including a bystander training program offered at UVic. A number of teachers and some students did the program last year; counsellors are going to offer the program at the school this year (based on the program at UVic). Creating and maintaining a culture of respect in the school, including language, is important and is ongoing.

5. Adjournment

Next meeting:

Monday October 18, 7 pm. Location (in-person or online) to be determined.