



MEETING NOTES

Attendees

Tom Aerts (Principal), Kimberley Rogers (Chair), Carla Unger (Treasurer), Deidre Murphy (Secretary), Kelly McClaren (Member at Large), Hazel Currie, Paula Marchese, Craig Hickie, Karin Meyer, Mercedes Alto, Kimberly Smit, Stephanie Novak

Treasurer Report – Carla Unger, Treasurer

- Carla went over the budget, including the closing balance for each account (Gaming Fund: \$28,076.01; Parent Contribution Fund: \$9,020.71)
- A couple of cheques have gone through; waiting for others.
- The PAC has some leftover funds that haven't yet been allocated, and may want to discuss what to do with these funds in a future meeting. It's also possible that some of the funds we approved may not get used, in which case these funds would also be available. Funds not yet allocated:
 - Gaming Fund: \$2,267
 - Parent Contribution Fund: \$4,400

Discussion:

- Hazel mentioned that the school is eligible for a grant available through VCCPAC. Kimberley explained that Oak Bay didn't apply this year as there are funds remaining from last year (designated for hosting the Like movie. There isn't a specific plan for a speaker this year, but the PAC can apply later in the year if something comes up.
- Kimberley reminded parents that we don't currently have a VCPAC rep. If anyone is interested in the position, let a member of the PAC executive know. Paula is attending the VCPAC meeting tomorrow night in her capacity as parent budget rep, so will report back for this month.

Administration Report – Tom Aerts, Principal

Tom shared a poem written and performed by Margo, a grade 9 Oak Bay student who uses a Braille machine to read and write, to start the meeting. The name of the poem was *Identity*. Parents thanked Tom for sharing and commented the poem was inspiring, powerful and beautiful.

Enhanced safety measures

- The delayed return to school after the winter break enabled school staff to put enhanced safety measures in place, including:
 - Dedicated entrances and exits
 - Specific arrival times (students are not to arrive at school until 8.45 am unless they have an early morning class)
 - Big focus on masks, including an emphasis on 3-layer masks
 - No audiences for sport or in-school performances

- Focus Blocks are now connected to the preceding block in order to minimize movement within the school (students can work on whatever subject they want during focus blocks, but must stay in the previous block classroom)
- Shortened lunch from 50 to 30 minutes in order to minimize socializing between groups of students
- Closed common areas during lunch; students can eat outside or in their classrooms
- The shortened lunch is working well for the most part, though it has had an impact on different activities and classes that take place during lunch (e.g. fine arts classes such as choir, band, and clubs). Staff and students have been great about it, but they've felt the impact.
- Enhanced safety measures will be in place until at least February 16.
- It's not certain whether shortened lunches will continue beyond February 16. School administration will be discussing this with staff this week. If regular (i.e., 50-minute) lunches resume, it is expected that clubs that take place at lunch will also resume.

Discussion

- Parents reported that some students find the shortened lunch challenging; there's not enough time to go home for lunch, for example.
- Parents suggested shaded or covered areas be set up outside where students could eat, as some other schools have done (Tom noted this hasn't worked very well as students tend to congregate in groups).
- It was also suggested that a permanent outdoor structure with picnic tables could be set up in future. The PAC might be interested in supporting the building of a covered lunch area, though it would require some thought and further discussion.

Functional closure

- Tom outlined the two types of possible school closures that could occur: health and functional
- A health closure is not likely to occur as Victoria has a high vaccination rate, whereas a functional closure – when the school is not able to support students in their learning due to a high number of staff absences – is more likely.
- The District will consider looking at a functional closure if attendance rates amongst staff are unusually high (to date attendance at the school has been pretty much the same as the rest of the year, but this could change at any point).
- In the event of a functional closure, Tom will notify families by email. The next day would be a transition day, with Days 2-7 moving to remote instruction, and Day 8 would plan on returning to regular, in-person learning.

Grad assessments cancelled

- Due to the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, the January grad assessments are being cancelled
- More information about the grad assessments will be forthcoming in mid-February
- Students who are eligible to graduate early will be exempt from doing the assessments
- It is likely that other grads will have to do the assessments in May or June, though this has not been confirmed

Altered schedule this week

- Wednesday and Thursday are double blocks. The school day is still from 9 am – 2.45 pm, but there will only be two blocks: Block A from 9 – 11.35 am, and Block C from 12.10 – 2.45 pm. Thursday follows the same format, with Block D in the afternoon and B in the morning.
- Friday is Curriculum Completion Day – teachers are on site, but there will not be any instruction. Students are not expected to be in school, but can use this day to catch up on or complete outstanding work.
- Semester 2 starts on January 31

Course selection

- Starting next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday students will have presentations on course selection for next year, in addition to a virtual course fair (5-minute videos about courses); students will be required to watch a minimum of 4 videos each.
- Feb 10 – 17 – teachers and counsellors will support course selection in classes; students will take the forms home to share with parents/guardians
- **Feb 17 – course selection forms due to the office**

Graduation 2022

- Grad assembly Thursday Feb 3 during Focus Block
- Grad assembly Wednesday March 9 (TBA):
 - Valedictorian
 - Grad song
 - Grad gift
- **Friday May 20 – Dinner dance (Delta Hotel) and block party**
- **Wednesday June 1 – Grad at UVic**
- The school is planning for return to a ‘normal’ grad, but if not the school would do what they did last year in late June. The school will keep parents posted.
- Tom will share the slide decks from the two grad assemblies with parents after Feb 3.
- Tom will reach out to parents later via the school newsletter to ask if they are interested in getting involved with grad planning
- The school would like to do some activities with grads (eg Amazing Race); what they do depends on health and safety regulations

SD61 Budget Committee update – Paula Marchese

- Paula explained she was approached about serving on the SD61 budget committee as one of two parent reps for next year’s budget. Other members are stakeholders, including District staff, etc.
- The idea is for the committee of stakeholders to try and reach consensus and make recommendations to the Board to avoid issues with the budget as happened last year. Have had three meetings to date; the meetings are due to wrap up at the end of March.
- The Board is likely looking at another deficit budget next year, though this has not been confirmed.
- For each meeting Paula and the other parent rep have come up with their own assessment of what’s taken place during the meeting (i.e., in addition to the official meeting minutes). If parents

are interested in what's happening/discussed at the committee meetings, they can let Paula know and she will add their names to an email distribution list to receive monthly email updates. Parents can give feedback via this [Budget Google Doc](#)

Discussion:

- Paula asked if it would be helpful if the PAC supplied school staff with masks (given the situation with Omicron). Tom explained that while more staff are wearing N95s and double or triple masks, this hasn't come up. Kimberley suggested any request for funding to supply masks would need to come from the school.

Adjournment

Next meeting: Monday February 28, 2022, 7 pm