



MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

PAC Co-Chairs: Kris Nichols and Kathryn Robertson

PAC Treasurer: Carla Unger

PAC Secretary: Karin Sweeney

PAC Members at Large: Hazel Currie, Craig Hickie, Paula Marchese, Kalina Popova

Principal: Shawn Boulding

Oak Bay Police: Natalie Mishrigi (Liaison Officer) and Julie Chanin (Deputy Chief)

Attendees: Rhiannon Cockayne, Jo Anne Lawrence, Emma Doyle

Regrets: Kim Smit (Member at Large)

1. Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement and Introductions

2. Discussion of Security Incident

Principal Shawn Boulding and Oak Bay Police Natalie Mishrigi (Liaison Officer) and Julie Chanin (Deputy Chief)

- School is committed to the wellbeing of all students and the events of last week will affect people in different ways
- Shawn shared the timeline of what transpired, which was shared with students during 20 min grade assemblies at the end of the previous week
- The timeline discussed was: at 9:30am the school received a call from a parent whose child had seen a message in a 3rd floor girl's washroom that stated the author was going to come to school at 2pm and start shooting people, the washroom was immediately closed for investigation, photos were sent to Constable Mishrigi and the School District, an organization called Safer Schools was contacted and performed a risk assessment, the incident was deemed low risk, the staff met in the library, a second note was found in a different washroom but it was more vague, between 12:30-12:45 concern on social media spread very quickly, District decided it was best to release the kids due to anxiety in the building, parent community was notified in the afternoon, context of email was deliberately short and concise, level of threat never changed, clear messaging to students that they were being released to manage social media storm not for any perceived risk
- Many concerns were raised by parents in the following days to school administration including whether there was a need for heavy police presence; School District maintains the event was low risk
- A third note was found on Thursday last week, and a similar incident happened at UVIC on Friday
- Safer Schools organization can put a "net" over social media at the school to provide information to the police investigation <https://saferschoolstogether.com/>
- Attendance has dropped off at the school but hard to tell as a lot of illness too

- Constable Mishrigi expressed concern for the well-being of the individual responsible for the messaging she could not go into further details about the investigation; affected wider community of people as well
- Question: larger issue of anxiety and mental health at the school and whether students have access to counsellors or can share concerns anonymously? Response: Counselors and teachers are always available; Staff know baseline of students, once it changes the school offers support
- No plan to follow-up with students again at this time
- Question: was there anything that the school would have done differently in their response? Response: Not have held the staff meeting in the library
- Suggestion: highlight policies and procedures for keeping kids safe at the school Response: there is no specific script; hard to give specific procedures when a situation may be fluid. Also, superintendent and her team, in consultation with principal and police, are responsible for the major decisions.
- Question: building security at the school? Response: The design of the school is good for example with windows at entrances, however if someone has the intent to harm, building design cannot stop this
- School Districts and Police discuss effective lockdown drills - these are done twice a year
- Concern: information goes to kids but may not come home to parents; potential need for more communication
- This investigation is on-going and there is a likelihood that we may never know who was behind this
- Appreciation expressed by attendees for how the School District and Police handled the situation

3. Finalization of PAC funding allocations for 2022/23

MOTION: *Be it resolved that the funding allocation decided on at the December 5th Executive meeting (via Zoom) be approved - Approved*

4. Any Other Business (AOB)

- Discussion to go ahead with the proposed education event: the movie *Screenagers Next Chapter* followed by a facilitated discussion and Q&A session with Lansdowne Middle School. An invitation will also be extended for Monterey Middle School to be involved.
- Approval to host the event in the Dave Dunnett Theatre
- The OBPAC has reserved dates, final date TBD

5. Adjournment

Next PAC meeting: Monday, January 23 at 7:00 pm