

**WELLINGTON SECONDARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 5, 2007**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Introductions:** The P.A.C. Secretary, Lana Fitzpatrick, brought the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with 8 in attendance. (President Val Neilson arrived a bit late.)

**2. Changes to the Agenda:** none

**3. Adoption of the Agenda:** Phyllis Hawryzki made a motion to adopt the Agenda. It was seconded by Val Carver and carried.

**4. Adoption of previous meeting's Minutes:** Val Carver made a motion to adopt the Minutes. It was seconded by Phyllis Hawryzki and carried.

**5. Wellington Grade 8 Program:** Tom Mason, a teacher at Wellington reported on a program for Grade 8s. He has been working for the last year and a half with parents, staff and students to establish some expectations for Grade 8 student behaviour (be respectful, be responsible, be honest and be safe). Their goals are to:

1. Increase respectful language in all settings at Wellington,
2. Increase respectful interactions in all settings at Wellington, and
3. Reduce anonymity in students at Wellington

The group has made excellent progress, has recruited many senior students as mentors for school workshops this fall, and has completed a matrix of expectations for behaviour for all settings at Wellington, e.g. hallways, classrooms, washrooms, change rooms, the gym, the library, outside the school, at assembly and during lunch in the multi-purpose room. Senior students have been a part of this program since its inception and are led this year by Grade 12 student, Jenny McLennan. Senior students put on workshops for Grade 8s and developed several slogans that capture the essence of the program, such as: *WHEN YOU DO THE RIGHT THING, RESPECT IS WHAT YOU BRING*. Bracelets with this slogan will be given out to all Grade 8s soon; and posters will also be used to remind students of expectations. Also, the group is working to establish a link with the elementary schools by bringing Grade 7s to Wellington for "mini classes" to help them to know about the school and its expectations. The group wants to also develop senior mentors that could work at the elementary schools but training is essential.

Goals for teachers this year include:

- Meet frequently
- Further develop the matrix of expectations
- Further develop the senior student mentoring program
- Share and discuss with other teachers
- Follow up on students with problems
- Work to ensure a smooth semester transition in February
- Increase student awareness
- Increase teacher confidence and consistency

Strategies that will be continued in the second semester include:

- Grade 8 orientation for new students
- Monthly meetings
- More senior student mentoring
- Reduce student anonymity – get to know all the Grade 8s
- Teachers will continue to encourage Grade 8s to use their planners
- A designated Grade 8 Administrator – Mr. Street

Mr. Mason also presented an overview on the Link Crew Leadership Program to the PAC. The Link Crew program is set up to help mediate and mentor Grade 8-9 students, elementary students and their peers. It also encourages senior students (Grade 11 and 12s) to strengthen morale and relationships among all

students at the school. Students learn time management, organization, conflict resolution and peer mediation. Senior students also learn how to teach their peers in classroom activities and discussions. The objectives of the Link Crew program are:

- To empower senior students to be role models for incoming Grade 8 students
- To increase academic and social success through peer support
- To develop leadership skills
- To help create a supportive and positive learning environment at school

The Link Crew Program is the natural “next step” for the ongoing work at our school. It ties in closely with our School Plan goals (improve Grade 8-9 literacy, improve social responsibility in all grades) and those of the District. It also offers opportunities for leadership for our senior students.

Teacher training for the 3-Day Link Crew Leadership Program is expensive, but Mr. Mason believes that it is well worth the cost. He asked the PAC if we could fund this program, but our Treasurer reported that we are unable to allocate gaming funds directly for teacher training, although we are interested in funding related items. Mr. Mason has seen Link Crew in action at a few secondary schools on the Lower Mainland and knows it would benefit students in S.D. 68. He would be willing to train others so that the benefit of the program could be felt across the District. Val and Lana agreed to write a letter to Assistant Superintendent for Education, John Phipps, asking for help with this important project. Other funding options were discussed.

**6. Wellington D.R.I.V.E. 08:** Our RCMP liaison, Constable Tom Shields, chairman of the committee that is planning D.R.I.V.E. (Demonstrating Responsibility In Vehicle Education) 08, visited the meeting. Car crashes continue to be the number one killer and health risk to young people in B.C. New drivers are FIVE times more likely to be involved in car crashes. There are many reasons for these crashes including: inexperience, speed, impairment, underestimation of risk, and not using defensive driving tactics. Education and awareness can have a great effect on saving lives.

The goal of D.R.I.V.E. 08 is to reduce the number of crash incidents involving youth in Nanaimo. This daylong workshop was presented to Grade 12 students in 2005 and 2006 but did not happen in 2007. Constable Shields leads the planning and implementation of this workshop for about 1,100 Grade 12 students, and teachers and parents in 2008 and gave an overview of plans to date. The plan includes giving each student a D.R.I.V.E. 08 tee shirt at the end of the day. D.R.I.V.E 08 will be a traveling show with several dates and locations.

Monday April 14, 2008 – NDSS

Tuesday April 15, 2008 – Cedar & Woodlands together

Wednesday April 16, 2008 – Dover Bay

Thursday April 17, 2008 – John Barsby & Ladysmith together

Friday April 18, 2008 – Wellington

The plan contains four key projects that will be presented to each school.

- Mock Crash with Nanaimo Fire & Rescue, BC Ambulance Service, RCMP
- Speakers: Joan Parsons (Rid Roads of Impaired Drivers) or Drew Digney (NRGH Emergency Room Physician or Kevin Brooks (Road Sense) or Dr Bruce Campana
- Vehicle Roll Over Simulator
- 45-minute “unwritten” multi-media presentation

Partnering with all secondary school PACs in the District, along with School District 68, Board of School Trustees, City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo Fire and Rescue, BC Ambulance Service and ICBC will ensure that safe driving messages are delivered to all students in the Graduating Class of 2008 in District 68. Support from local businesses is also being encouraged (e.g. local Subway to help out with food for the day). This program is unique in the province. There was some discussion of past workshops. Constable Shields then requested funding from the Wellington PAC for 2008. Overall costs are projected at \$28,000. Rotary Clubs, the RCMP Foundation, VI Loss Prevention and other community organizations will also be approached for alternate funding. Our Treasurer confirmed the PAC has already earmarked \$1,500 for D.R.I.V.E. 08 in the approved budget.

**7. Treasurer's Annual Report:** Val Carver reported that \$4,488.00 for sports tournaments, \$1,985.00 for coach expenses, \$10,821.32 for Band Festival fees, \$613.67 for equipment (soccer nets and volleyballs) and \$1,725.00 for student planners are the allocations to date. There is currently \$12,323.66 in the Gaming Account and \$4,636.31 in the Fundraising Account. Phyllis Hawryzki reported on Bingo activities. All bingo volunteer dates are completed, although the snow last week made things difficult both for volunteers and Phyllis who tried to attend the AGM (it was cancelled due to weather). A list of sports tournaments and other events where the Playtime Bingo Hall has been promoted needs to be compiled and sent in. Also plans for the next 3-year license starting in 2008 are needed.

**8. School Planning Council:** Mr. Ryan had no report this month but did say that only 5 classes (P.E./Band) of the 146 in Semester 1 had  $\geq 30$  students and 9 classes had  $\geq 3$  designated students.

**9. Principal's Report:** Events for November and December are as follows.

Nov 9	Remembrance Day assembly – very respectful
Nov 12-13	Holiday for Remembrance Day and Pro D day
Nov 22	Report Card Pick Up at the new time – 55% report cards picked up (54% in 2006), Good turn out at 2:30-3:30PM and later, excellent reports: Gr 8 – 66% achieved Honourable Mention & up, Gr 9 – 43%, Gr 10 – 49%, Gr 11 – 53%, & Gr 12 – 60%!!!
Nov 22	Student Art Auction – in association with report card pick-up, fundraiser made about \$2,600; thanks to Celia White for organizing it
Dec 3	Curriculum Planning Day – no classes
Dec 6	White Ribbon Campaign – to commemorate the tragedy of 14 women killed at École Polytechnique on Dec 6/1989, and violence against women; thanks to Tony Arruda for organizing the event; male teachers and students encouraged to wear a shirt & tie and white ribbon; also, purchase a white rose (proceeds to the Haven Society)
Dec 5	Choir concert at St. Andrew's Church
Dec 18	Winter Band and Choir concerts
Dec 21	Last day of classes and Christmas Assembly – a Wellington tradition on the last day of school before winter break; skits, music, etc.
Jan 7	First day of classes in New Year
Jan 10-12	Superball – annual basketball tournament for Senior Boys and Girls, teams from Island and Lower Mainland participate
Jan 25	Last day of classes in Semester 1
Jan 28-Feb 1	Provincial Exams and school exams
Feb 4	First day of Semester 2

**10. DPAC Report:** no report this month.

**11. Correspondence:** A letter was received from librarian, Liz Sansoucy-Jones, thanking PAC for funding the author visit. She did obtain funding from 3 feeder schools so that John Wilson will visit for the full day, and Grade 6 and 7 students will join Grade 8s in the morning sessions and Grades 9 and 10s will see him in the afternoon sessions. A letter was received from the Nanaimo Dry Grad Society asking for a donation. Money is earmarked in the approved budget for Dry Grad and Val Carver will deal with this request. Lana reminded everyone that the Dry Grad planning committee meets next on Thursday January 31, 2008 at Wellington, 7:00PM. Volunteers are needed.

**11. AOB:** none

Suggested topic for the next meeting – earthquake preparedness. There will not be a PAC meeting in January. **The next meeting of the Wellington PAC will be on Wednesday February 6th at 7:00 p.m.**

Doug Blackmore made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50PM. It was seconded by Val Carver and carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Lana Fitzpatrick  
Secretary, Wellington Secondary P.A.C