

**WELLINGTON SECONDARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 3, 2007**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Introductions:** The P.A.C. President, Val Neilson, brought the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with 14 in attendance.

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

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

**4. Adoption of previous meeting's Minutes:** Ian Perry made a motion to adopt the Minutes. It was seconded by Pradeep Menon and carried.

**5. Presentation - Scott Saywell – District Principal for Learning Alternatives:** Mr. Saywell gave an overview of the programs that he administers for S.D. 68. There are three areas of instruction.

- **Alternative programs:** These programs help students who are behaviourally challenged and cannot operate in a normal secondary school setting. Five Acres focuses on junior learning with about 60 students enrolled at the Grade 8-10 level. VAST focuses on senior learning with about 80 students enrolled at the Grade 10 to adult level. These programs are also connected to the Nanaimo Correctional Centre where about ten inmates complete their high school courses annually. Alternative programs like these are an important yet challenging area of Mr. Saywell's authority.
- **Distributive or "Distance" learning programs:** These programs include Learn@home for K-7 and 8-12, and the Aurora Learning Centre for those students who are home schooled; and are either paper-based or online courses. S.D. 68 works with 53 other school districts in the Province to offer a wide variety of online courses in specific areas of study. Students can now take classes both in school and online, called "cross enrolment." The Ministry of Education has recognized the lack of skilled workers across the province and is recently funding an "Education Guarantee" whereby any person (no age limit) can access secondary school courses for free in order to complete graduation or add to their education. "Summer School" will not be offered as a summer classroom course with a fee. Any student needing to repeat a course can do so any time at home with Learn@home programs and online tutors. For more information see these websites. [http://school.sd68.bc.ca/lah/812\\_about.htm](http://school.sd68.bc.ca/lah/812_about.htm) and <http://www.learnnowbc.com/>
- **Career and Technical Centre and Secondary School Apprenticeship:** These programs are offered to students in Grade 12. The CTC has 108 seats in 14 trades and technical programs where students attend school at Malaspina University College and receive dual credit for courses, essentially completing high school and college at the same time. All classes include an assured level of training and certificate upon completion. The SSA is a program whereby students who are working part-time while attending secondary school can get credit for their jobs that can go towards graduation. For more information on trades and technical shortages in the workforce see these websites. <http://www.t3vi.ca/> which stands for "think trades and technology" a website with links to employers, education and upcoming events; and <http://www.virctc.com/>

**6. Treasurer's Annual Report:** Treasurer, Val Carver, presented the Annual Report of revenues and expenses for the year ending Aug 31, 2007. The Gaming license, which is associated with the "Nanaimo Playtime Bingo Hall," brought in \$42,199.98 in revenues. Bingo revenue was distributed in roughly the following manner: \$22,000 to athletics, \$13,000 to fine arts, \$5,000 to other extracurricular programs (\$1,400 - school planners, \$1,000 - scholarships, \$500 - computer club, \$550 - Art Dept., \$350 - Dry Grad, \$100 - student poverty fund), and about \$3,000 in funds still remain to be allocated. There is currently \$27,743.27 in

the Gaming Account (Direct Access funding was deposited last month) and \$4,429.90 in the Fundraising Account.

Val also presented a Proposed Budget Statement for the 2007-2008 year. The 2007 BC Gaming Report for the Wellington P.A.C. has been filed. There are some requests for funding from clubs and allocations will be determined for the next meeting.

**7. School Planning Council election:** Three parents were elected to the School Planning Council: **Nancy Ackeral, Val Carver and Doug Blackmore.**

**8. School Planning Council report:** Mr. Ryan reviewed the goals for our school this year.

1. To improve Grade 8-9 reading and writing skills
2. To improve social responsibility in all grades

**9. Principal's Report:** Mr. Ryan reported that enrollment is at 1034, a decline from previous years. Events for September and October are as follows.

Sep 24	Professional Development Day: positive behaviour support
Sep 24	Student Council Retreat
Sep 26	Justice Theatre presentation for Gr. 8-10 re-enacting trials
Oct 3	Breaking Barriers session for Gr. 8 on anti-bullying
Oct 4	Informal reporting session for parents to meet the teacher at Wellington 7:00-8:30PM
Oct 10	Photo re-take day
Oct 9&16	Orientation sessions for Gr. 8's using older students as facilitators: to improve performance, create behaviour plans and ease transition to secondary school as follow-up to Breaking Barriers workshops
Oct 19	Pro D Day province-wide
Oct 30	Halloween Hustle – run around Westwood Lake
Oct 31	Halloween Monster Mash organized by Student Council – at lunchtime

**10. DPAC Report:** Leslie Mathews, Wellington's DPAC rep, reported on several topics from the last DPAC meeting, Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>.

- The District PAC invites nominations for District PAC Executive positions. Elections will be held at the AGM on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Any parent with a child enrolled in S.D. 68 is eligible. Documents outlining positions and the purpose/function of the DPAC were distributed.
- Membership fees to the BCCPAC, our provincial body, for the 2007-08 season are due. The cost is \$65, which the District PAC will cover if our group cannot pay it. Doug Blackmore made a Motion that the Wellington PAC pays \$65 in membership fees for 2007-2008 to the BCCPAC. It was seconded by Ian Perry and carried.
- An Education and Career Fair is being held at the Victoria Conference Centre on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 9AM-4PM for students. There will be a trade show, seminars, and exhibits from universities, colleges and private training institutions from around the world. Admission is \$5 and complimentary tickets are available for pre-registered groups. Secondary school counselors were sent packages. For more information see [www.educationcareerfairs.com](http://www.educationcareerfairs.com)
- BCCPAC Fall Conference for parents will be Nov. 15-18 at the Ocean Point Delta in Victoria. The theme is "Supporting student success through parent involvement." Funds are available from DPAC to cover all costs for four parents to go. Contact Leslie if you would like to attend.
- The Port Theatre offers students a chance to see a variety of concerts, productions and special events for a \$5 admission. Only certain shows qualify. For more information see [www.eyego.org](http://www.eyego.org)
- Highlights from Committee meetings: S.D. 68 and Ryan Vending have an agreement to only offer healthy choices in vending machines and food sales programs, a year in advance of Ministry of Education guidelines. Assistant Superintendent John Phipps reported that about 78% of students

in S.D. 68 receive their Dogwood diploma, and this year the District will focus on those students who do not complete Grade 12 to find out who they are and why they do not graduate.

- Superintendent Mike Munro attended the DPAC meeting to discuss the S.D. 68 Renewal Report (available online at [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca) ). This business plan was adopted by the Trustees on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> and will be submitted to the Minister of Education for approval. Mr. Munro noted that if school closures do not proceed, or increased funding does not come from the Ministry, then further program cuts would occur to balance the budget. Vice-Principals may be eliminated at some schools to make up for shortfalls. All students in S.D. 68 will feel the impact of program cuts if schools are not closed. The current plan is to build a new school at the Woodlands site and close old Woodlands and NDSS, along with increasing the operating capacity of Wellington by 300 as part of a seismic upgrade of the school. In addition, four elementary schools are to be closed: Dufferin, Mount Benson, Rutherford and Woodbank.
- The next DPAC meeting is on Oct. 25. The guest speaker will be Jan Bruce, the District Numeracy Resource Teacher. The topic will be: Helping our children with their math homework.

**11. Correspondence:** none

**12. AOB:** Phyllis Hawryzki, the Bingo Representative, asked for a volunteer to help her with the Bingo commitments this fall, and to take over the work next year (her daughter graduates). There are only four Bingo dates to organize volunteers for this year, all in November, and a few other duties required in order to secure continued gaming funds for our school (\$42,199.98 last year). Rita Bulger, a parent of a Gr. 8 student, agreed to help Phyllis with this important work. The PAC thanks Rita for volunteering her services.

**The next meeting of the Wellington PAC will be on Wednesday November 7, 2007** at 7:00 p.m. Karen Proctor, Dave Street and Connie Thyssen will give a presentation on scholarships and bursaries available to students interested in post-secondary education. This presentation will run from 7:00 to 8:00 and a shortened PAC meeting will take place afterwards.

Lisa Fleming made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. It was seconded by Ian Perry and carried.

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