

WELLINGTON SECONDARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, February 6, 2007
MINUTES

1. Introductions: Val Neilson, PAC President, brought the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with 13 in attendance.

2. Changes to the Agenda: none

3. Adoption of the Agenda: Leslie Mathews 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 Darlene Carolsfeld and carried.

5. Course Programming Process Program: Darlene Carolsfeld, a counselor and course scheduler at Wellington, spoke on this year's program. Course program booklets go home with Grade 8-11 students on February 27th. Students will then complete their course selection forms at school during the day on March 4th. Help from counselors is available. Students must ensure that they have all the graduation and post-secondary requirements when choosing courses. Students must have eight courses listed and two alternates (Grade 12s can have one spare block per year). Parent (and student) information evenings are scheduled for Grade 8-11s on February 28 and for incoming Grade 7 students and parents on March 11, 7pm in the library. Mrs. Carolsfeld reminded the group that it is very important that students plan early and sign up for the courses they want NOW so that they can get what they need and avoid disappointment. If anyone has questions, call any of the counselors at the school.

6. Earthquake Preparedness Presentation: Vice Principal Dave Street and Social Studies teacher Tony Arruda spoke on the current state of emergency preparedness at Wellington Secondary and their hopes for the future. Parents Linda King and Deanna deBoeck were also present (they assisted with updates and plans for the future). There is a dedicated group of staff at our school willing to organize current supplies and build a plan for what Wellington needs to provide 72 hours of care for its students. Unfortunately, after inventorying supplies and equipment, it was found that many were outdated and had to be gotten rid of. In addition, the equipment and supplies need a new home where they can be easily accessed in an emergency. New kits need to be built also, although the classroom kits have been updated and are in good shape. The group also needs a parent volunteer to join their group and represent parents at the school. Leslie Mathews volunteered.

The group asked the P.A.C. for funding to:

- complete the updating of supplies and equipment,
- build shelving and security for the new home of the emergency materials in one the portables (a self contained kiosk is needed eventually),
- conduct a 1-day training session, a Mock Earthquake Workshop (possibly with Russell Roy) for staff and perhaps even some interested students (at a cost of about \$3,500)

After the group left the meeting, there was a discussion of the program and what the P.A.C. could help with. Funding of \$1,000 was already set aside in this year's budget to update the aging supplies/equipment. An additional \$1,500 was requested that night. The additional funding is not currently available but the Spending Committee will review this request again in June. AnnaRita Best made a *Motion that a \$1,500 budget line for emergency preparedness at our school be included in the proposed budget for September 2008 and that this allocation be reviewed and funded on an annual basis.* It was seconded by Doug Blackmore and carried.

7. Treasurer's Report: Val Carver reported that \$7,708.00 for sports tournaments, \$6,129.95 for coach expenses, \$3,093.98 for equipment and uniform, \$10,245.00 for Band, \$921.67 for Art/Library and \$1,725.00 for student planners have been spent this year (total = \$29,823.60). There is currently \$7,994.67 in the Gaming Account and \$5,610.80 in the Fundraising Account. There was one request for funding: Leah Johnson asked for a running clock for Cross Country / Track and Field meets. Currently, they rent the clock and would like to have their own that could also be used by other schools. Total cost is about \$1,500 and the

group "Runners of Compassion" have agreed to donate \$300-500 to this equipment. Val made a *Motion to allocate \$500 to the purchase of this equipment*. It was seconded by Leslie and carried.

8. Executive Positions for 2008/09: Val Neilson reminded the group that she, Lana and Phyllis Hawryzki (Bingo rep) will be leaving the P.A.C. Executive as their children graduate this year. There is a need for parents to step up and get involved. Ideas for enlisting help were discussed. Val and Lana agreed to visit the Course Programming parent meetings on Feb. 28th and Mar. 11 in order to promote the P.A.C. and enlist new participants.

9. School Planning Council: Mr. Ryan reported that a meeting is planned later this month. The Ministry is reviewing S.D.68's contract of achievement (this occurs once every 3 years) and there may be visits to individual schools also. Meetings with SPCs will occur in early May.

10. Principal's Report: Events for February and March are as follows.

Jan 28-Feb 1	Provincial Exams and school exams were held; Provincial results available Mar 6
Feb 4	First day of Semester 2
Feb 7	Band performed in Surrey
Feb 14	Semester 1 report cards issued
Feb 15	Senior Band Jazz Fest at the Port Theatre
Feb 20-24	Band travels to Moscow Idaho, Lionel Hampton Festival
Feb 25	Pro-D Day
Feb 28	Information meeting for Gr. 8-11 parents on course selection for Sept 2008
Mar 11	Information meeting for Gr. 7 parents on course selection for Sept 2008
Mar 12	ICBC presentation on drinking & driving for Gr. 10s and 11s, 10:30-11:30, in the Multi-purpose Room; parents welcome

Mr. Ryan welcomed back Mrs. Ryoko MacColl to teach Japanese and Mr. Matt Lettington in Photography for Semester 2.

11. DPAC Report: Leslie Mathews reported on activities in the last month.

A) From the School District Business Committee:

- District and DPAC request feedback about alternate school year proposal – longer spring break / longer winter break / shorter summer break
- Concept of a more balanced school year was discussed in Nov 2007 as a way to save money
- Research shows that a more balanced school year benefits learning and saves money BUT communities have not embraced it
- If adopted in some form, it would take several years to plan
- Feedback from parents requested for June Education Board Committee
- Should we as a PAC discuss this at the March meeting?
- Consult these Canadian web links:

www.bctf.ca then go to Issues in Education

www.teachers.ab.ca then go to position papers

www.bcssa.org then go to Issues/Topics A-Z

www.educationalresearch.com/projects - a UBC project

for more, especially from the U.S., just Google "year round schooling"; also see the link below

www.kidsource.com/education/teach.year.round.html

B) Two new online tools:

- Education planner looking at post-secondary opportunities for students
www.educationplanner.bc.ca
- New parent information network announced by the Ministry of Education
www.learnnowbc.gov.bc.ca/Parent_Information_Centre/

C) January DPAC Meeting:

- Lillian Carefoot, Past President of NSAA, gave a presentation on "Optimal School Size".
- She and other principals reviewed the literature and recommended the following optimal sizes for schools:

elementary – 300 to 500 students;

- middle – 400 to 500 students;
- secondary – 800 to 1200 students (1000 optimal)
- In schools with significant student poverty, then the lower range was considered better

D) School Closures:

- Notice was sent home early this week explaining proposed plan for facilities renewal
- Public consultation will be held over the next 84 days to allow public input
- Trustees will vote on possible closures April 23
- Whichever plan for changing secondary catchments is voted in, Wellington will be impacted by receiving an additional 300 students.
- Parents can have your say by attending any of numerous meetings all at Wellington
 - Public Consultation meeting (Mon Apr 14, 6pm in the Multi-Purpose Room)
 - 1st Special Meeting of Board of Education's Business Comm.(Wed Apr 9, 6pm, M-PR)
 - 2nd Special Meeting of Board to receive public input report (Wed Apr 16, 6pm, M-PR)
 - 3rd and last Special Meeting of Board to consider all input on the proposed closures and recommendations from staff (Wed Apr 23, 6pm, M-PR)
- Letters can be sent to the Board of Education addressed to Chairman J. Brennan or c/o the Secretary Treasurer's Office, 395 Wakesiah Ave, Nanaimo V9R 3K6 or email dgreen@sd68.bc.ca

E) Upcoming Presentations:

- Feb 12, 7-9PM at NDSS: Dr. Michael Unger: *Too Safe for Their Own Good: How risk and responsibility help our children and teens thrive* (tix \$10 at Mal U-C Bookstore and @ the door)

- Feb 22, 7:30pm at Port Theatre: Craig Kielburger: *Changing the World* (tix \$28, \$24 members, \$17 students). This presentation is about taking action and making a difference in the world. "Free the Children" is the world's largest network of children helping children through education. Craig Kielburger has affected positive change to more than 1 million young people. At age 12 he turned his shock at the murder of a child labourer turned child rights activist into an international campaign to free children from poverty exploitation and powerlessness. He has earned three Nobel Peace Prize nominations, is an award winning author and motivational speaker, and has shared the stage with Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama.

12. Correspondence: A thank-you letter was received from Mrs. McRory for PAC support of set-up costs for the Biology-12 tee shirts. Teacher-Librarian Liz Sansoucy-Jones also sent a thank-you letter to PAC for supporting the author visit to our school last month. It was a terrific success. A Letter of Support was sent by our PAC to Assistant Superintendent Phipps for funding for the Link Crew Leadership Program that Mr. Mason presented to our group last month.

11. AOB: The Dry Grad Planning Committee meets every month at Wellington. The next meeting is on Thursday Feb 28, 2008 at Wellington, 7:00PM. Volunteers are needed.

The next meeting of the Wellington PAC will be on Wednesday March 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Lorie Burrell made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35pm. It was seconded by Val Carver and carried.

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