

WELLINGTON SECONDARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday May 7, 2008
MINUTES (draft)

1. Introductions: The P.A.C. President, Val Neilson, brought the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda: student locker searches added to AOB.

3. Adoption of the Agenda: Lori Burrell 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 Doug Blackmore and carried.

4a. Guest – School Trustee Terry-Lynn Saunders: Terry-Lynn was introduced and fielded questions. She commented that the Trustees have been very busy this year with the facilities renewal and school closure issue. On terms for Trustees, she thought that it would be difficult to change since the Board has many long standing trustees (15+ years). On the number of Trustees, she likes a board of 7, although the current board is at 9 and it is a trustee decision. On year round school, she thought it is not really well accepted at S.D. 68 today since enrolment is down and teachers and support staff are against the concept. There was some discussion on the construction at Wellington, the timeline for planning and completion of the new secondary school at Woodlands (about 5 yrs), what the Wellington Construction Committee would do, and where the French Immersion students will go (possibly Wellington).

5. Proposed Grade 8 Orientation Day: Tom Mason, a Wellington teacher, gave an update on the Link Leader program that he spoke about at the December 2007 meeting. He received funding to attend training and is now accepting applications from Grade 10s and 11s to fill the 45 positions for peer mentors. They will attend three Peer Training sessions and then participate in the Grade 8 orientation day (on the first day of school, Sept 2) and be mentors for the entire school year. During the training, mentors will be assessed and paired up with their best match to work with Grade 8 groups. The goal of this project is to see improvement in Grade 8 social responsibility in the first year. There has been a very positive response from Grade 10s and 11s. Mr. Mason presented a budget for this project which included \$180 for snacks at the August Peer Training session (45 students X \$2.00 X 2 sessions), \$270 for Link Leader t-shirts (45 students X \$6.00) and \$300 for the Grade 8 Lunch on Sept. 2 (180 students X \$2.00). He asked the PAC to fund this worthy project (\$750 in total). Since this project falls under the 2008/2009 budget allocations, Treasurer Val Carver made a Motion that this request receives funding through that budget. It was seconded by Doug Blackmore and carried.

6. Treasurer's Report: There is \$3,820.93 in the Fundraising account and \$3,967.49 in the Gaming account. There has been no word on the Gaming application sent in at the end of February. The direct access application/grant is due next month. Val Carver will submit to BC Gaming by the June 30th deadline. The grant application will be for \$20 per student per year. With an enrolment estimate of 1045 for September 2008, the grant will be for \$20,900. Regarding setting aside money for the Emergency Preparedness Program, Val will ensure that monies not spent from this year's budget be carried forward to next year.

7. School Planning Council report: Mr. Ryan reported that several meetings occurred last month and the preliminary plan will be ready. The Ministry Review Team will be at the school on May 13th to see what has been done to improve scholastic achievement for all students. The next SPC meeting will be May 8, 4-6pm.

8. Principal's report: A list of events until the end of June follows.

Apr 18	Drive 08 – anti drinking/driving all-day event for Grade 12s, held at Wellington
Apr 24	Report card pick-up and interviews with teachers – 43% picked up which is lower than 54% picked up in Nov.
Apr 28	Prom – reported as a generally safe night; many students stayed until midnight; thanks to the Wellington Grad. Committee, teacher Marilyn Rodgers and Vice Principal Dave Street for their support
Apr 30	Pro-D Day – Photoshop in-service
May 13-18	Senior Band travels to Music Fest Canada national competition in Ottawa

May 19	Victoria Day holiday
May 21	Fashion Show at Multi-purpose Room, 7:30pm
May 22	Aboriginal Graduation Ceremony
May 22	P.E. 12 Canoe trip
May 26/27	Spring Band concerts: Junior (on the 26 th) and Senior (on the 27 th) groups, 7:30pm. Multi-purpose room
May 28	Student Council Fun Day – a noon time event with activities and food; Grade 7s invited to attend in the morning
May 29	Athletic Banquet in Multi-purpose Room
June 3	Wellington Choir concert –Multi-Purpose Room, 7:00pm
June 5	Wellington Awards in the gym: Grades 8-9 in the afternoon, Grades 10-12, 7:00pm
June 10	District 68 Awards Night, Port Theatre, 6:30pm start
June 13	last day of classes
June 16-20	School-based exams for all grades
June 18-26	Provincial exams for Grades 10, 11, 12 – see website for details http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/07_08_exam_schedule.pdf
June 26	Report card distribution 10:30am
June 26	Graduation rehearsal 11 am at the Port Theatre
June 27	Graduation Commencement at the Port Theatre, 1pm Dry Grad starts 8pm at Beban Park

Vice Principal Dave Street spoke on the issues around Prom 2008. His slogan for this year's Prom was "PROM IS NOT GRAD." He and Marilyn Rodgers, Teacher Chair of Prom Committee, reviewed this year's event and are recommending that responsibility for Prom be transferred in the future from the Wellington school-based Prom Committee to a Grade 12 parent group. Mr. Street spoke on the difficulties he experienced as an educator involved in an event that often had a negative impact on student academic achievement. This is not unique to our school, as many other schools (i.e. Dover Bay) already have parent groups organizing Prom. Some reasons for this move are:

- the liability of the school, the Vice Principal and involved teachers if someone gets hurt
- the cost and time to organize this event has steadily increased over the years
- the problems associated with alcohol and drugs before and after this school-sanctioned event
- the student drop-out rate and drop in marks associated with this event

9. DPAC report: No report

10. Correspondence: none

11. Any other business: There was a discussion on student lockers and the recent Supreme Court ruling that sniffer dogs cannot be used in schools unless students are amply warned. A card, flowers and engraved pen were presented to Val Neilson, the PAC President, and Lana Fitzpatrick, PAC Secretary, who are retiring at the end of June after several years of volunteer time. Val in particular played a major role in all aspects of the Wellington PAC over the past eight years, by being present at most meetings and events, and bridging the gap between parents, students and staff at our school. Both the President and Secretary positions on the Wellington PAC will need to be filled at the next meeting in September 2008.

A reminder: Dry Grad provides graduating students the opportunity to celebrate their success at an alcohol and drug-free event, held throughout Beban Park Social Centre on Friday June 27th. Local businesses and community service groups donate generous amounts of goods and services along with piles of prizes for this event. Approximately 900 students and 300 volunteers will be participating in Dry Grad 2008, but volunteers are still needed, especially to work the late shift (1130pm to 500am). If you are able to volunteer for a few hours, please email nanaimodrygrad@hotmail.com. Volunteers are also needed for the June 14th Car Wash at the Bowen Road Co-op Gas Bar, 11-3pm. Phone Diana at 754-6066 if you can help out.

There will not be a PAC meeting in June. The next meeting for the Wellington Secondary PAC will be on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10th, 7:00pm. Doug Blackmore made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. It was seconded by Leslie White and carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Lana Fitzpatrick
Co-Secretary, Wellington PAC