

**BCSD Parent Consultative Committee (PCC)
Meeting Minutes**

November 30, 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Committee: Matthew Kalenuik, Brianne Braun, Yasu Shigemitsu, Nicole Eich

Parents: Gwen Wong, Colin Chan, Maria Lee-Smith, Tracey Luo, Emily Gould, Pauline Chen

BCSD Administrators: Cathy Bennett (Principal), Janene Seabrook (Vice Principal)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Adoption of Agenda

Pending Business

NIL

New Business

3. Changes to the PCC – new committee members, online format, dates
4. School updates/news – Cathy and Janene
5. South Slope PAC update - Yasu
6. Outstanding/new issues brought forward by parents and/or staff
7. Q & A

Other Business

Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Matthew (Matt) called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Changes to the PCC – new committee members, online format, dates

Brianne noted some recent changes to the format of the committee and its operations. The committee has been established as a set of five individuals who will fill the roles of Administrator, Facilitator, Secretary, Liaison to the PAC (Secondary) and Liaison to the PAC (Elementary).

The members of the PCC introduced themselves (Matt – Facilitator, Yasu – Liaison to the PAC [Elementary], Brianne – Administrator, and Nicole – Secretary). Matt noted that the committee is still in search of a parent representative to fill the role of Liaison to the PAC (Secondary).

Specific dates of future meetings have not been set, but the committee is anticipating annual meetings in November, February and May. Meetings will be held online for the foreseeable future.

4. School updates/news – Cathy and Janene

Cathy:

- a. Staffing updates – the Burnaby school district has a new assistant superintendent (Jeanette Laursoo), and a new district principal (David Greve). There is also a new principal at South Slope Elementary (Lindsay Holliday).
BCSD has interviewed for four interpreters and hopes to be welcoming these new staff members soon. A new intervener has also been hired, and will be joining the school soon. A new teacher will be joining the school in January. BCSD has a new SLP (Zoe Beukers) on board and Jennifer Zuvik is now the learning support teacher (she previously held the role of ASL teacher). A new secretary has also been hired (Julia Thompson), as well as a new interpreter services coordinator (Tiffany Allard).
The school is still in need of two additional teachers (one for ASL and one for non-instructional services), as well as one additional counsellor. It has been a difficult hiring process for the role of counsellor.
There are now 42 students in the BCSD elementary, 16 in primary (grades K – 3), and 26 in intermediate (grades 4 – 7).
- b. Strategic plan – BCSD is focusing on creating a new school development plan covering the three-year period of 2021 – 2023. Teachers, interpreters, interveners, educational assistants and staff have provided input, and Cathy and Janene will now look to begin formulating what the school goals will be for the next three years.
- c. Report cards – there will be informal reporting three times per year (October, December and April), and two formal report cards (in February and June). IEP is included in the informal reporting periods. The method of informal reporting is decided on by the teachers and may include student work, portfolio sharing, conference calls or other ways of sharing progress.
- d. School website/social media – school staff are very aware that the website needs a formal update. It is a goal to complete these updates soon. A facebook page exists for the elementary and the school posts as often as it can.
- e. Covid – this year has presented a number of very unique challenges. The school is making sure that all protocols are being followed – for example, anyone who's sick is being sent home immediately, students are staying in their small cohort groups and not mixing with South Slope Elementary students, and enhanced cleaning measures are being taken. The school is actively making plans for what will happen if the province

moves into stage 3, 4 or 5 again. Stage 3 or 4 would move the school back into a hybrid home/school model, and stage 5 would mean fully remote learning. The school is planning for various scenarios and keeping vulnerable students top-of-mind. Even though all BCSD students are designated and have an IEP, only certain students would remain at the school in stage 5 (for example, those children of essential service workers, students with disabilities or those needing additional supports). The school will work with parents to make a plan that works best for these students.

- f. Events – the school has enjoyed a number of special events, including:
- International week of the Deaf - Nigel Howard zoomed in to have a meeting with the students
 - Terry Fox Run
 - Purple Hearts – a mother and daughter came to the outdoor classroom, told an Indigenous story and did a project with the students
 - Orange Shirt Day – Paula Brown zoomed in to meet with the students and told them stories of her life experiences
 - Pumpkin patch – pumpkins were gathered and set up outside for the students to pick from
 - Halloween video – classes told Halloween stories on video and this was shared with other students/classes internally
 - Remembrance Day - a video was made of students doing skits, telling poetry and lighting candles, and this video was shared internally
 - Winter video – a winter video will be made and shared internally before the school break
 - The Elf walk and pancake breakfast will be cancelled this year due to Covid, and an appearance by the signing Santa will not be possible
 - Vancouver basketball foundation – this group contacted the school a few months back saying they had received a grant from Canadian Tire to use towards an educational basketball program for Deaf/hard of hearing students. The group was supposed to come into the school on Fridays to teach basketball skills, but this was successfully changed to an online format instead (the instructor calls in and is put up on the screen in the gym for the students to follow along)

All of the school events have been quite different this year due to cohorts/safety/distancing considerations, but the school successfully came up with some creative ways of helping students feel connected.

Janene:

Programming at the secondary school looks quite different this year, with one of the most significant changes being class scheduling, which has been a challenge but has gone well so far. There will be 8 report cards instead of 3 this year due to the way that class scheduling has changed. There are 38 students at the BCSD secondary level.

The school is actively making plans for what will happen if the province moves into stage 3, 4 or 5 again.

Staff changes include a new LSS teacher. There is also an Access program this year for students. Events have been a challenge as the school has had to cancel a lot of clubs and typical activities that students enjoy. The school has done similar online activities to what the elementary school has done around holidays/important dates like Remembrance Day and Orange Shirt Day.

After the updates by Cathy and Janene, the question was asked to Cathy as to whether the holiday/special event videos at the school could be shared with parents via a secure site. Cathy

responded to say that the school cannot share at this time due to the fact that some parents have not given photo/video permission for their children.

5. South Slope PAC update – Yasu

Yasu provided an overview of the covid-19 related items discussed at the last South Slope PAC meeting. Covid protocols are in place and following district recommendations. Should a parent identify a student as exhibiting symptoms of covid, the school will bring in a special sanitizing machine overnight. Nothing will change at the school in terms of its current mask wearing protocols, and there is no update as to whether the school will have an early start to winter break.

Gwen added that each school (elementary and secondary) is allowed to have only one PAC committee. At this time the Burnaby South PAC hasn't had capacity to apply for funding for BCSD students at the secondary level, so the South Slope PAC has continued to apply for gaming grants for all of the students at BCSD (K – 12), even though they have no requirement to do so. Going forward, the South Slope PAC would like the parents on the secondary side to take over this fundraising.

6. Outstanding/new issues brought forward by parents and/or staff

- A question was asked to Cathy as to whether the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) will be used at the secondary level. Cathy indicated that the process is complicated and that there hasn't been any discussion yet as to whether this tool will be used for grades 8 – 12 going forward. Janene commented that there are a number of assessment tools currently in practice at the high school, and that the process is quite different, given that students have multiple teachers rather than only one.
- A question was asked of Janene as to whether grade 8 orientations could take place online this year for students in grade 7. Janene indicated that discussions are underway and that parent meetings and course selections will be going ahead in January. A suggestion was then made as to whether a grade 8 orientation session by existing parents could take place online for new parents. Janene took this suggestion into account.
- Online ASL classes are taking place for bus drivers on a weekly basis (this is in their contract). Currently, all but two of the drivers are signed up for the classes.
- ASL assessments at the elementary and secondary schools are ongoing. The receptive skill testing has been completed, and the expressive skills assessments will take place in the Spring.

6. Q & A

- A question was asked as to whether parents will be involved in the 3-year strategic planning for the school. Cathy indicated that planning is in very early stages but that parents will definitely be involved in some way.

Other Business

A general discussion was held around how to encourage parent involvement at the secondary level. The suggestion was made that a message could be sent out by Janene to the high school

parents mailing list, encouraging them to use the website and social media feeds. It was noted that the schools shouldn't rely solely on social media as not everyone utilizes these channels, and also because it involves placing public information onto privately owned platforms. One parent noted that while this is the case, the information posted to social media by some of the teachers/guidance counsellors has been a very useful tool in knowing what's going on at the school. Another parent noted that information posted, especially on the school websites, needs to be current and consistent.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.