PAC
Parents Advisory Committee

Heritage Woods Secondary School PAC Meeting
January 13, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, School Library

Attendance:

Administration:
Cheryl Woods (Principal)

PAC Executive:
Present:
Chair: Diane MacSporran
Vice Chair: Sheryl Parton
Treasurer: Alina Tavaszi
Secretary: Leah Barrington
DPAC Rep: Grace Wang

Parents (2): Shannon V., Fiona M
Administration: (1): Cheryl Woods
Total participants: 8

Meeting Format:
In person meeting.

Call to Order:
Diane called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Previous Minutes:
Minutes from last PAC meeting were passed.

Agenda:
1. Welcome
2. Treasurer Update
3. Principal's Report
4. DPAC Report
5. After Grad
6. New Business
7. Participant's Questions and Answers

1) Welcome:
   - Welcome to members and parents present. Happy New Year!

2) Treasurer's Report (Alina):
   - No significant updates since the last PAC budgeting meeting in November

- Only one scholarship and yearly contribution from PAC to After Grad PAC cheques were processed since our last meeting

3) Principal's Report (Ms. Woods):

- Ms. Woods is very appreciative of all the work staff is doing to support the shift in cell phone/personalized digital devices in accordance with the new legislation. This is ongoing and requires a steadfast commitment to honour the spirit of the legislation in removing the distraction from the learning environment. Many are using some form of a "cell phone hotel", some tried other methods of facilitating the storage of the cell phone during instructional time. Semester 2 provides the opportunity for a reset and to revisit the policy of providing storage for cell phones/ensuring cell phones are stored away so as to remove the distraction. Teachers will communicate their classroom expectations with respect to this with students and families. Students unable to demonstrate compliance with cell phone expectations may be referred to admin to provide a support plan with the student, family, and school. We recognize that changing culture takes time and a commitment and that we need to continue to educate ourselves, students, and families about the importance of this culture shift and the why the change is necessary (ie./ impact of addictive nature of the apps and the devices including the dopamine effect of the devices.)
- We have very limited space and will not be able to accommodate course change requests except for rare instances by appointment with a counsellor only.
- We are in the throes of planning for the 2025-2026 school year. The course catalog has been updated and is on the school website. Students will be entering their course selections following the assemblies and should make an appointment with Darilynn Butler, our academic advisor, and school counsellors with questions regarding their planning for courses and post-graduation plans.
- In Semester 2, we will be phasing in a new Flex program, currently used by a number of secondary schools in our district, that will support students' development of executive functioning by making a weekly plan to optimize the use Flex instructional time to their benefit. Attendance will be taken and families will receive emails if their child has either not signed up for Flex or has missed their Flex session. More details have been emailed to families and students will be learning about the program in assigned Flex classes over the coming weeks. We have received lots of positive feedback from other schools and the Heritage Woods teacher committee working with Ms. McClenahan is excited and optimistic about the learning supported by implementation of this initiative.
- Ms Woods wanted to thank the staff, particularly the Athletic Director and coaches, for their work supporting the Kodiak Klassics for our Senior boys and girls. Thank you so much to all the staff and parent volunteers for all your support in making both basketball tournaments awesome community building events, and huge successes. This past week we were very fortunate to host the "Empowering Women Through Sport" symposium for the athletes on the Thursday evening prior to the girls' Kodiak Klassic. Thank you so much to coach Andrew Lloyd for all his work in planning this amazing event!
- Thank you to our amazing dance teachers, Ms. Jarvis and Ms. Saloustros, and congratulations to all our dancers for their inspiring performances over the past week both in the matinee events hosting our Middle School students and for their evening performances. We were pleased to

have Assistant Superintendent Nadine Tambellini join us to witness the incredible passion and talents of our dance students!

- Thank you to the Grad Council and volunteer parents for their work and support in planning the Grade 12 Movie night in December. The event was well attended, and all seemed to have great time, particularly during the post movie Dodgeball and "Go,go,stop" games that followed. This was another great opportunity for the Grad class to mix and mingle and bond.

4) DPAC Report (Grace)

DPAC SD43 General Meeting Summary – October 30, 2024
Location: Education Learning Centre (In-Person)

- District Update – Nadine Tambellini (Assistant Superintendent)
    1) Superintendent Patricia Garland announced her retirement after many years of service.
    2) Mr. Robert Zambrano has been appointed as the new Superintendent of SD43, who will take over on December 1, 2024
    3)
- Anti-Racism Committee – Wendy Yu (District Principal)
    1) Wendy Yu provided an update on the Anti-Racism Committee.
    2) She has visited several schools to promote diversity and fight racism.
    3) She can be invited to speak at schools or PAC meetings on this important topic. Some parents have expressed concerns about racism at school.
    4) Wendy will present on this topic again on February 12, 2025.
- BCCPAC (Provincial voice of parents)
    1) Discussion about the BCCPAC.
    2) BCCPAC is the provincial level PAC, as recognized by the provincial government and educational partners, to address issues within the public school system.
    3) It provides parent education and resources. It has a membership fee of $75 annually to access resources, presentations, and guest speakers.
    4) Currently, the BCC PAC is in a transition period and has not provided updates since September. As a result, DPAC Chair Rosy mentioned that you can still register, but limited support is available at this time.
- Online Meeting on AI Usage – January 29, 2025
    1) There will be an online meeting on January 29, 2025, focusing on how to use AI technology effectively.
    2) Parents are encouraged to join, and a link will be shared with PACs once available.
- Stand-Alone Session on Disability Support – November 13, 2023 (Zoom)
    1) A special Stand-Alone Session was hold on November 13 via Zoom by Katie Jameson, focusing on supporting children with disabilities, sharing personal experiences from a parent who has navigated this with her children.
- Next General Meeting
    1) The next DPAC General Meeting will be held November 27, 2024 via Zoom.

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DPAC General Meeting Summary: - November 27, 2024 Location: Zoom

Update from District Principal (Craig Mah) who provided information re Indigenous Education Council:

- Focus is on strategic engagement & Welcome Centre to support newcomers
- Indigenous student learning plans with support block at secondary school level (e.g. "Take a Hike" program at Terry Fox Secondary.)
- Indigenous Grade 4 FSA results 69% on track, higher than Provincial average

Vice Principal Presentation on Digital Innovation and Compliance (Veronica Farnell)

- Introducing the My Education website and planned updates:
- Provincial expectations- mandate 1 student 1 record
- To log in use SD43-email
- Login expiry: Every 90 days
- BC services card way of logging in does not expire
- MyEd holds published report cards, IEP
- Notifications sent to parents when new files are uploaded

MyEd planned updates:

• New mobile app interface - ipad, smart phone user in mind
• Encourage parents to log in using their BC service card as no password required
• Report cards available until July 31st - all 3 terms.
• Reports not kept year after year - it's a pdf, parents can download them out of MyEd.

Q&A

Washroom and Vaping Issues:

- Recommended poster (linked here: ERASE Poster) highlights how students can access help and resources confidentially
- Terry Fox Secondary - A QR code installed on walls that students can access anonymously to instantly report any washroom concerns – which is successful
- Pilot in Ontario - installed equipment that detects vaping in progress
- Monitoring indoor air quality in general can help with asthma or allergy issues or vaping
- DPAC President Rosey can take concern to district to see about cost of air quality monitoring equipment as a district wide initiative.

Next General Meeting: Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Topic: Role of AI in Schools, presented by Stephen Wiffin.

There is another In-Person Information Session on Screentime Safety to be held at the Apple store in Coquitlam Centre, on Sunday January 19th from 10-11am. There are only 50 tickets available, so please register by the link below.

https://buytickets.at/schooldistrict43districtparentadvisorycouncil/1529387

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Personnel Update - Our own DPAC President Rosey Manhas is looking forward to running for School Board Trustee in the upcoming bi-election - she may need to take a leave of absence as president to avoid conflict of interest.

73) After Grad (Sheryl)
- Sheryl reported that fundraising was going well.
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74) New Business
- A reminder to students who participate in Clubs at the school - they are welcome to come and present their clubs to members of the PAC, we would love to hear all about your club!

75) Participant Questions and Answers

Q: A parent commented the school is very good at acknowledging elite athletes who have gone on to pursue their athletic success (e.g. athletes who are invited to play sports on university teams, etc.) and the parent is wondering if there has been thought to somehow also acknowledge the academic and artistic students who also go on to be successful in their field?
A: The Principal said that she would look into it, and she does know of a teacher who is very interested in creating an Alumni Association.

Q: A parent asked about the possibility of replacing the old sewing machines in the textiles room.
A: Cheryl will look into it regarding budget, etc.

Meeting Adjourned: Diane closed the meeting at 8:34 pm. Seconded by Shannon.

Next PAC Meeting: Feb. 10, 2025

Upcoming Events:

February 2025
- 6 – Winter Formal
- 10 – PAC Meeting
- 10 – Photo Day
- 17 – Family Day (no school)
- 26 – Pink Shirt Day
- 28 – Pro D Day

March 2025
- 10 – PAC Meeting
- 13 – Parent Teacher meetings
- 14 – last day before March Break