



R. C. Palmer Secondary Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting - Minutes Wednesday, Jan 15th, 2025 @7:00 pm School lounge

1. Meet and greet / Attendance.
 - Five people attended and were welcomed by the Principal and the PAC secretary (in the absence of the PAC chair)
2. Approval of the previous minutes and adoption of the meeting agenda.
3. School update from the administration, Mr. Ghaug:
 - There is a current focus on connectedness and belonging in school. Staff are working hard to consider how best to support every student, including diverse learners, ELL, indigenous students, etc, making sure support is provided for any learning gaps for those joining the school. Mr Ghaug had invited representatives from SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools) to present the current work they are doing with the school and in the community (Chris Yu and Ruby). Youth SWIS provides language support and monthly activities for newcomers to Canada, the youth are referred via the ELL program. This is funded by Immigration Canada. There are several representatives in Richmond, each one covering 1 secondary school and 5 elementary schools. Palmer Administration will be working closely with SWIS to understand how school can help support these students. Current offerings from SWIS include:
 - Youth Conversation Circle - held each Thursday at Brighthouse library, 4-5.30pm, encouraging life skills, social skills and improvisation.
 - Youth Connections - held each Tuesday at General Currie Elementary School, 4-5.30 pm and offers a more informal activities program
 - Field trips are also run once a month eg a visit to UBC
 - There are also volunteer opportunities eg running lunch programs



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- Grade 10s have been writing their GLAs this week, and the rest of the school have been on extended PLT
 - A meet the teacher (semester 2) event is scheduled for Thurs 23rd Jan, 6pm-7pm where parents have the chance to put a face to the name for their student's semester 2 teachers (this will be on a rotation basis from blocks A-D)
 - Palmer Spotlight will also be held on this evening, showcasing clubs, learning and programs from the school. This will be held from 7.15-8.30pm and is always a popular event. New grade 7 families will be invited to attend a parent meeting at 6.30 pm in the small gym.
 - As a growing school the challenge of finding classrooms is ever present
 - Richmond School District are holding part 2 of their webinar series, entitled "Cellphones: What's Healthy, What's Not, and What We Can Do to Support Our Kids", which is highly recommended for parents, details are available here <https://sd38.bc.ca/news/2024-10-16/parent-education-sessions>.
 - Course planning assemblies are soon to be held to assist students in selecting their courses for 2025/2026. It is important for students to familiarize themselves with the planning guide and take the time to carefully select their courses, as school relies heavily on student choices to ensure appropriate resourcing. Course selection forms will be due to be handed into the counselling office on February 13th.
4. Financial update
- The PAC has now received the funding (\$19k) from the Government to support students' extra-curricular activities. Successful applicants for this funding (selected in the previous PAC meeting) have started to be reimbursed, this should be completed by April. \$2k funding has been allocated to Dry Grad to fund transport.
5. RDPA update
- No update



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6. PAC update

- Nothing to report

7. Dry Grad Committee update

- Fundraisers so far this year (Purdys and Cineplex) have been very successful and the committee are very grateful for support. A sale of macarons is planned.

8. Meeting adjourned @8pm
