

BS PAC General Meeting Minutes - October 4th, 2021

Attendance:

Renata Teague, Chair

Tariza Bastos, Co-Chair

Karima Lacko, Secretary

Alma Quilatan, Treasurer

Victoria Lee, Principal

7:00 pm call to order via Zoom virtual meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

- PAC is running with only 4 members this year
- We have no DPAC representatives, and no liaisons
- We are actively looking for new parent volunteers to fill positions and in any capacity
- We are looking to train new members to replace members not returning next year

2. Student Government Update

- Nice to see almost all members of Student Government
- 2 Representatives for each grade plus ELL, 5 Executives and Members at Large
- Events happening this month include Fear Factor, Grade 9 event, Grade 8 Scavenger Hunt - Introducing Grade 8's to South
- All info and events posted on school website and social media:
<https://sites.google.com/view/bbysouthstudentgov>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bbysouthstudentgov/>

3. Who's Who at South: Victoria Lee

- Vice Principals - here to support students academically, attendance-wise, with school curriculum, clubs and activities.
- **Vice Principal Curtis Hodgson:** 5th year at South. Deals with students' last names M-Z
- **Vice Principal James Morton:** Deals with students' last names A-L, does some health and safety work, will see all students
- **Noam Samet, Safe School Specialist:** role similar to a Youth Worker. South has been and still is a very safe school. Goal is to get to know all South students. Supports students with social issues, interactions, conflict/confrontation resolutions, social media issues. Works alongside school administration and school counselors.
- **Jacqui Fenn, Head of Student Services:** There are 4 full time counsellors and 1 part-time. Supports students' academic-wise and mental health. Help with Grade 12 presentations,

Graduation support, Grade 8 support - connecting with all new students. Counsellors see students based on last names.

- **Robbie Puni, Head of Athletics and RAC (Rebels Athletic Crew):** Sports and teams are running again. Main role is to support teams, instil a sense of teamwork, community and responsibility and to uphold academics during sports. Please feel free to contact via email, phone call, or social media channels:

Robbie.puni@burnabyschools.ca, @rebelsathletics on Instagram and Twitter

4. Victoria Lee, Principal: School Update

- COVID Safety Plan - students following protocols really well, sanitizing hands, masks, health checks, social distancing
- Only 1 student case of active COVID so far - no spreading from that case
- Students very happy to be back in school and are very respectful to each other and teachers
- No student cohort groups like last year. Goal is to make students and teachers comfortable with each other
- New semester system this year - cautionary move in case of new restrictions
- School will send an extensive survey to ask parents and students about the semester system vs linear system
- New bell schedule and time tables in place - students adjusted and settled in very well
- Timetables are a hybrid of shorter periods and longer ones
- The school district implemented Flex Time this year - students loved it last year
- It's up to students to decide what they want to do - many flex time options including gym time, seeing teachers, Gr.12 projects, group projects, club meetings, or stay home for homework or sleep catchup. A survey will be sent out about Flex Time as well
- Parent/Teacher Interviews will be done online - email sent out with a link to register and create an account, log in, schedule interview times. Very easy program to use. Will most likely be used for the next semester - unless things change for COVID then in person interviews can happen.
- Please check the school website for all detailed information and the school calendar: <https://south.burnabyschools.ca/>
- Gr. 12 Grad information not on School Calendar - venue is tentatively booked depending on COVID
- Outdoor Graduation ceremony at SFU, Dinner/Dance venue booked with refundable tickets, Dry Grad events possible depending on COVID
- Burnaby South has been chosen by our School District for a pilot program to introduce new report cards - has been happening in other districts
- "Curricular Competencies" introduced for courses - students assessed on the skills needed to develop critical thinking, the ability to apply what they learn, how to approach problems, finding connections with everything students are learning

- When report cards come out on the MyEd website Grades 8 - 9 will have marks for each of the competencies based on 4 main areas measured on a scale of 1 to 4 (a mark of 4 meets and exceeds expected competency, a 1 does not)
- There will be no letter grades or percentages for Grades 8 - 9
- There will be much more specific comments - what students are doing well and what they can do to improve.
- Grades 10 - 12 will receive the new marks and comments for “Curricular Competencies” as well as letter grades and percentages
- This new marking system has benefits for students as it will highlight their strengths while allowing room for mistakes to make improvements as opposed to averaging out marks for tests/quizzes where students may struggle. Averaging numbers don’t show students’ best - 1 or 2 bad tests can ruin an average mark.

5. PAC Financial Update: Alma Quilatan, Treasurer

- Account Balances:

General Account - \$9041.48

Gaming Account - \$68,537.33
- We have fairly healthy balances to help with school/teacher funding requests throughout the year
- There will be no PAC fundraisers this year due to COVID and lack of demand

6. Old Business/New Business/Questions

Parent Question: How has the school observed the new Truth and Reconciliation Day?

Victoria: The new holiday has been mentioned weeks ago to students in their classes. Indigenous Leadership students designed T-Shirts and worked with teachers on how to implement Indigenous themes and education. Students and student committees were asked what they can pledge to do for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Parent Question: We are new to Canada and have a son in Grade 8 that is looking for help with the English Language. Who can he see?

Noam Samet: There is a part-time School Settlement Worker at South who is also a Youth Worker. Please email noam.samet@burnabyschools.ca for contact information.

Parent(s) Question: Asking about sport team tryouts and what can students who don’t make it onto any teams do to play school sports - also suggesting/asking school to have more than one team(levels) per sport (less competitive) for students that don’t make the competitive teams.

Robbie Puni: Unfortunately there are such high numbers of students trying out for teams and only so many spots available due to the competitive nature of high school sports and the limited availability of coaches and teacher supervisors as well as gym times. South does offer intramurals during lunch times and open gyms for organized sports. There is the option to join sport teams through your local community leagues - eg: SBMC (South Burnaby Metro Club).

As for different levels of teams, the School District on a whole does not support this set up - there would be no other teams to play against, no competitions for different level teams. Each new team would need coaches and teacher supervisors - can't just have volunteers.

Parent Comment: Have 3 kids at South and we are all very happy with the school. As parents we get great feedback from our kids about the teachers and kids getting excellent grades. As newcomers to Canada we are very thankful for the school in accepting the kids so well!

Tariza: Whenever you are happy with the school/teachers please reach out to let them know!

Parent Question: Regarding the new report card pilot program, will report cards stay like that? Will letter grades continue?

Victoria: The goal is to stay with the new system - Grades 8 - 9 get Curricular Competency based marks on a scale of 1 to 4 plus detailed comments and while Grades 10 - 12 get the same plus percentage and letter grades. The School District (education system) is moving towards "Curricular Competencies" based assessments and proficiency scales for all grade levels.

Parent Question: Why is there such a reduction in PAC meetings to only 4 meetings this year? Is reducing the number of meetings reducing parent interest, ie: there are only 4 meetings why should I join for only 3 meetings left after this one?

PAC Executives: The number of meetings have dropped drastically due to COVID for one reason. Over the years there has been a steady decline in parent participants during meetings - there used to be monthly meetings, then bi-monthly, now 4 times a year since COVID. With just 4 current PAC members it comes down to resources and substance to be able to cover the most important topics and events in 4 meetings. If we had more PAC members ahead of the scheduled meetings then it would be possible to have more meetings. Unfortunately it is too difficult for the few PAC members to schedule more meetings. Also, there have been way more parents attending the Zoom meetings than in-person meetings. We will regularly mention and put out notices for parents to volunteer/join PAC.

Parent Question: There are requests for more language translations of school communications sent to parents - specifically Urdu and Spanish.

Victoria: The School District makes the decisions on language translations for district-wide communications. For Burnaby South school communications please contact Victoria to arrange specific language translations.

Other Business, Renata: Mentioning that Dry Grad event may happen this school year and we will need many parent volunteers to help out. The PAC section on the school website has also been revamped with more info.

Check it out: <https://south.burnabyschools.ca/parents/>

<https://south.burnabyschools.ca/pac-executives/>

<https://south.burnabyschools.ca/pac-meetings/>

Next PAC Executive Meeting: January 5th, 2022 @ 7:00 pm (?)

- Screening and pre-approval of PAC Funding Requests

Next PAC General Meeting: January 10th, 2022 @ 7:00 pm (?)

- Final Funding Requests approval

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm
