

## BS PAC Annual General Meeting Minutes - May 2nd, 2022

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### **Attendance:**

Renata Teague, Chair

Tariza Bastos, Co-Chair

Karima Lacko, Secretary

Victoria Lee, Principal

7:00 pm call to order via Zoom virtual meeting

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

### **2. Student Government Updates: Current President and Vice President**

- International/ELL event planned for May 13th - "T-Shirt Decorating" designs based on students' cultural backgrounds
- South's Next Top Rebel competition style event May 19th - proceeds donated to Pa-Moja project: fund for students to attend school in Kenya and Rhino Conservation. Will have different events and games + movie. Run time is 3 - 9 pm.
- Town Hall Meeting on May 25th
- Upcoming events in June: Gr.8 event - bracelet making using Aboriginal themes and Gr.12 Bob Ross Painting event
- Check website: <https://sites.google.com/view/bbysouthstudentgov>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bbysouthstudentgov/?hl=en>
- Teacher Appreciation event planned for end of June
- No Rebel Fest this year - working on another, smaller, school wide event for end of year

### **3. School Report: Principal Victoria Lee**

- There are problems with the draft calendar on the school website - technical issues
- Calendar missing quite a few things, not sure about certain dates
- Victoria will submit a better version Wednesday to include in the meeting minutes - it still might be missing some things
- Rebel Fest not happening because insurance will not cover the outdoor inflatable activities anymore - school will look into other activity options
- The school's 100-year anniversary celebration will take place in June - more info to come
- This year's graduation is finalized at Simon Fraser University - as well as the Grad Dinner/Dance and Dry Grad event!

- New for the curriculum starting in September for Grade 10: First Nations course requirement for graduation. First Nations English and History courses offered for grades 10 -12. Students can pick anyone - only one is needed to graduate. Our school already has quite a few courses with First Nations culture and history and more can be developed. The courses are meant to celebrate First Nations culture and educate students.
- The Burnaby South Report Card pilot program for Grades 8 - 9 is a big success. Unfortunately, the new formats are not reflected in the My Ed. system online because they will be completely changing the system.

### Questions for Principal Lee:

What are the school's staff and student numbers looking like? Is there a staff shortage and is student capacity being reduced?

**Answer:** The school district is asking schools to reduce student numbers to better serve students. But they are predicting a large increase in student numbers in the next few years. School staff numbers are still OK. School administration staff is being reduced. There are 1500 - 1600 expected students for the next school year. International student numbers cannot be increased as Burnaby district students have priority.

What will be the school's biggest challenges or opportunities in this upcoming post-COVID year?

**Answer:** There has been a big impact on students, especially the younger and older ones and this has been underestimated. The school has seen more anxiety and depression in students, as well as student to student conflicts since students had been so used to staying home and being online. The big goal is to instill a sense of community - what a school environment should look like. We recognize and see the opportunities and limitations of technologies (online learning) but students have different learning styles and teachers have different teaching styles. We will work to focus on getting back to a "face to face" school environment and interacting style to all work together!

What is the school's policy on student phone use in the classroom? My son is in grade 8 and there seems to be a lot of inconsistency between teachers. Can there be a more strict, universal phone policy?

**Answer:** The phone use policy varies from teacher to teacher at their own discretion. We have tried strict no phone policies in the past with absolutely no success as it is extremely difficult to

consistently enforce. We go on a teacher-by-teacher basis - each classroom is different. There is more focus on teaching students instead of monitoring phones. We want to instill responsible phone use in students. Strict no phone rules should be kept in the individual students' homes.

**Parent:**

- Disagrees that this is just a home issue. Game Boys were never allowed in schools but now kids can play games on their phones?
- Thinks all young people should be enforced to not use phones in classrooms
- Would like to see teachers trained in phone use policies and rules
- Strongly believes that kids should not be allowed to use phones in class - even when kids are done their in-class schoolwork
- Kids should not always be using technology as this leads to loss of focus, rushing schoolwork and tests - classroom time is being wasted
- Would really like to see a different policy in school

**Principal Lee:**

- Must agree to disagree
- Classroom phone policies and kids use of cell phones are an individual endeavor
- Teachers have been given the right to enforce their own phone use rules
- Suggests that parents ask their kid's teachers for extra support in the classroom if their kids are on their phone too much
- Parents are encouraged to address phone use concerns with individual teachers
- The school wide phone use policy is already in place
- Otherwise, this issue could possibly be taken to the school district level

**Parent:** I have experienced phone use and abuse being recorded on my child's report card. I'm not happy to see this being done repeatedly and have heard the same from some other parents.

**Principal Lee:** This is not allowed to be recorded on students' report cards. Although some parents want it, it's not appropriate. There are no disciplinary comments or remarks allowed to be addressed on report cards, only competencies and work habits.

**Parent:**

- Still hopes that phone policy recommendations can be made, and the culture of technology use can be addressed more
- Digital Technology and Responsible Use talks are only optional but could be mandatory

**Principal Lee:**

- Can consider bringing these talks up with staff
- Yet again, parents are encouraged to talk to their kid's teachers

**Question from Parent:** asking about the lack of sports team opportunities for kids who don't make it onto the school competitive sports teams. Can the school help direct kids and their parents to other sports teams in the community?

**Principal Lee:**

- Unfortunately, schools are not equipped to form extra, less competitive or recreational teams - not enough staff for coaching, no other teams to play against
- This would be a massive endeavor at the school district level
- There are lunch time intramural sports and the new LBA teams - Lunchtime Basketball Association completely set up and run by the students
- Agrees that the school should step up all lunch sports activities
- Will plan to increase intramural teams next school year
- Will ask Mr. Puni if he can post local/community sports on the Rebels Athletics website

**\*Parents please email Principal Lee with any questions/concerns you have:**

**victoria.lee@burnabyschools.ca**

**4. PAC Financial Report: Treasurer Alma Quilatan**

- PAC Gaming Fund balance is \$86,459.75
- PAC General Fund balance is \$8,821.37
- There are no new funding requests

**5. New Business: brief Dry Grad update by Renata**

- Everything is coming together as planned so far
- Sales are 67 grad tickets + 11 guest tickets
- Tickets on sale until May 13th
- Final numbers must be confirmed by May 16th

**Question from Parent:** can family members buy guest tickets to Dry Grad?

**Answer:** No, parents or families cannot buy guest tickets. Guest tickets are only allowed for students either one year younger or one year older than the graduating student that is inviting them. Guests are not limited to being Burnaby South Students - can be from other schools. Guests must be registered and approved by Mr. Kwan and Vice Principal Morton.

## **6. PAC Elections for 2022/2023: General info of what PAC involves and what's needed**

- There is no set number of PAC members
- But cannot have less than 3 executive members - Chair, Co-Chair and Treasurer
- We need a minimum of 3 members for now, then further recruitment can be done
- The PAC Chair and Co-Chair work together at the beginning of school year to set the schedule for meetings
- PAC must keep on top of the calendar and send the info to the school to distribute
- Zoom meetings significantly cut down on the time commitment
- In-person meetings require set up and clean up time - coffee, snacks, etc.
- The new PAC can decide how they want to run meetings
- There are normally 5 Executive meetings and 5 General meeting per year
- PAC roles are decided either by whoever volunteers for specific roles or if someone is nominated and voted into a role
- Present Co-chair Tariza will remain to guide and coach new PAC members - suggests executive meetings stay on Zoom and general meetings in person
- The more PAC members, the easier it is to organize and run meetings - less members means more work

**Floor is open for nominations: No formal nominations submitted!**

**Chair:** Ellen Tian

**Co-Chair:** Linda Lee

**Treasurer:** Echo Wu

### **Members At Large:**

Amelia Lai

Ana Pereira

Nelly Law

**\*Secretary Position open**

**Burnaby South Secondary School PAC elected as it stands.**

Meeting adjourned 8:46pm