



Burnaby Mountain Secondary School

Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00pm

Attendees:

Dave Rawnsley (Principal)	Alina Zhang	Angel Huang
Teresa Rossiello, (Chair)	Nabila Hashimi.	Arezoo Khodaverdi
Gaurav (Jay) Kapadia, (Treasurer)	Farshad.	Tanya
Siva Ramesh (Secretary)	John.	Keri H
Jacque Lane (Parent Ed)	Kaveh Samari.	
Trinity Bissett (DPAC)	Seyhee	
Ruchika Gupta (DPAC)	Stace	
Jacque Lane (Parent ED)	Tatiana Pinheiro	
Kurt Bakker (Member at large)	Marleni Curi	
Connie (Member at large)	Beth	
Sol Park (Student co-president).	Terry Mah-Parker	

1. Welcome & Correspondence call to order at 7:00 pm

2. Minutes of Sep 2024 Council Meeting

Review, correct or adopt

Motion: To approve the minutes for Sep 2024 as presented.

Moved by Teresa. All in favour. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Student Council Update (Sol Park)

Grad Spirit Week & Recent School Events Recap. Last week kicked off with various engaging activities aimed at building community spirit. Despite the shorter week, several events were organized:

- Tuesday: Connect Four – Students enjoyed board games in the commons, fostering connections.
- Wednesday: Wellness Wednesday – Bubble blowing and chalk art outside the school to promote wellness and creativity.
- Thursday: Clubs Day – Clubs set up booths, encouraging student sign-ups during lunchtime events.
- Friday: Grad Barbecue and Twin Day – A fun day celebrating the graduating class with a barbecue and matching outfits.

This week, the excitement continues with Grad Spirit Week, which features creative themes each day:

- Monday: Athlete vs. Athlete Day – Students dressed up as stereotypical athletes.
- Tuesday: Anything But a Backpack Day – Students brought their books in creative, non-backpack alternatives.
- Wednesday: White Lies Day – Grads wore white shirts and humorously wrote false statements about themselves, such as a shorter student writing, “I’m six foot two.”
- Thursday: Grad Picture Day – Students will don school colors (green, white, or black) for their class photo.
- Friday: Inside Out Day – Students will wear their clothes inside out for a playful twist.

Orange Shirt Day Recap: Orange Shirt Day was recently observed. The event focused on truth and reconciliation efforts in Canada. During a five-block day, students participated in educational activities, including watching videos and filling out worksheets. They reflected on their learning by writing insights on paper orange shirts, which are now displayed in the school hallway. This activity aimed to foster a deeper understanding of truth and reconciliation and the government's role in supporting these efforts.

4. Treasurer's Report (Jay) October 07, 2024.

Main Operating Account

- Cash is Main account as of August 31, 2024 → is \$6,129.
- The balance now includes the Canada Post grant of \$4500. No amounts of this have been spent.
- Background of the Grant: We have got approval for the Canada Post for \$4500. We had applied for this grant, and we would spend it under the following activities. This includes \$1,500 for purchase of athletic equipment, \$2500 for purchase of team uniforms and equipment, \$500 for intramural tournaments.

Gaming Account

- Cash in gaming account as of September 30, 2024. → is 10,945
- We received a grant of \$30,600 on Oct 2, 2024, so this will be reported next month
- No amounts of this have been spent from this grant.

September 30, 2024, Financial Statements to be adopted. Please see attached:

1. September 30, 2024, Income Statement and Balance Sheet for Main Account.
2. September 30, 2024, Income Statement and Balance Sheet for Gaming Account.

Motion: To approve above financial report.

Moved by Jay. All in favour. MOTION CARRIED

5. Old/New Business

Kurt Bakker elected as member at large. Siva to continue as secretary

6. Committee Reports

DPAC (Ruchika Gupta and Trinity Bissett)

- The Education Forum, held on October 1st, 2024, with Ruchika Gupta in attendance, featured participation from two political parties, the NDP and the Greens. Out of nine invited participants, four speakers—Anne Kang (MLA), Tara Shustarian, Janet Routledge, and Carrie McLaren—were present. They engaged with around 30 parents, discussing key educational issues. Despite the lower-than-expected turnout, the forum successfully fostered meaningful dialogue and community engagement.
- Dr. MacNamara will be presenting but date hasn't been fixed yet. (*suggested by Teresa to make it virtual to increase participation*)
- PAC 101 is online, Tues. Oct. 8, 7-9 pm
- DPAC general meeting/Treasurers' workshop will be on Oct 21st
- DPAC website up and running (<https://dpac.burnabypac.ca>)
- Constitution and Bylaw's committee started meetings again.

Parent Ed

The mental health presentation by Dr. Erica is still awaiting confirmation. The event is expected to take place either at the end of January or early February as a virtual session. The presentation will address a variety of mental health issues faced by students and provide guidance on how to detect and support them effectively. There is hope for strong attendance at this important event.

Additionally, an upcoming *Scholarship Night* is planned, with further details to be shared by Dave. Scholarship parent education on October 16th at 7 pm, will be virtual.

7. Dry Grad (Ms. Binning)

The Dry Grad committee is hosting a fundraiser featuring local favourites like samosas, sweet buns, and more. All proceeds go to Dry Grad '25.

Order by **October 17th** with pick-up on **October 24th** at the school.

8. Principal's Report & Questions (Mr. David Rawnsley)

Welcoming new families and encouraging them to engage with staff and counselors for support. Key events from the past month included a highly successful Terry Fox Run with strong participation and school spirit, as well as a well-attended *Meet the Teacher* night. Mountain Madness, a two-day team-building event akin to Sports Day, was highlighted as an example of the vibrant school spirit, with strong participation across all grades. The school has been proactive in managing the increasing student population by converting three spaces into classrooms over the summer. The new district-wide cell phone policy has been well-received by students, leading to a significant improvement in focus and classroom behavior. Parents are encouraged to stay engaged, especially as communication between high school students and their families can naturally become less frequent compared to elementary school years. The staff has made a renewed effort to communicate with parents regarding academic achievement, attendance, and behavior, inviting parents to reach out whenever needed.

Upcoming key events include:

- Parent-Teacher interviews on October 23rd, with sign-ups now open.
- Grade 12 post-secondary information session on Thursday during Flex, covering application windows, scholarships, and more.
- The first Grade 11 Career Life Connections (CLC) session on Friday, followed by Grade 12's session the next Friday.
- A *Post-Secondary Information Session* for parents on October 16th, career pathways program, scholarships, industry training programs and career opportunities.

School's protocol for handling emergency mental health situations involving the RCMP, and how does parental consent factor into this process?

The school collaborates closely with RCMP school liaison officers to ensure smooth and supportive handling of any situations that require police involvement. When the school initiates contact, parents are typically informed in advance and included in the process. In cases where the RCMP is involved due to external incidents, communication with parents depends on the nature of the situation, especially if students are witnesses. The school is committed to transparent communication and continuous improvement. Parents are always welcome to reach out to the school or directly to the RCMP for clarification or support.

Flex time:

The purpose of flex time is to provide students with a dedicated period at the beginning of the day to receive additional academic support, work on group projects, or engage with teachers in smaller groups.

Initially introduced as part of the pandemic response to stagger student arrivals, it now serves as a valuable opportunity for personalized learning and academic catch-up. For younger students, particularly in grade 8, flex time is mandatory to help instill structure and encourage consistent attendance. As students advance through grades, the expectation becomes more flexible, allowing older students to manage their own time based on their academic needs. The goal is to foster independence while ensuring that students still have access to resources that support their academic success.

Incident Report: Pepper Spray Incident and Vaping Challenges at School

An altercation occurred after school involving a group of youth from outside the school and a student from within. The external youth targeted the student by spraying pepper spray in the school's lower commons area, where approximately 200 students were present. The quick response of the students and staff helped identify the culprits, who were later arrested by police. The incident caused both physical and emotional distress among students and parents.

Response and Follow-Up:

- Immediate identification of the perpetrators by witnesses.
- Collaboration with the police, leading to the arrest of the youth involved.
- School administration followed up with affected students and their families to address physical and emotional harm caused by the incident.
- Ongoing support is being provided to those impacted.

Vaping Challenges: The school continues to face challenges related to vaping, although the situation has improved compared to pre-pandemic years. Vaping among students, particularly in girls' bathrooms, has been a concern, with some students avoiding these areas due to discomfort. Post-pandemic social behaviours have contributed to this, as students have been using bathrooms as gathering spaces.

Actions Taken:

- Confiscation of vaping devices when found on school premises.
- Police involvement and communication with families when necessary.
- Efforts to reduce bathroom loitering and promote healthier social behaviour, with the involvement of leadership students.
- Ongoing monitoring of vaping incidents and preventive measures in place.

Both the pepper spray incident and the vaping issue are being handled with strong collaboration between the school, students, parents, and law enforcement. Efforts are ongoing to ensure student safety and well-being, and to address the cultural shift in post-pandemic social behaviours. Parents are encouraged to report any concerns directly to school administration.

BMSS Instagram

Connecting with Student Life on Social Media: Parents who wish to keep up with school activities can follow the school's various Instagram accounts, which offer updates on club events, athletics, and grad activities. *#bmssathletics #bmsscouncil*

Mental Health Support at School

- Curriculum: Mental health education is integrated into the physical and health education (P&E) curriculum, with counselors providing additional sessions.
- Targeted Support: The school offers specific support, including social skills and mental health groups for struggling students and families.
- Support Model: A pyramid approach starts with general education and escalates to personalized interventions as needed.
- Resources: Counsellors have access to district and community resources for further support.
- Bathroom Solutions: Universal stalls near student services offer quieter, supervised options for students seeking privacy.

Reporting student absence

Parents and guardians can call the school or send an e-mail to mountain.info@burnabyschools.ca

9. Adjournment at 8:20 pm

Dates of PAC meetings:

Date	Time	On-line / In-person
Monday, November 04, 2024	7:00 PM	In-person
Monday, February 03, 2025	7:00 PM	In-person
Monday, April 07, 2025	7:00 PM	On-line
Monday, May 05, 2025	7:00 PM	In-person AGM
Monday, June 02, 2025	7:00 PM	On-line

Find us at: [PAC Website | Burnaby Mountain Secondary School \(burnabyschools.ca\)](#)