**Minutes**

**Yale Secondary School Parent Advisory Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, 18 January 2017**

**Present:** Shari Wetmore, Lisa Samplonius, Shelley Godwin, Tanya Walters, Wendy Nelson, Darcie Friesen, Jodi Weins

**Admin:** Michael Hendricks (Vice Principal)

**Call to order at 7:01 pm** in Yale Learning Commons

Review of the previous minutes October 19 2016 & November 16 2016. Adoption of minutes approved by all.

**Vice - Principal’s Report – Michael Hendricks**

* **Live to Give** fundraiser is underway for the February event supporting Canuck Place. Last year $23,000 was raised at this lock-in event. All students are encouraged to participate by raising a minimum $50 to gain admittance to the event.
* **Yearbooks**: the price increase was due to more pages and the printing cost increases. While no discount will be available this year for early purchase there is the option of a customized cover. No one at the meeting was aware of the custom cover option so Mr. Hendricks will ensure the information is sent out on the next school communication.
* In November it was reported that the recent **BCTF ruling** in court will have an impact on the School District especially in the areas of class composition and designations and will have a fiscal impact. We now see that in the form of Yale receiving 12 blocks of teaching time funding. After much discussion over the last 2 weeks it has been determined that there will be increases in the area of learning support services (3 blocks) and in support of the Yale school plan the learnings common will receive additional support blocks for blended learning, aboriginal content, etc.. The administration’s goal was to address the needs of the wider school population rather than simply adding another class; using these resources to benefit the school the most was very important.
* The lack of TOC’s in the district may become an issue as the increased need of 40 new teachers due to the SC ruling will impact their availability. The district is actively recruiting at teacher’s colleges throughout the West.
* **Flex time** has been implemented and is being supported and utilized by staff and students. Our discussion indicated it is being met with mixed reactions by the students but since it is new we hope to see the long term benefits through the next semester.
* **Musical Theatre presents The Little Mermaid.** Sales are underway for the February 12-18th performances. Matinees are being well received with Mountain and McMillan both attending. Fraser’s absence is unfortunate. Sales to the Sunday/evening shows are slow. A discussion was held regarding the advertising of the shows with notes being made that in the past there was a much stronger presence on the school website. This option will be looked into by Mr Hendricks as well as the possibility of one of the local newspapers running a story on the preparations underway for the production (rather than just a story when the play is running) to garner community support. Thank you Yale PAC Facebook page for the support shown to date in advertising the tickets.
* Welcome to Jen Muzyka who replaces Jenny Perkins as the office supervisor.
* Our winter athletic program is well underway. Our senior girls basketball team is currently ranked 5th in the province. Wrestling is going well.
* The school district is undertaking a review of all sports Academies. Parent observations have been submitted and the board of directors is expected to release its results later this year.
* Assessment week begins next Monday. The new format represents the trustees desire to have instruction time for the students throughout this period while allowing for review and testing. What this will look like depends on the teacher and will be in a variety of forms from labs, projects or inquiry based learning. Morning attendance is mandatory for all students. Afternoons will be reserved for formal exams.
* Friday of assessment week will included the distribution of timetable and a short block rotation much like the one in Septemberfollowed by **public displays of learning which parents and district officials are invited to attend. There** will be musical theatre presentations, guitar class performances, a gallery show by art classes, a visual presentation by the Women in Technology class.
* Assessment week is not to be confused with the Flex time. Assessment week is structured learning time to enable the teachers and students to finish any learning goals, complete missed or rewritten assignments and generally complete the assessment for all students.
* Parents please be aware that “S-trip” travel companies offering travel to students are not school sanctioned trips. Yale offers a travel club for students who want to travel on supervised trips.

**New Business**: by Shari Wetmore & Lisa Samplonius

* Storage has been made available in the revamped office for historical data and financial information pertaining to the PAC. It will be locked at all times.
* There is a Community Forum being held by SD34 at WJ Mouat on January 25 7-9pm. It will be a Safety/Security review. All parents are encouraged to attend.
* Shari attended the Abbotsford Bingo Association’s annual general meeting in December. PAC received a notice that failure to attend would revoke our membership in the association. No historical information could be found but attendance will be made by a Yale PAC rep in all future years as the contribution from this group is valued.
* Conversation about the need for parent contributions or PAC will need to look at fundraising efforts in order to be able to support requests that cannot be fulfilled by gaming funds. A message reminding parents that they can still donate will be sent with the next school communication. To date we have reported $1300 has been contributed by the families of over 1300 students. Since most families contributed at least $10 per child that means less than 10% of the students have been supported.
* 2 scholarships will be given to grads this year again. Each will be $500. Motion put forward by Lisa Samplonius, seconded by Shelley Godwin, approved by all.
* A PAC Parent has been able to secure preferential prices for 3 items on the learning commons request from November.
	+ Coffee table 60” sq $ 386.00 available for $278
	+ Sofa $1200.00 available for $668
	+ Chair $ 950.00 available for $458

A discussion followed about the need for general account funds to be able to support this request

* Yale PAC Facebook reached 682 accounts last week – the highest to date. A reminder was made to make sure your settings are such that you get all posts so you don’t miss important school updates & activities. Upcoming suggestions for the page included a reminder as to what the PAC donation pays for as many parents weren’t aware that the contributions to the sports teams reduces parents costs, etc.

**Financial Report :** by Shelley Godwin

* Financials were presented. (see attached)
* Tiffany Schellenberg is the new financial administrator and a total of all parents’ PAC contributions will be requested prior to the next meeting due to Tiffany’s recent illness they weren’t available for this meeting.
* Cheque has been written for Musical Theatre. Invoices for the $5000 have been requested.
* Abbotsford Bingo Association has contributed $1097.82 to our general account.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30**

**Next meeting on Wednesday, 15th February 2017**

**7pm in Yale Learning Commons**

**(Meetings will take place every third Wednesday of the month, unless posted differently)**