

**Belmont PAC
Executive Meeting
Minutes
September 19, 2017**

1. 7:03pm Call to Order

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Agenda: Armstrong asked for addition to agenda – under current and new business – encouraging parent involvement/ PAC communications. Moved/Sieben Second/Pritchard Carried

4. Approval of June 6, 2017 Minutes: Minutes not available. Table for next meeting. Robinson reminded PAC that June 6, 2017 meeting was also the AGM and therefore those minutes will need to be available and approved at the AGM in June, 2018.

5. Current Business: Gym Floor. Miller asked that this item be tabled to another meeting.

6. Emergency Preparedness: Miller reported that we are still waiting for SPEAC and the school board to see what the District's plan is in terms of emergency preparedness. Langford has lots of resources in the area, such as Eagle Ridge Community Centre that would be available to the students, therefore Miller recommends PAC not invest too much capital in supplies, instead, he would like PAC assist the school in developing a release plan for managing the students leaving the school in the event of an emergency.

7. Encouraging Parent Involvement/PAC communications: Armstrong raised concerns that the PAC website was not current and the PAC email was not being monitored. Asked if PAC could do more to communicate with parents and encourage parent involvement.

Darwin reported that Sieben and Darwin attended the open house at Belmont last September and presented on behalf of PAC, inviting parents out to the first PAC meeting. Their presentation was well received and the attendance at the meeting last October was up. Darwin and Sieben plan to present at the open house on September 27th.

Darwin cleaned up the PAC email in June and is monitoring the email.

Miller reported that past practice has been for the first general PAC meeting of the year to be held in October; no meeting in December; and a guest speaker attend the March meeting to present to parents. Because SPEAC has been doing a great job at arranging parent education nights, last year for the March meeting PAC was going to discuss school goals. This meeting unfortunately was cancelled due to weather.

Discussions around how to encourage more parent involvement. Suggestions that PAC communicate to parents that we do not intend to fundraise. Instead PAC will support student led and school group fundraisers. PAC also intends to support the school community by voting on an equitable budget that would offer financial assistance to a number of groups/clubs/teams in the school; fine tune the PAC Constitution and establish an emergency preparedness plan. Pritchard suggested that PAC could identify three or four different areas to focus on and smaller parent groups could break off and work on some of these projects. PAC agreed to float these ideas at the meeting on October 2nd. PAC will seek ideas and direction from other parents.

Miller will draft a PAC item to “This week in the Dog House” newsletter and provide to Darwin for his review. Something that gets parents attention, such as “Did you know? – PAC meetings are the first Tuesday of each month? PAC has a Budget of \$25,000? PAC shapes school goals? Did you know PAC has a channel on the Belmont App?”

Discussions that PAC elect, at the October meeting, a parent to take on the role of Communications coordinator. This individual could be responsible for monitoring the PAC email, keeping the website up to date on current PAC/SPEAC events, scheduling announcements on the Belmont APP.

8. Reports:

SPEAC Report: Robinson: Reported there is a SPEAC meeting tomorrow. Invited parents to attend regular SPEAC meetings and workshops. Reminded parents BCCPAC has a parent survey out and encouraged parents to take the time to participate in the survey.

JUNE PAC Summit June 14th as reported above. SPEAC had its AGM, the annual report is available. Elections were held and Armstrong is the Treasurer for the upcoming year. Miller commented that he was very impressed with SPEAC reports this year and thanked Armstrong and Robinson. He is pleased to see progress on the emergency preparedness. Robinson reported that the strategic planning meeting is coming up. She reported that they recently went through the interview process for hiring a secondary principal. She reminded parents that everyone is welcome to attend SPEAC meetings.

Principal's Report: Miller: Student population this year is 1390, which is 100 students over the projection. Population last year, 2016/17 was 1309, 2015/16 population was 1250 and 2014/15 population was 1400. The school is full. Belmont has recaptured a room from the NLC tenant, Westshore Parks & Rec. from 8:00 am. to 5:00 pm for a classroom. Otherwise no new spaces were created for traditional learning spaces. Lots of positive comments from new families. The school and district are working hard to keep kids in our communities. Belmont will only take students in catchment to encourage other families in the District to register in their catchment schools, Royal Bay and Edward Milne. Robinson reported that Royal Bay was built to house 800 students

with the ability to add on to increase to a 1,200 student population. Both Belmont and Royal Bay have land set aside for portables. The infrastructure is in place. Before Belmont receives portables, they would take back the classrooms in the NLC currently occupied by Camosun College. This is not yet necessary.

Parking has not yet been an issue. Miller reported parking is generally good at the start of the school year, it is in February/March when parking space is limited, when Grade 11 students start getting their “N” and are driving to school.

Miller would like to see PAC focus on school goals this year. He reported that schools used to have School Planning Councils, however school goals have now become the responsibility of PACs. The District used to address school goals every November. Miller encouraged SPEAC to address this and see if there is interest within the District to making this a District goal, i.e. November “School goals Month”.

Miller has the results from the Compass Survey. He also surveyed the students in June asking them the five things they like about Belmont and the five things that they feel Belmont needs to work at. The top of the list for likes was the teachers. He said the data compiled from the results of both surveys is extremely useful to help with the school goals.

Miller reported this is the “Year of Wellness”. The school will be taking a proactive approach to young people manifesting wellness and mindfulness. There has been a rise in students with mental health issues. A lot of time has been spent reacting. We want to see a shift to proactive preventative measures. Second semester the school is offering a course – Mental Health literacy. The teachers attended a school planning day with the focus on Anxiety. The teachers enjoyed the presenter. Lots of great information. An after school group has been established to help students with anxiety. The goal is to deduce the stigma and educate everyone on self-care. A goal that it becomes part of the school values. To help the community learn more about mental health. It takes a lot of things to invoke change, start with small changes. There are many stressors in life. Kids are becoming stronger advocates for themselves and getting better at letting adults know what they need.

Teachers report this school start up as one of the best ever. Miller is extremely proud of what is happening at Belmont. Great teachers, EAs and students.

Miller reported the Grad culture at Belmont is changing. The Grads had colour day last week, have BBQs scheduled. The school is giving them extra time for fun events. Last year’s Grads enjoyed Prom at home. Miller reported that they will be looking for parents to step up and help with organizing Prom this year. Darlene will be used as a consultant but looking for new creative leaders. There is an expectation to keep Prom in the community. Langford provided \$10,000 towards safe grad.

Armstrong suggested PAC facilitate a Mental Health speaker to present to parents at our March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Darwin: No report to present. Darwin contacted gaming with questions regarding the filing of the year-end Gaming Summary report. It is estimated the gaming funds will arrive in the second week of October. There is approximately \$8,000 in the account, rolled over from last year. Question as to whether Grad classes leave a Legacy gift for the school? Miller reported that has not been happening in the past. Darwin met with teachers to advise them of the funding that is available from PAC. He received "thank you" from the cheerleading teacher and robotics teacher for the funding PAC provided to their programs last year. Darwin reports that a few years ago athletics received 95% of the schools funding from Gaming. The first year PAC took control of the gaming funds, athletics received 75% of the funds and 25% went to other programs/clubs, etc. Last year athletics received 50%. Discussions regarding whether 50% of the student population was involved in athletics. Pritchard reminded parents that while athletics is not representative of 50% of the student population, we will need to wean them off slowly as historically they have received the funding. Miller encouraged PAC to continue to support new start up sports such as Rugby as well as start-up programs and clubs. PAC will require that athletic provide PAC with a detailed accounting of how gaming funds are spent within the athletics department. Last year with all requests most, other than athletics, were fully funded. Discussions took place around a whole school initiative for PAC to fund legacy items for the school. Something that is meaningful for all students. Miller suggested an art mural in the learning commons or possibly PAC could provide financial assistance in purchasing the Longhouse front designed by AJ Boersen. There has been discussions within the school regarding incorporating the Longhouse front for the school garden. Miller reported that a \$13,000 grant was received to build the school garden. They hope to have a greenhouse this year and are thinking of a pit cook in the three year. It is also the hope that they will be able to bring students from Ruth King and other schools in the District to the outdoor learning classroom.

9. Motion to Adjourn: 8:30 pm Moved/Pritchard Second/Sieben Carried