

**Belmont PAC Minutes**  
**February 6, 2018**

1. 6:58 pm Call to Order

Acknowledgement that we are on the traditional territory lands of Songhees First Nations

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Agenda: Moved/Blondeau, seconded/B. Sieben

4. Approval of January 9, 2018 Minutes: not available. Tabled to next meeting. Discussions regarding posting PAC minutes on school website.

5. Current Business: no current business.

6. Reports:

**Principal's Report – Mr. J. Lamond**

Jan 9/10 - Grade 9 Vaccinations

Jan 15 - Belmont hosted the District Mega Conference as a curriculum implementation day

Jan 17/18 - Belmont was subject to Ministry Audit regarding school equipment and building

Jan 19/20 - Belmont hosted our annual winter dance show in the theatre

Jan 19/20 - Belmont's model UN students travelled to Vancouver to compete and came away with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place against some strong competition from independent schools

Jan 23 - Belmont hosted the monthly VIHA leadership meeting sharing nameless data on students served

Jan 23/24 - In school exam days. Copernican scheduled reviewed for the end of semester 2

Jan 25/26 - Provincial exams

Jan 29 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester began smoothly despite some staffing changes

Jan 29 - Elder Shirley Elphonse from the Esquimalt Nation performed a Smudging Ceremony for our school at lunch

Jan 29 - We welcomed 6 Golf Canada students as well as approximately 30 international students

Jan 31 - We began our course selection process with grade 11s –booklets available on line on our home page.

Jan 31 - We welcomed grade 8 students and parents from Spencer and John Stubbs for our info evening. The theatre was filled to capacity and we received great feedback as many staff stayed to showcase their departments as well as our band students shared some great music

Feb 5 - We hosted TCO2 via Children of the streets and our local action team

Feb 7 Report cards will be distributed to all students in TAG

Feb 5 – 9 Grad photo retakes

Feb 8 - We welcome our middle schools for a music performance

Feb 23 - District Pro D

Feb 28 - Pink Shirt Day

Tomorrow (Feb. 7) we meet with District Principal of IT to discuss the replenishment of two computer labs as well as the conversion of our laptops to chrome books. We are the recipients of a \$35,000 Student Learning Grant.

Our boys' and girls' basketball teams continue to compete as they finish of league play and look towards the zone playoffs

I have been approached by two very well spoke grade 10 students hoping to help develop a student council for the coming year to help provide student governance and student voice as well as help organize and host school wide events.

Questions – Armstrong brought forward concerns from students that AP (Advanced Placement) options are not available for every core academic class. Lamond reported that it is a Lengthy process to be recognized as an IB (International Baccalaureate) school. Renewal process is every year, costly and staff have to be aligned and willing to take on the curriculum. Must use IB curriculum. It is more of a District conversation that a school. Could be a space issue as well. Schools can choose to host AP classes. Difficult because of the rigor of it, the financial piece and you have to align with the AP curriculum.

Armstrong further reported that some students are upset that the Bistro is no longer available throughout the day. Lamond responded by saying there were conversations

with department leaders and staff regarding growing concerns of number of students not attending class and hanging around the cafeteria all day. Staff felt that parameters would be healthy. The Bistro is open for before school and at lunch. The change in hours for the Bistro were made to keep the focus on learning and have kids in class. There are access to snacks for kids that are hunger if they need food and are not able to access the Bistro during the times it is open.

Lamond is seeking PACs input with respect to how to manage issues concerning students smoking near the school grounds. Armstrong will ask at SPEAC regarding smoking issue and how other schools are handling this matter. When the new school was built there was a spot out the front that was supposed to be designated for the students but neighbours complained and therefore the students were asked to not use that area. Pushing them further out is not going to solve the problem. Want feedback from students as to where they think they can go. The students asked for a garbage can but someone burned it. How do we involve the students in the conversation so we don't push them away, but what is a better solution that the current situation. PAC has agreed to put smoking issue on agenda for next meeting.

Armstrong asked whether there is anything to report on the gym floor. Darwin reported no news, no discussion.

Armstrong brought forward students' concerned about Wellness Centre at Belmont students. Some students wanted to be ambassadors of the Wellness Centre to their peers at Belmont. Lamond reported that the Wellness Centre staff said they were thinking of creating a gathering space, however VIHA said the Wellness was not meant to be a drop in centre for the students.

Question asked about the classroom space that Camosun occupies. Lamond reported that Camosun ended up having remedial classes and what they hoped would have happened hasn't happened. Their hope was this was going to be well used in the Westshore, however, it hasn't taken off and is vacant. Camosun realizes that Belmont is over capacity and can give Belmont back the space to use until at least 4 and then take back the space after school. Parking is also an issue for Camosun staff and students.

Touch screens were taken by the School district. Conversations with the District as the connections to the laptops were missing. Found out during exams. Stressful time for students as access to provincial exams due to freezing issues.

Waller asked about MyEd parent portal. Lamond reported the student portal will most likely be turned on for secondary soon. There is cost for parent portal and requires more time for the District to clean up data before a parent portal could be turned on. The District is playing catch up with growth. Work orders are being handled quickly.

SPEAC Report: Armstrong reported:

Next meeting is at 7 pm on February 21<sup>st</sup> at David Cameron Elementary. Next Emergency planning committee meeting is February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Belmont. It is the second year for the Emergency planning committee. The Ministry of Education has said it is a PAC responsibility to assist with the emergency planning for its school. SPEAC feels passionate about this issue and is trying to help PACs come up with a plan. SPEAC will be sending out a survey to all PACs in the District to get an idea of what their plans are currently and get a better picture and come up with a plan for the District. Change in contact in the District has slowed the process. A lot of time is spent discussing plans. Complex issue. Dedicated group on the committee. Always welcome more parents to join them or be added to their email list.

Pritchard sends regrets. She advised via email that the Vancouver Island parent conference is Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are two tickets available to Belmont PAC. Waller has spoken for one ticket.

Treasurer's report: T. Darwin

No report. No bank statement since November. No PAC mail in the box. Not enough mail boxes for teachers.

## 7. Correspondence

- Introduction to Elder Henry Chipps Scia'new Nation– does lots in community
- Teacher magazine
- Thank you card from Lamond for Scholarship – discussion on how PAC came about it. PAC would like the recipient to be a student who demonstrative inclusiveness. Discussions regarding how to honour the scholarship and bursary donors. Maybe a luncheon?

Discussions regarding awards ceremony. Historically has been held late in June in the school theater. Lamond will have further conversations with staff to see what they value in an awards ceremony and decide how to recognize this year's student achievements.

8. Emergency Preparedness. See Armstrong's report in SPEAC report.
9. Planning 2017/2018 school year. Table to another meeting

10. Motion to Adjourn: Moved/Armstrong Second/T. Darwin Carried