

Meeting Minutes for Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School
Held on May 16th, 2024 in the PET school library.
Chaired by School Council Chair Wayne Chen.
Minutes prepared by Co-Secretary: Sandra-Ann Holmes

The meeting began with the Land Acknowledgement. There was a video presentation curated by the Drama department which incorporated the Seven Grandfather Teachings. This was followed by clips of interviews with some members of the cast of the upcoming Mary Poppins Drama presentation scheduled for May 22, 23.

The School Council Treasurers report was presented by School Chair Mr. Wayne Chen on behalf of Treasurer Mr. Don Coulter. The council has an operating budget of \$500.00 there has been one expenditure in September 2023 for snacks. The present balance now stands at \$454.01, There is a planned expenditure of \$100 for a School Council award (up to two winners) for a graduate at the 2024 graduation exercise.

Total funds raised to date from families is \$5,294.55, Chair Wayne Chen expressed appreciation to families who had contributed. With these funds the School Council has already made an interactive White Board purchase and presently has a purchase order created for 2 more projectors.

The next topic on the agenda was Upcoming Events:

Principal Dawn Imada Chan advised that the school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year is now available on the YRDSB website. The first day of the new school year has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 03rd, 2024 (Grade 9 students only).

Spring market had already passed and money was raised for various clubs.

Blazers Bash was set for June 07, 2024, this would involve Food trucks, Carnival games, inflatables and musical performances.

Class times would be shortened on that day. Exams are to begin on Friday June 14th for Grade 12 and on June 19 for other grades.

There was a recap of some past activities

- A group of 22 students competed in the international DECA competition in California, They did well and were able to “bring home the glass.”
- Moderns Department competed in Oral competition at the Provincial level
- Mr. Rajah successfully coordinated the Tala event with 7 secondary schools participating.
- OFSAA badminton
- Track and Field

In the next segment of the meeting, Ms. Imada-Chan told the attendees of a plan to refocus on the School Improvement Plan, The recent transition of 3 different Principals in a year had impacted the school community. Ms. Imada-Chan shared of the staff's collective commitment to

Mental Health and Well-being. There was an identified need to build more time for teachers to collaborate. Each department has been working on a Department Improvement where they

used qualitative and quantitative data to guide the selection of their focus/goal, as well as next steps of action.

- What is the Goal?
- What are the Action?
- What is the Impact? (Forthcoming)

When Ms. Imada-Chan first arrived there were multiple concerns from all community members regarding vaping/smoking taking place in some washrooms, which resulted in some students expressing that they were not comfortable in certain spaces in the school.

This prompted a two week blitz by the school administrators which focused on learning and conversations with students and being present in halls. The impact was also measured by input from the caretaking staff who noticed a decrease of these vaping/smoking items in washrooms. The infractions in the building decreased significantly. The importance of addressing this issue is driven by the need to both follow Health and Safety protocols as well as to support student well-being.

PET High school is moving forward to being a BYOD- Bring your Own Device school. This format is already in place in a other high schools in our area and Board-wide. The school has a growing population and that is underscored by the projection of a population of 1807+ students in the new school year. The school has plans afoot to reduce the number of computer labs to maintain to divert those funds to improving aging technology school wide and further down the road invest in up and coming technology. With the BYOD focus, parents are being asked to remind and encourage their child on a daily basis to bring their device and charge their devices at home. A Chromebook loaning system using devices already in the school will be established for students with limited finances. Developing this new habit will be important to develop early on in the school year.

The discussions then moved to the Students Activity fee, Ms. Imada Chan advised that the fee was set at \$25.00 and had not moved in 10 years, as that was the fee when she was a VP at PET high school, A parent advised that the fee had been upwardly adjusted in September/or October 2023 in a meeting with former Principal Cheong.

Ms. Imada-Chan explained that the student activity fee was used to support extracurricular activities and all the “extras” in a student’s experience. Costs has gone up significantly. For example, pre-Covid it was \$200- \$300 to rent a bus to transport a team to a competition, but the cost had jumped to \$600-\$700.00. A discussion ensued and the consensus seemed to be that

families did not seem to understand the areas that could benefit from a robust Student Activity Fee fund.

The Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy has been in place for the past 4 years in YRDSB. In continuing to support this strategy, Ms. Imada-Chan would like to invite all interested parents of the Black community to be a part of next year's Black Excellence parent group. More information forthcoming in the Fall.

Based on parent feedback, there was mention that the PET families newsletter will be reformatted for the Fall. The new design will make it easier to view the newsletter by phone and for readers to translate the communication into the language of their preference.

Co-Chair Wayne Chen gave a brief recap of the PEAC symposium which was attended by himself and three school council members. Wayne told the group that for him it was an excellent program and he explained that the goal of the PEAC was to Improve parent engagement to improve student achievement. Mr. Chen singled out the presentation by Ms. Jennifer Casa-Todd to be extremely informative. He shared the following information with families at the meeting.

Website: jcasatodd.com/parenting

Password RDL

As a source of useful strategies for navigating conversation with our students.

Towards the end of the meeting, Ms. Imada-Chan spoke of translation tools for multi-language learners. The YRDSB was encouraging teachers to use translation tools in interactions with students. Face-to-face interactive conversations were valuable. One helpful tool for this is: Microsoft Translator or Google Read or Write.

Just before the end of the meeting, an adult in the audience requested more athletics at PET high school. Ms. Imada-Chan explained that extracurriculars required staff supervision and is voluntary in nature, so this may take some time to build out. Continuing to utilize volunteers where possible is a solution.

Ms. Imada-Chan expressed her appreciation for the support and involvement of the families and thus ended the final school council meeting for the academic year 2023-2024.