Moscrop Secondary School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: January 6, 2025 **Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:45 pm

Location: Moscrop Learning Commons (Library)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the School Principal Mr. Andy Chin at 7:15 pm.

2. Attendance

Present:

• Mr. Andy Chin Principal

Parents of students from Grades 8 to 12

We sincerely thank Principal Mr. Chin for his dedicated efforts in addressing the bus shortage issues with TransLink. Thanks to his hard work, additional buses have been scheduled before and after school to reduce overcrowding at bus stops, minimize unnecessary waiting times, and enhance safety for Moscrop students.

3. Principal's report

School Events in December 2024

- Remembrance Day Assembly
- Post Secondary Fair
- Two Music Concerts
- Gingerbread house contest
- Tape a Teacher Event (Student Government Fund raising)
- Report Cards Posted on December 13, 2024

Draft Schedule: 5 block day

Starting in September 2025, 4 out of 8 secondary schools in Burnaby will transition to a five-period extended day schedule.

Draft for 2025 - 2026 School Year

Block	Time
Block 1	8:00 - 9:20 am
Block 2	9:25 -10:45 am
Block 3	10:50-12:15 pm
Lunch	12:15-12:55pm
Block 4	12:55-2:15pm
Block 5	2:20-3:40 pm

Grade 8-10 courses will be scheduled in blocks 2-5

Grade 11-12 courses will be scheduled in blocks 1-5

Upcoming Events

- Assessment Week Jan 20-24, 2025
- Open House Jan 23, 2025
- Winter Formal Feb 7, 2025 (Hilton at Metrotown) for Grade 11 or Grade 12 students
- Parent Teacher Conferences Feb 6, 2025
 Sign up starts on January 14, 2025

Dry Grad Updates

Proposed the Dry Grad will be 3 hour boat cruise on June 20th and the ticket price is to be determined.

Other Concerns Raised During the PAC Meeting

School Renovations and Growth in the Local Community

The provincial government provides funding for schools; however, Moscrop's renovation plan, submitted long ago, has not yet been approved. Additionally, a significant new community is

emerging near the BCIT campus, which is expected to bring a substantial increase in student enrollment over the next five years. Approximately 300 additional students are anticipated by September 2025.

New Five-Block Schedule

The recent District decision to implement a five-block schedule, driven by the growing local student population and a shortage of teaching space and staff, has raised significant concerns and questions among parents.

One suggested approach is to invite one or more School District trustees to the next PAC meeting on February 3. It may also be beneficial to include key decision-makers from the school district, as well as local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), to address these concerns and explore potential solutions.

Concerns Raised by Parents Regarding the New 5-Period Schedule During the PAC Meeting:

1. Increased School Population:

- Students have noted a noticeable increase in the school population this year, resulting in:
 - Overcrowded hallways, making it difficult to get to classes on time.
 - Longer wait times to find spots to eat during lunch.
 - Limited access to teachers, as more students are seeking their attention.
- The school currently has approximately 200 more students compared to previous years, and an additional 300 students are expected to join in September 2025.

2. Fire Safety Concerns:

 Parents are worried about how fire hazards or emergency situations would be addressed, given the current challenges with movement within the building.

3. French Immersion Catchment Area:

As a French Immersion school, Moscrop has a larger catchment area than
 English-stream schools, further contributing to the growing student population.

4. New Start Times:

 The new schedule poses challenges for families with multiple children attending different schools, as the time gaps between drop-offs are significant.

5. Teacher Retention Concerns:

- There is a high risk of losing teachers, as some have indicated they may leave due to the schedule changes, particularly those with children who need to be dropped off at other schools.
- The shortage of French Immersion teachers amplifies this issue, potentially affecting families choosing Moscrop for their children.

6. Building Safety:

 Parents have questioned whether an engineering report has been conducted to ensure the building can safely accommodate the increased number of students.

7. Lack of Parent Consultation:

 Parents expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of a proper survey or consultation process before implementing the new schedule. The decision-making process was not transparent or open to public input.

8. Elimination of Flex Time:

 The removal of flex time has created challenges for families, as this was often the only opportunity for students to meet with teachers for additional support.

9. Uncertainty About Extracurricular Activities:

 It remains unclear whether programs like Dance Company and Jazz Band will continue during regular school hours or be rescheduled.

10. Impact on Sports Activities:

 Junior sports teams often have games immediately after school, and the new schedule may cause students to miss their last block, disrupting both academic and athletic commitments.

11. Supervision During Free Blocks:

 Parents are concerned about where students will spend their time during free blocks and how their safety and supervision will be managed.

Smoking Issues in School Washrooms

The issue of Vaping in the school washrooms has been brought to the attention of the school principal. Mr. Chin is committed to addressing this problem and ensuring Moscrop becomes an better place to study and enjoy.

Next Meeting – Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7pm

Minutes submitted by:

Johnny Jing, Secretary