

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
(PAC)
APRIL 27TH, 2016 GENERAL MEETING
AT 7:00 p.m. in the Library of LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL

Approximately 10 parents in attendance

Steering Committee Members Present:

Jake Fry, Christine Dearing, Janis Liu, Linda Liu, Amy Yan

Absent: Tracey St. Denis

Time	Item	Speaker
7:00-7:10	Welcome	Jake

Daphne Gray-Grant: Report on Debate Club: Debate Club has been successful this year. There are 40 students in the club, many from Grade 8. Students are from 4 grades this year and will be 5 grades next year. The team qualified for provincials, went to national debate championship and did well. It's the 1st time the team has competed at the national level.

Next year the nationals will be in Vancouver. We hope the senior team will qualify. We didn't have any junior teams qualify for nationals this year. We have a Grade 9 debater who debates in French and went to the internationals with another partner from Byng. She will do well next year.

One challenge we are facing now is that two years from now, the nationals will be in Newfoundland and we are looking for help with coaching. We only have two coaches now. We need more help to coach the kids from 5 different grades.

Thank you to John Puddifoot who acted as a very loyal and dedicated judge for some of the tournaments. Participating team has to bring a judge to compete. Season goes from September to April if qualify for nationals.

We are member of the Debate Association of BC.

7:10-7:20	Feb 24th, 2016 Minutes in both English and Mandarin	Jake
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Motion by Christine to approve Feb meeting minutes, seconded by Janis

Motion to approve meeting April 27th, 2016 agenda by Jane and seconded by Mary

Carried

No need to move to groups for informal translation

7:15-7:51 Principal's Report

Geoff

VSU Budget: everybody waiting on that. We don't know what the impact would be.

New Vancouver schools learning model.

How much online enrollment depends on each school. Byng is high. Online providers would like to improve completion rate. Completion rate is quite low.

Discussed benefits of online compare to in class teaching. What we can do make education system better for students?

Online courses will show as Byng courses

See Principal's report attached to the minutes

7:51-8:40 Teacher's Report

Scott

Staff training on new curriculum 2 weeks ago.

Budget time: Maintaining funding. Teachers concerned about funding. We rely on funding through PAC for technology. Otherwise you don't get funding for it.

Nov 10th, one hour in court for decision

Similar case argued by Ontario teachers.

Regarding online courses, online learning is a methodology - it doesn't work for all students. It can be highly successful for some courses for some students. Some learn better working at their own pace. It can be highly effective. People have a variety of opinions about it. Testing is done in a controlled environment,

Working on new curriculum; April 15th Pro-D explored new curriculum.

Staff will be more familiar with it. Changes will be implemented slowly.

Applied Skills Presentation

Bryan Erikson

Bryan has taught Applied Skills at Byng for 14 years.

BC's new curriculum: applied design, skills and technologies (ADST)

Applied skills covers 4 areas of study with a variety course options.

- Business education
- Food and nutrition: Sabine Shaw, Beth Taggart & Shirley Woo
- Health and career
- IT: Len Pelletier

- Technical Studies: Bryan Erickson / Matt Barski
- Media arts/ graphics (Fine arts)
- Textiles
- Woodworking

Business Education:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/goals-rationale/adst>

Why Applied Skills:

Have traditionally provided students with the opportunity to explore skills and potential career opportunities in trades, technology, and service industry. They are not often considered as potential subjects of interest to develop skills needed in the pursuit of more common interest and /or careers.

- Artistic and scientific projects/pursuits
- Hand-eye coordination
- Project planning/ordered thinking
- Creative thinking
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Practical thinking

Byng's mission statement states that we look to enable "students to challenge their intellectual and creative abilities" to allow "them to meet their full potential as citizens"

At the beginning of Byng's course outline booklet, it reads: "we would like to see every student fully engaged in a balanced program of courses. It is our belief that students benefit from engaging in a variety of pursuits that go beyond academics"

Courses in Applied Skills support the previous statements by helping to fulfill some of Byng's commitments:

Address varied learning styles

Develop an appreciation of the value and importance of lifelong learning

Help students to become adaptable in an ever-changing world

We strongly support one of Byng's school goal objectives:

To engage students intellectually in learning that is relevant, authentic and meaningful to them.

New Curriculum

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>

Applied design, skills and technology

Project based learning

Junior level courses K-9 set up a basis of knowledge

Senior courses allow students to expand on their knowledge base and skills by doing projects that they choose and/or design

Greater opportunity for cross-curricular projects and activities.

8:40 - 8:45 Direct Appeal Report Mary

Raised \$15,000- \$10,000 in checks from over 60 families and \$5000 from online

Online option is still available for more donations

8:30-8:35 Treasurer's Report/Wish List Jake

Jake presented Tracey's report ending March 31st, 2016. Report details were shown on projector. We did not have quorum to approve Wish List. Item moved to May meeting.

8:35-8:59 DPAC Report Linda and John

DPAC held city wide event on April 7th, John & Linda reported on VSB budget. 2nd celebration of public education will happen on April 25th to strengthen the public education system. There will be activities, music.

BC curriculum redesign, schools are asked to send a team with one administrator and 3 parents to participate the interactive presentation on May 16th and 17th. We can contact Magee for more details.

Ministry will be there. For information and explanation of the new curriculum.

DPAC made a statement about budget recommending the board to submit deficit budget.

Vancouver DPAC support engaged learners, individual schools, caring communities and calls for a reversal of deep cuts to public education find in this recent budget.

Principal's Report

April 27th, 2016

March and April at Lord Byng

Our trips to New York, to New Zealand and Australia, and to Peru have all returned safely – with both students and staff reporting the experiences to have been wonderful. Not only that, I received an email from one of the host families in Australia, declaring our rugby las to have been “an absolute delight, very well-mannered and behaved....extremely helpful and engaging with the whole family. [So much so that they] ...would welcome them back anytime.”

In relation to the students' humanitarian travel to Peru, a past Byng trip to Kenya has a renewed relationship component: an opportunity to reconnect through performance here at Lord Byng, thanks to our students and Ms Smith our Grade 10 Counsellor.

What: The Mully Children's Choir evening performance at Lord Byng

When: *Possibly* Tuesday, May 24th in the Auditorium from 7:00-8:30 pm. We'll keep things up to date on the website.

Cost: By donation (\$10 recommended) All funds will go directly to MCF, a registered Canadian charity foundation.

The evening event is inspired by Lord Byng's volunteer humanitarian trip to The Mully Children's Family (MCF) in Ndalani, Kenya during spring break 2011 when forty Lord Byng students and 2 staff helped build a boy's dormitory at MCF. The humanitarian component of this trip was extremely gratifying and meaningful for everyone involved.

Lord Byng's Helping Hands Club has been continuously fundraising for MCF since our humanitarian trip there, and club members are eager for a heartfelt performance and inspired stories of HOPE. We are honored to host some of the youth we met during our time in Kenya. The Mully Children's family Choir has kindly offered to perform at Byng at the end of May (the exact date/time is being determined).

The show includes singing, dancing, drumming and demonstrations from their acrobatics team and karate team who recently won the East African Championships.

A highlight of the performance is the testimonies of choir members who will share their journeys from heartbreak to hope.

Please bring your friends and join us at a show and stay afterwards to say hello to our Kenyan family.

I have put out a few handouts related to our new Lord Byng app, available for download at the App Store – for free. If you'd like him to do so, Mr Lopez our Grades 10 and 11 Vice-Principal will attend the next PAC to explain the app and how we hope to use it – and maybe how our PAC can use it.

Of course our report cards went out in March, and interim reports will go out in early May. The teacher have been working hard to keep the students focussed in the push to the end of June, and I have been reminding our senior students to stay on task, and to try to avoid thinking that the school is actually the beach, whenever the sun shines.

Work on the Scholarship Committee, the planning for Grad Ceremonies, and the many pieces of end of year routines are well underway. Teachers are making things happen, and I appreciate all they do. In the vein I know that Alexa is working to plan an appreciation lunch for our staff on June 22nd, and I am pleased to assist as need be.

Beginning tomorrow night we'll have four nights of entertainment as Lord Byng Theatre Company's production of Mel Brooke's *Young Frankenstein* takes the stage: Thursday and Friday of this week and next. Please come out! Tickets are \$15, or \$12 for seniors and youngsters.

Our Leadership students have been away this week, and I'm sure they're looking forward to getting back to work here tomorrow! With all that Leadership training and experience under their belts!

Our Byng Arts Department has brought in James Harry, a very personable, engaging and innovative Aboriginal Artist, to create some original pieces for the doors of our gallery. It's going well so far, I look forward to the results!

There have been many developments regarding the VSB budget over the past two months, and Byng currently awaits news regarding our final staffing for 2016-17. Additionally, Byng has been chosen as one of four VLN schools, meaning that a few of our staff members will be teaching both regular and online courses in 2016-17. This initiative has brought on some lively discussion as we sort out what such a change might mean for staff and students. I'm hoping that our school becomes even more effective and comprehensive such that more of our students have the best possibly learning opportunities, here at Lord Byng.

May 16th, Byng will host Shane Pointe who is our resident Aboriginal elder for the VSB, and our teachers have arranged also for the presentation of "Qwalena: the wild woman who steals children", in the auditorium during period last period. Scott McKeen can tell you more.

(Qwalena is a multi-media, theatrical storytelling presentation the purpose of which is to create awareness about the inter-generational impact of Indian Residential Schools and the Indian Act. Using his experience in stand-up comedy, film making, and song writing, Dallas Yellowfly creates a highly engaging experience for all those in attendance.)

Finally, our school fees will be posted soon, and there are only three changes. Fees remain the same for 2016 with the exception of AP exam fees, which will rise according to the dollar exchange rates (at least \$140 up from \$120) for next year, and an additional cost of \$5 for each of junior and senior Foods courses: making them \$25 and \$35 respectively.

G. Taylor

Note: anyone interested in tickets to the Annual Britannia Support Society Fundraising Dinner, May 25th, 2016, at the Wall Centre Sheraton Hotel, please contact Geoff Taylor at Lord Byng, or go to <http://www.britsupportociety.com/events/> Ticket