

PAC Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2014, at 7:30 pm in the staffroom

Members in attendance: Mei Chong, Emma Li, Winnie, Nancy Wang, Elizabeth Chang, Priscilla Chang, Fan Chun, Sally Duan, Amy Liu, Nancy Xu, Karen Aiouch, and Esther Kwok

1. Welcome by Esther (Chair)
2. Guest Teacher Peth– Dept. of Modern Language
 - Japanese exchange program, open to all students not just to those in Japanese studies; happens every 2 years. Joint venture between Social Studies and Modern Languages departments
 - French Exchange program sponsored by the YMCA, most expenses are covered except a minimal fee, summer program with a job for each student enrolled; for ages 15-16, for students in grade 10 and 11 not 12; program is 6 weeks long (July to mid-August)
 - Using meaningful technology in the department; dept. goal to hook teachers with the technology that they need; a COW was granted by PAC
3. Academy of Reading - presented by Brenda Reeves
 - A web-based program; individualized literacy program; open to all students that struggle with reading and literacy; designed to enhance school courses
 - It's intended to support students across the board who have issues with learning
 - Presently have 10 licenses that allow 10 students on the program at one time but can have multiple accounts
 - Kids can move up several grade levels within one school year; consistency is important and this program allows kids to use it at home as well.
 - To add 10 more licenses, it will cost significantly less (~\$3000)
 - Currently all three special education classes as well as Linda Hall students are using it; that's approximately 150 students have access to this program; about 50 students are actively using it
 - Students who have a skill block will have access to this program
 - ELL students will have access at the next level of the program
 - (see attached handout)
4. Guest Teacher Dean Long – Department of Fine Arts

Goal: to develop students to be critical thinkers and creative problem solvers; to become visually literate people; to build a strong community – positive contributor

 - Dean is part of the visual arts department
 - Courses offered: General Arts (gr 8-12); Graphics (gr 9/10); Design (gr 11); Ceramics and 3D (gr 9/10); Photography (gr 10-12); Art Careers (gr 11/12)
 - Created an art gallery downstairs in the cafeteria; a forum for students to show work that they've developed on their own and not through the classes; to encourage kids to take ownership of their work outside of doing things for marks and grades; student-led gallery
 - Field trips and guest speakers are part of the Art Careers courses

- Visual Arts courses creates the annual yearbook; offered course for grades 11/12 students; technical prerequisite is the Graphics 10 course but any student can enroll in this course; students have to be independent workers who can do things with periodic guidance
 - Dept has a blog and a student-led Facebook page; exhibitions on the blog are made by students in their own free time; postings updated once a week
 - 'Draw Down' is an initiative done in conjunction with the PG Care leaders; on May 16th between 11-3 pm
 - Every 2 years, dept. offers optional New York trip to students
5. Adoption of the Feb 18, 2014, minutes – Karen motioned to pass; Fan seconds
 6. Voting items
 - a) Proposed 2014-2015 School Fees – voted to pass 10 to the 12 votes present
 - b) Academy of Learning \$5000 financial support – voted to pass 12 to the 12 votes present
 7. Announcements
 - a) Asian Coffee House – held April 30th from 1-3 pm at the Career Center
 - b) Grade 7 Walkabout – May 7th starting at 12:45; need greeters
 8. Adjournment – Mei motioned to adjourn; Elizabeth seconded