

# Kitsilano Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Room 104/105

## PAC executive

**Chair:** Daniela Girard  
**Vice-Chair:** Wayde Hayley  
**Treasurers:** Kim Wilson-McCreath  
**Secretary:** Jennifer Brandon, **Assistant Secretary:** Charlotte French  
**Fundraising Chair:** Norma Biln  
**Website:** Daniella Kurland  
**Members at Large:** Lettie McLean & Teri Charuhan - Athletics Liaisons  
Corrina Hammond – Art and Drama Liaison  
Martina Mitterer – Grad Liaison  
Christina Morgan & Martina Mitterer – Catering & Refreshments  
Christina Morgan - Cookie Bash Organizer  
Brian Rohl & Aniko Kovacs – Fundraising Events  
Lisa Pindera & Cynthia Morin – Educational & Speaker Events  
**DPAC Representatives:** Alan Patola Moosman

## Minutes

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### Presenter and /or Action

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1. Agenda Approval  
Motion to approve the agenda as presented  
**Moved:** John Chesko **Seconded:** Valerie Murray  
Passed
2. Approval of the Minutes of the PAC meeting on Nov 26, 2019  
Motion to approve the minutes as submitted  
**Moved:** Martina Mitterer **Seconded:** Alan Patola Moosman  
Passed
3. PAC Mission and Welcome note Daniela Girard  
Daniela reminded the group of the PAC mission statement and this year's goals.
4. Community Guest - Chris Yu, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House  
\*\*\*get name of second guest\*\*\*  
Representatives from Kitsilano Neighbourhood House provided the group with information about their new youth initiatives. Chris is the new youth worker at the Neighbourhood House. They are open to suggestions for meeting the needs of the teens at the high school.

Every Friday Chris is at the school in a designated room to provide social time for the students. They have board games and snacks. Chris brings information about volunteer

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opportunities available for the students as well as flyers and resources to let students know what is happening in the neighbourhood for them.

Kits House has started a youth council and all the members of the council are from Kits Secondary. The youth council is planning events for their peers. The first event, a movie night, was held in the Fall and 21 youth attended. The next event is this Friday (Jan. 31) is a board game night. They have snacks at all the events. There will be a monthly event for youth.

Kits House is a safe space and parents can feel confident that their children are safe, having fun, and making friends. The event for February is a Hip-Hop Dance workshop. There will be snacks. Everything is free. The youth council will make posters and get them up in the neighbourhood advertising all of the events.

Kits House staff are looking into starting a youth employment program, a photography class, and other ideas. They need support from the community to make the program successful.

Chris left his card and posters for the next event.

Kits Neighbourhood House is funded through government grants from the Province and the city of Vancouver. There are some cost recovery programs but the youth programming is all grant funded.

## 5. School Updates

- Student Council Sydney Mardon

7:00pm

No update from Sydney. Mr. Pospisil gave a quick update. This is spirit week – students dress in school colours or dress like a twin. A dodgeball event, students vs teachers, is coming up. There was a very successful Model UN event. Students are working on the Events Bulletin and the next issue will come out on Sunday (Feb. 2).

- Teacher Update Ms. Carol McMillan

Course planning night is happening this Thursday (Jan. 30). There are new English courses that will be offered for next year. Students should check out the new options. There will be assemblies by grade next week in the theatre for course information specific to that grade group. There will be teachers available to explain the courses, especially any of the new courses.

Career Life Course just wrapped up and was the first time this course from the new curriculum was done. For students in grade 10 and 11 it is not too early to plan some volunteering as they will need 30 hours of volunteering or work experience to meet graduation requirements.

Q from parent: Is the ministry asking for feedback on the CLC course?

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A. from Ms Bains – it is now a completed curriculum and so there is not a formal process for feedback. There has been some tweaks to the curriculum this year so they have adjusted from some feedback but there is not a formal process.

Ms McMillan continued: For some of the grade 12 students their capstone project in Career Life Course was looking into what they can do with a science degree or whichever degree they are thinking of pursuing. Ms McMillan did a lot of work with her group of grade 12 students on budgeting and how much university will cost including helping them be realistic about living expenses.

The Model UN group organized a successful conference. Kits is getting to be known as a MUN school. This conference was organized to help pass the torch from the current grade 12s to the grade 11s.

- Principal's Report Ms. Ranjit Bains  
Career Life Course, this year the grade 12s were missing the career course needed for graduation requirements. The grade 12s completed the course in the first half of the year and the grade 11s will complete the CLC course in the second half of the year. It will be offered to grade 11s next year as well so that they can get the preparation done that is useful for grade 12. It is an off-timetable course. Fine Arts night is earlier this year as requested by the Art Department so course planning night will happen on the same night and the two events together.

The deadline for students to submit their course requests is before Spring Break. Each grade will find out their deadline during the assemblies next week. The dates will be staggered by grade so that the system is not overloaded. The deadline is determined by the VSB staffing and budgeting timelines. They use the information from course planning at the board level to sort out the budget.

There is no magic number for a course to be offered. For example, last year they had to make some tough decisions in Social Studies because all the classes had 25 students which meant that there was the equivalent of one empty class.

They are funded based on 30 students in a class. It is rare that a class actually has 30 students to run. The funding has reduced over the last few years so it is not possible to run smaller classes, there just isn't the funding to do it.

Ms Bains has received a lot of comments about the format of parent teacher conferences. They are looking at other options for structures as there has been a lot of feedback and concerns. There will be a new structure for the formal evaluations starting next year – rather than 3 there will be 2 report cards. This will be discussed at length at the February PAC meeting. A reminder that parents can contact the teacher and meet with them at any time during the year. Getting the information is particularly a concern for grade 8 parents as the students transition to high school.

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Graduation and Prom has not been a school sanctioned event. Usually a parent will be willing to help with the arrangements and financially sponsor the Prom event. Because it is off campus and non-sanctioned event the code of conduct is not adhered to and there can be difficult situations particularly because there are guests of legal age.

In the past there have been a variety of sanctioned events. There was a dinner dance with parents in attendance that was organized with the school but they didn't break even and it was too expensive for some of the families so it wasn't inclusive. Last year there was a reception after the graduation ceremony that was inclusive and meant that teachers were present and involved.

Any money that is raised by the Grad Council goes to the school sanctioned events. There will be a winter formal at the school and there will be a graduation ceremony and reception. They were considering a school sanctioned, co-sponsored prom that would mean there would be no guests from outside the school. Ms Bains looked at all the finances and heard back from many sources that students wanted to bring the guests that they wanted to bring and so it was not clear that the prom would have enough attendance to break even. This meant the co-sponsored event could not happen.

There were a number of questions from grade 12 parents regarding a notice that went out about graduation events on Friday, Jan. 24.

Ms Bains has some questions and concerns about the costs of the non-school sanctioned events as she knows what the quotes the school has for costs and sees what is asked as payment. The ticket costs seem much higher than she would expect. She wonders about how the cost has been established and should there be excess what is happening with it.

It is important to be clear that Grad Council is about organizing sponsored events at the school. Grad Council is not for organizing non-sponsored events and if Grad Council is organizing non-sponsored event as Grad Council there will be consequences. If something problematic happens at a non-sponsored event there may be consequences through the school.

Reaching out to parents to help with arrangements for a school sponsored grad hadn't been part of the process in the past. Parents did help with organizing events last year.

For clarification there are **3 graduation events that are school sponsored:**

- Grad winter formal,
- Grad ceremony, and
- Grad reception after the ceremony.

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Martina Mitterer – PAC Grad Liaison – offered that the PAC Dry Grad Committee is meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30 PM. There will be a notice going to grade 12 and grade 11 parents. This meeting can be expanded to include a discussion of a parent sponsored Prom. Parents of grade 12 students advised that there is an idea for a boat cruise or a dinner dance. There could be security contracted to make it safer (1 per every 50 students).

Note: Ms Bains and many grade 12 parents left at the end of this discussion.

Further conversation included suggestions of providing definitions for the different types of event that can happen for grad and what is currently scheduled and happening that is sanctioned by the school (when and where). There was also conversation about the timing and ability to communicate with grade 12 parents earlier next year.

### 6. Treasurer Report

Kim Wilson-McCreath

This year we have raised \$55,000 dollars. \$1400 was raised at Pub Night in December for the Hockey team. The money will go toward new uniforms.

\$40,000 funds raised have not yet been disbursed. \$8400 dollars is set aside for capital projects. All funds are allocated but all departments have not yet submitted their claims for their allocation. There is \$5760 that has not yet been allocated. Daniela will give the department heads a March 31 deadline for submissions to claim their allocations.

Grad Council submitted a request for \$10,000 for money toward a grad council initiative. They are still working on articulating what they want the money for but there is likely not that amount of money.

### 7. Fundraising Chair

Norma Biln

The Fundraising Committee for better fitness equipment needs \$70,000 to replace all of the old equipment. If PAC raises \$35,000 there is a provincial matching grant program. They have now raised \$29,000 from 10 families. It has been decided that anyone who gives \$500 or more gets their name on a plaque on the wall of the fitness room.

The fundraising program based on sponsorship of chairs in the theatre is continuing. There is consideration of a discounted rate for grads to give to the chair fundraising campaign.

### 8. DPAC Updates

Alan Patola Moosmann

Challenges were raised at the last meeting about using myEd BC family portal. There is a meeting of the appropriate district committee next week and this item will be raised.

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At the January 23 general meeting there was discussion of school age childcare in the schools, this is most important for elementary schools, and there was a presentation on the Vancouver School Plan.

On February 6 there will be a PAC Summit that includes representatives from every PAC and topics of broad interest will be discussed.

DPAC is looking for parent input over the coming months on the proposed VSB budget for 2020-21.

Janet Fraser is the chair once again for the coming year. The Kits Sec. liaison is Fraser Valentine. If we have an issue he is the first point of contact. At the Feb. 27 general meeting there will be a presentation on Bullying which is open to all. The Annual General Meeting and conference for BCCPAC will be May 1 to 3. If someone wants to join Alan at the conference, you are very welcome. There will be a call for proposals for the conference and Alan will circulate that for more information.

Alan's full report is attached.

### 9. Chair Update

Daniela Girard

Fine Arts and course planning night this Thursday - 14 people have offered to help with the PAC table to sell coffee, cookies, and take donations for fundraising.

The What's Next evening is tomorrow Jan. 29 running from 7PM to 9PM. The presenters will be VSB Career Programs, CDI College, and Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts. The next What's Next is Feb. 5. There will be a performance by the Kits Jazz ensemble, Capilano University, Emily Carr University, and the International, Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE).

Fund raising nights. There were 50 in attendance at the Pub Night in December and it was a lot of fun. There was a silent auction and a 50/50 draw. Students who are on the hockey team were in attendance, wore their jerseys, and helped with the silent auction and 50/50.

There will be another Pub Night on March 10 at Rogue on Broadway. Funds will go to the Dry Grad committee.

Daniella is trying to organize a Mother & Daughter personal safety event in March.

Lisa Pindera has agreed to be the PAC liaison for the Events Bulletin that is being coordinated by Mr. Pospisill. Thank you Lisa.

The next PAC meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 25.

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10. Athletic Liaison

Lettie McLean

Check out the PAC website for all of the events that are coming up and the links to athletic blogs and Instagram pages.

11. Adjournment and thank you

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Martina Mitterer

Passed.

**DRAFT**