

Kitsilano Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Minutes of Online Meeting

PAC Executive Committee members in attendance

Chair:	Daniela Girard
Vice-Chair:	Wayde Hayley
Assistant Secretary:	Charlotte French
Fundraising Chair:	Norma Biln
Members at Large:	Lettie McLean – Co-Athletics Liaisons Corrina Hammond – Art and Drama Liaison Martina Mitterer – Grad Liaison Martina Mitterer – Catering & Refreshments Lisa Pindera – Educational & Speaker Events Committee
DPAC Representatives:	Alan Patola Moosmann

General Members in attendance: Jacqueline Crummey, Alexia Bloch, Darja Zlindra, Julie Verhoeven, Amy van Weelderen, Denise Edwards, Kara & Brian (?), Martha Kertesz, Paul Dinsdale

Guests: Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep)
Ranjit Bains (Principal)

Regrets: Kim Wilson-McCreath (Treasurer), Jennifer Brandon (Secretary), Daniella Kurland (Website Manager), Teri Charuhan (Co-Athletics Liaison), Christina Morgan (Cookie Bash organizer & Catering/Refreshments), Brian Rohl (Fundraising Committee), Aniko Kovacs (Fundraising Committee), Cynthia Morin (Educational & Speaker Events Committee).
Sydney Mardon – Student Council President and representative to PAC

Minutes

Meeting opened at 7:25 PM using online platform GotoMeeting

1. Agenda Approval
Motion to approve agenda as circulated
Moved: Wayde Hayley **Seconded:** Alan Patola Moosmann
Passed
2. Minutes of PAC Feb 25, 2020 Meeting
Motion to approve minutes as circulated and posted on the website
Moved: Jacqueline Crummey **Seconded:** Martina Mitterer
Passed

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3. PAC Mission and Welcome Note

Daniela G. reviewed the goals for the year, reminded members of the website address providing updates on recent posts, and provided expectations for finishing the meeting ahead of schedule for the evening.

4. School Updates

- Student Council – no report as Student Council President could not attend.
- Teacher Update (Ms Carol-Anne McMillan) and Principals' Report (Ms Ranjit Bains)

Ms McMillan reported she is missing being in the classroom but that the new format is going better than she expected. The assistance at home from parents/families/guardians has been terrific. Students who often turn things in late are on time. Ms McMillan provided an outline of her grade 11 and 12 English classes as an example of how classes are being held now. Her classes are engaged in weekly journal writing for grade 12s and 11s and Zoom meetings. She is doing a teaching video each week for the student to listen to on their schedule. She is getting about 2 doz. emails a day with questions and spending a lot of time responding. Microsoft Teams has turned out to be very easy to use. She has found that so far it has been a good experience for the students.

Q. There was a question about recording participation or ensuring engagement of students.

A. Teachers are not supposed to give marks for participation and now that students are online the participation is built in. There is a guideline from the ministry that students' final grades should not drop compared to the second term grade. For her, Ms McMillan does not do tests or quizzes but she is working on writing and preparing students for the next level up. Grades will not go down but they could go up.

Q. Clarification was sought regarding final marks.

A. Ms McMillan added these clarifications: Marks shouldn't drop from term 2. If a student seems to have changed significantly from term 2 – goes from 90% to not handing anything in, the teacher would be in touch to find out what is going on and understand what might be the situation.

A. additional notes from Ms R. Bains - The final report has a term 3 grade and a final mark. The instruction is that the final mark can go up but cannot go down from term 2. The term 3 mark will be its own entity.

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Q. Concern expressed about covering all of the curriculum for the course to ensure that students are fully prepared for the next grade or for post-secondary and understanding how assessments will be carried out for term 3.

A. Ms Bains answered and agreed that there has been a lot of change in delivery. Teachers have been asked to advise students if the weighting of assessments is going to be changed or if there are changes in what will be covered. Teachers should have communicated changes already. If they haven't, please contact the teacher for an answer.

A. In terms of continuity of the curriculum, when student are continuing to the next year the teachers are good at meeting with each other to coordinate what has been covered and what needs to be covered to get everyone up to speed for the following year. The focus is on ensuring that students learn how to learn.

Q. What about summer school to make up any gaps in content from this year?

A. Ms Bains - Don't know if there will be any summer school options this year.

Q. Concern was raised about whether the grade 12 students will have covered the material they need to move on to post-secondary.

A. Ms McMillan indicated that the majority of the main concepts have already been covered for the year. At the end of the year there is a lot of review and solidifying but they have covered most if not all of the key concepts. Ms Bains indicated that she just got a message about post-secondary but she hasn't had a chance to review it.

Q. Will the schools re-open before the end of the year, maybe after the May long weekend?

A. Ms Bains said there is no word yet on whether schools will re-open after the May long weekend. However, they are looking at opening the programs for students with disabilities to assist with respite for parents/guardians. It is being piloted at Tupper and they will look at opening more programs after that. They are also looking at opening Elementary schools for the children of essential workers.

Returning to the previous questions:

A. Ms Bains - Continuity of learning is the mandate for this term because of the disparity across student situations. Before this, they knew who the vulnerable students were but situations have changed. What they didn't know was who was on the cusp. Safety, communication, continuity of learning, those are the priorities.

A. Ms McMillan - They have spoken about any incomplete curriculum in the English department and are aware of what will need to be covered next year.

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Q. What about grad for grade 12's? The PAC Graduation Committee would like to connect with the school to help plan something creative.

A. Ms Bains - Today's update from VSB did not include grad but they will get an update next week. They still want to get the caps and gowns to the students so they have the momentos. They have been brainstorming some ideas for grad. For example, what if they can have grads but no family; or does everything have to be virtual. Grad Council met yesterday and they are working on something virtual such as having everyone post what their plans are for next year. Ms Bains is meeting with Student Council tomorrow to see what can happen on line to encourage connection. Staff and students are missing the connections and rapport that happens in a classroom.

Q. Daniella indicated that PAC is looking at options about how to direct funds that were raised to support grad. Ideas include helping with support for struggling families.

A. Ms Bains - Thank you for the offer to help support families if they need to financially.

Q. Ms McMillan and Ms Bains were asked for recommendations for parents of how to best support student at home and asked about students who will need to catch up because of other situations over the past year.

A. VSB had a one pager with information about how parents can best help students at this time. If your student needs some help to progress to the next level contact your grade counsellor. It is important to take care of yourself and your family. The teachers will catch them up.

Q. How are lockers being accessed to gather the contents of the lockers and how are the contents being moved safely and securely?

A. The facilities staff are accessing each of the lockers wearing full protective gear and the lockers are being sanitized. The contents are being stored in the Gym. The schedule for pick-up has been sent out.

Q. Parents have been asking for a meeting with teachers in a virtual forum.

A. Ms Bains - The focus of the school and teachers has been on meeting the guiding principles and getting everything in place. She thinks that the best approach is the one on one approach between the parent and the student's teacher to deal with specific situations. She is happy to discuss this further, directly with Daniela.

A. Ms McMillan - she has received a few emails a day from parents. She did a task list for term 3 and sent it out to all parents so they were aware of what is expected this term. Communications is very important at this time.

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Q. Ms Bains was asked whether any teachers had left because the situation as they had heard of it happening at another school

A. Ms Bains - No. One teacher has gone on maternity leave as previously planned. Ms McMillan added that there hasn't said been a hint of that. Most teachers are in a place of gratitude for having a job and being able to have their salary.

Ms Bains and Ms McMillan thanked everyone for the meeting and having them attend. Daniella and the members of PAC thanked Ms Bains and Ms McMillan for attending the meeting and answering all the questions.

5. Treasurer Report

No report tonight as Kim is unavailable

6. Fundraising Chair

Norma Biln

The Chair-ity initiative was raising money for the fitness equipment in the gym. Norma was looking into the BC gaming grant which will match donations up to \$15,000 for specific school equipment. It felt difficult asking people for money during a time when people are being laid off and businesses are not operating but Norma thinks she will reach out to confirm the pledges already received. Norma checked with Kim (treasurer) but the grant application for 2020 through BC Gaming has not opened yet.

Daniela confirmed that funds received through Chair-ity are now at \$8,000 to 9,000. Also, there is money that will not be spent on teacher requests so those funds might be available to support students at this time. Norma added that there is money that was raised for grad and what will happen with that will depend on what is possible going forward. The funds might be used for something to support a grad event online.

7. DPAC Updates

Alan Patola Moosmann

The April bulletin from DPAC has quite a lot of resources to support parents in working with students at home. There is information from Open School BC and there is a link to Canadian Parents for French.

Last month the meeting was mostly a Q & A with the Superintendent and the Chair of VSB. It is recorded and online. There is also feedback to the facilities plan.

There are four positions open on DPAC. If you are interested let Alan know.

Events in May - there is an executive meeting with a presentation on emergency planning on May 14 and another town hall with parent questions for the Superintendent on May 21. Links to these will be posted on the DPAC website and parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

The VSB will have a revised budgeting process and a budget will be brought forward on May 13. There will be an online forum for feedback and input. There will be a shortfall of \$5

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million but they have an accumulated surplus that can cover the shortfall. The Superintendent gave an update on what is happening from their end regarding arrangements due to COVID but the focus is on health and safety. 1,700 hundred devices have been loaned out to students. There are dedicated locations for childcare for essential workers.

An update about the BCCPAC AGM - there will not be any voting at the AGM but Alan will be attending on our behalf.

8. Revised Kits PAC Constitution and By-Laws Charlotte French & Alan Patola Moosmann

Alan and Charlotte have not received any comments or questions about the draft of the revised Constitutions and By-laws for PAC since presenting them at the February PAC meeting and including them in the March and April newsletter. The timeline for approval was to have a vote at either this, April, meeting or the May meeting. Given the need to switch to an online meeting for April Alan and Charlotte suggested the vote be held in May. The members present felt that the revisions had been well circulated and that PAC members had had sufficient opportunity for questions and input so the vote could be held at the meeting.

Motion: To approve the revisions to the Constitution and By-laws for the Kitsilano PAC as circulated and posted on the PAC website.

Moved: Wayde Hayley **Seconded:** Norma Biln

Passed unanimously (16 members online)

Action: Alan and Charlotte will coordinate getting copies signed and to the appropriate groups that must receive copies (eg. VSB, Kitsilano Secondary administration, etc).

9. Chair Update Daniela Girard

Daniella advised that the next What's Next session will be May 6 from KPU and held online. On May 20 SFU will be hosting an online session for the Kits community.

Jacqueline advised that Study Spot had a session that included a UBC counsellor who spoke about study skills. Jacqueline will send the contact to Charlotte for follow-up.

Alan advised that Education Planner BC will hold a District wide event on Oct. 15, hosted by DPAC. They will be doing a presentation on parents as education and career coaches.

A member asked about having a public health talk with our students about preventative health in COVID times.

Action: Jacqueline to follow-up with SACY and find a date in early June.

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10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Alan Patola Moosmann **Seconded:** Corrina Hammond
Passed

Next meeting May 26 on GoToMeeting online