

Kitsilano Parent Advisory Council Meeting and AGM

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

ONLINE SESSION

PAC executive

Chair: Daniela Girard
Vice-Chair: Wayde Hayley
Assistant Secretary: Charlotte French
Members at Large: Martina Mitterer – Grad Liaison and Catering & Refreshments
Lisa Pindera – Co-Educational & Speaker Events
DPAC Representatives: Alan Patola Moosmann

General Members in attendance: John Cunnings, Karen Davies, Victoria Shroff, John Drimou, Denise Edwards, Kevin McKeown, Michelle Tecson-Golfinopoulos, Roger Canann, Valerie Murray, Julie Verhoeven, Marlene Golfinopoulos, Cheryl Gravkin, Kristin Loheyde, Darja Zlindra
Kristin ?
Marie ?
Tamara ?

Guests: Ranjit Bains (Principal), Petr Pospisil (Teacher Rep), Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep), Sydney Mardon (Student Council Rep), Paloma Corvalan – Guest Presenter from Sea Smart ??, Sean Johnson - guest presenter on tutor resources.

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

Minutes

Meeting opened at 7:20

1. Agenda Approval

Motion to approve agenda as circulated

Moved: Alan Patola Moosmann **Seconded:** Wayde Hayley
Passed

2. Community Engagement Presenter - Sea Smart

Paloma Corvalan, a represented from Sea Smart, gave a presentation on their programs that promote environmental awareness and educate students about the oceans. Their website is seasmartschool.com.

Paloma has a Phd. in animal behaviour. While completing her Ph.d. in Australia, she did some teaching both of undergraduates and in local schools. She fell in love with teaching. After a trip to Antarctica and seeing the impact of global warming on that continent, when she returned to Vancouver she got involved with Sea Smart. This is a program founded by Dr. Elaine Leung, a

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Marina Biologist who wanted to educate people and children about the ocean and raise environmental awareness.

Sea Smart runs summer Camps at Kits Beach as well as Acadia Beach and Trout Lake. These would usually be in person. They have a specific program to focus on encouraging girls to get involved in science. There is an online program for children called Ocean Defender, a new program, and Virtual Sea School which was created out of the materials they would usually use at in school presentations. They also want to let elementary teachers know about the free workshops they are offering on sea turtles for grades 2-5. They offer after school programs for elementary students that they are hoping to start up again in the Fall. If parents know teachers who might be interested, they can contact info@seasmartschool.com.

Daniela thanked Paloma for coming and presenting to PAC.

3. Minutes of PAC April 28, 2020 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes as circulated and posted on the website

Moved: Alan Patola Moosmann **Seconded:** Wayde Hayley

Passed

4. PAC Mission and Welcome note Daniela Girard

Daniela G. welcomed all members and guests and reviewed the goals of PAC. She reminded everyone of the information available on the website and in the newsletters.

5. School Updates

• Student Council Sydney Mardon

Student Council held an online spirit week. It went well.

Elections are postponed until September. Student Council is looking at more events for the rest of the year. They are asking students to share pictures of learning at home and plan to put them together in a collage to share and document this unique time. There will be a request going out to parents to help with this.

• Teacher Update Ms. Carol-Anne McMillan and Mr. Petr Pospisil

Ms McMillan reported that the teachers had a great PD day on integrating indigenous reconciliation into the classes and programs. It was very good day and they found they were already doing some good work. Ms McMillan said that she is looking forward to getting back into her classroom when in-person classes start again.

Mr Pospisil said they are finding that students seem to be engaging well with the classes on line. He has 90% participation rate, very similar to the regular classroom experience. He expressed appreciation for the work the parents are doing at home in helping to manage the work and encouraging the students. It has been a lot of work for the students, teachers, and administration to switch over to the remote learning format – the system isn't built for it – and switching again will be another transition. The administrators haven't had weekends and are working very hard to make all of it work.

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Ms McMillan has found that the grade 8's have adapted well and are participating in their classes. The grade 12's are more engaged than she expected, they are as engaged as usual for in person classes. Grade 11 & 12's would be tapering off at this point in the school year. She is interested to see who will choose to come back next week for the in-person classes.

Pospisil says he doesn't want to mislead folks into thinking that everyone is adjusting well.

There are definitely those who need help to manage their time and focus. It is hard, especially for the younger students to not be distracted by other things going on.

Q. Why do the live online classes overlap?

- Principal's Report Ms. Ranjit Bains

All video online classes that are scheduled by teachers are recorded and uploaded to Teams so that students can access them later. Many of the teachers and students are in the same situation, with many different things to adjust to and competing things to schedule. Teachers are scheduling the live classes at the best time for as many participants as possible.

The administrators have been sorting out the new in-person class schedule. In-person classes will happen in the morning and teachers will have the afternoon to work on the remote learning piece. During the morning teachers will be scheduled for 2 face to face classes. When the remote learning started the focus was on continuation of learning. The introduction of in-person time is supplemental to the online teaching. The teaching will still happen remotely, and the in-person sessions will be support (extra support) for what is being taught online. Initially the in-person portion was going to focus on those who needed more support. That plan changed and now they are welcoming everyone back. There will only be 20% of the school population in the school at any time.

Q. Clarification was requested about online instruction. There was a feeling that there was not much actual instruction only assignments being received from a teacher.

A. Ms Bains – instruction may not be in the form of direct instruction but in providing resources, research materials, etc. and assignments. If you are not receiving communication from a specific teacher please get in touch with the teacher and copy Ms Bains.

Ms Bains said they have been having some very intensive sessions with the teachers over the past couple of days. There is a requirement that the teachers communicate with their students tomorrow or Thursday to let them know about the face to face schedule. An overall schedule will be communicated out to parents at the end of the week. Some teachers will be using email and others will use Teams. The school asks that students come only at the times they are meant to be in the school so that the school does not exceed their population targets. There will be hand sanitizer available and lots of soap and water. There will be a deep cleaning of the classrooms at the end of each day. They ask that families do a health check each day and stay home if students are not feeling well in any way. Parents are welcome but must come by appointment only.

There is no cafeteria and areas that students would usually gather are closed (eg. computer lab and weight room) and tables and chairs have been removed from the hallways. Hands on projects will not be happening either.

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A. Ms McMillan reminded that there will not be access to lockers.

Comment. One parent mentioned that one of her son's teachers shared the master schedule today and it is really easy to follow. It looks great - just wanted to let you know.

Q. Is this the model that will be used in the Fall?

A. Yes, this is a model that they are anticipating will be used in the Fall if there are still restrictions on gatherings.

Q. What if we register our child for summer school?

A. If your child is registering for summer school please connect with your grade counsellor so that they can make the changes for the Fall term now as it will be easier to do now than later.

Q. Are there any plans for Graduation?

A. They have come up with a plan for a graduation ceremony. They have a meeting scheduled for this Thursday with the teachers, student grad council, and parent representatives. Once the meeting is over they will communicate the plan to grads next week. Tentative dates are to have grad on June 15, film it and edit it to share with the school community on June 19 which would have been the date of grad. There is also a hope to have a city-wide celebration of grad at 3 PM on June 19 – a shout out to all the grads.

Q. Just for clarity, direct instruction (face to face instruction) is optional?

A. Yes, direct instruction is optional. Teachers are not required to have face to face online instructions with their students. They can use different tools to achieve the same end.

Ms Bains wanted to thank everyone for the work that PAC has been doing staying involved and having the online meetings given everything that is going on for everyone – working at home, supporting the students, and still managing to volunteer and support the teachers and students.

Daniela said it is a team effort to make it all work.

6. Treasurer Report

Kim is not available tonight. Daniela provided summary.

In total PAC collected \$65,000 this year. We have distributed \$35,000 to teachers and athletics based on their requests for projects and equipment.

Right now there is \$14,000 still in account that has not been distributed given the change to the year end. There is \$18,000 in the Chair-ity designated funds for renewal of the exercise room equipment. We are hoping to reach out to the gaming foundation for matching funds. That is still pending. Any unused funds will be rolled forward to be used next year.

March Pub night funds have not been included in this report. We will check to be able to report the total for the group. As it is still not known what the cost of the grad events will be at this time, these funds will go against those costs as needed.

7. Fundraising Chair

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Norma was not able to attend but provided information to Daniela. Norma has confirmed the generous payments from donors to a total of \$10,600. The Strang family is still generously maintaining their pledge to match funds raised up to \$15,000. We need to raise another \$4,400 to maximize this matching pledge.

If we can get the matching funds from BC Gaming than there will be enough money to be able to order and open the new weight room in January 2021.

8. DPAC Updates

Alan Patola Moosmann

The recording of May 21 townhall regarding the partial school reopening of schools is posted on the DPAC website.

DPAC did a survey of PAC fundraising. PACs were commenting on being asked to fundraise for more and more things that seem to be core education items. Alan will report when results are available. DPAC is providing access to Zoom for those PACs who don't have the resources for online meetings.

Alan was elected to a three year term on the DPAC executive at the DPAC AGM last year. DPAC By-laws require each executive member to obtain an annual endorsement from their home PAC to continue in their term. Alan requested such an endorsement from the PAC. (Alan is also simultaneously serving as Kits PAC's representative to DPAC, a Kits PAC executive position elected annually at the Kits PAC AGM. The request is about his DPAC role only.)

Motion to endorse Alan Patola Moosmann to continue as an executive member of DPAC for the second year of his three year term.

Moved: Wayde Hayley **Seconded:** Charlotte French
Passed

If anyone is interested in the Kits PAC DPAC rep position for the coming school year, please contact Alan for more information. He is willing to continue to serve for another year, but also willing to step aside if someone else is interested in taking it on, and helping orient them to the role.

There is a link in the email that Daniela sent out to the guidelines for the return to school from the Ministry if anyone is interested.

June 11 is the next executive meeting and June 18 is the AGM and executive elections for DPAC. Register through vancouverdpac.org if you want to attend online.

Other dates & news:

May 28 - meeting on Best Practices for Online Learning during the Pandemic

May 27 5PM – Education Planner BC has put together an evening about applying to post-secondary for next year. There is a link on the website under news.

BCCPAC – there was a wider representation than usual at the annual meeting since the meeting was online. Check the weblink for a variety of COVID resources for parents.

The latest edition of Kits PAC's DPAC/public education issues newsletter will come out in a couple of days.

9. Nomination of PAC Executive

Daniela Girard

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Daniela has been Chair for the past 2 years and is ready to move on if anyone else would like to take on the role.

The PAC meeting for the AGM, which will include election of executive members, is usually held the last week in September. Daniela sends out a notice of the meeting to all the families through the school administration at the beginning of September so that everyone is aware.

If anyone is interested in the executive roles, please contact Daniela, or anyone is in the position currently, to find out more about what the roles entail. There are descriptions on the website in the Constitution and By-law.

Daniela commented on how good the experience has been. She has learned a lot and has met so many people. The role has been very rewarding.

10. Chair Update

Daniela Girard

Members asked Daniela some questions regarding her discussions with the school administrators.

Q. Is there going to be a year book this year? Curious if this is still happening?

A. Daniela did ask and the yearbook has gone to print and will be distributed to those who purchased one. They are looking at getting an electronic version to be able to distribute to everyone whether they purchased or not.

Q. We should have a virtual pub night or cocktails to celebrate the end of the year for PAC.

A. Daniela commented that the pub nights were a great success and it was a great opportunity for parents to get together and chat. It was great and we hope we can do it next year.

A big thank you was voiced to Daniela for her communication and efforts to always be there to listen and get answers to questions for parents.

Daniela commented that it has been a great experience to work with everyone in PAC and she hopes to see everyone back in September to continue the work. Daniela thanked Alan, Corinna, and Charlotte for the work on What's Next and to Charlotte and Alan for the work on the Constitution and By-laws. She is hoping to continue the tradition of the What's Next sessions in the coming year.

11. Community Engagement - Tutoring Resource

Daniela introduced Sean Johnson who is a tutor of Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Study and Test-taking Skills. Sean discussed the support that tutors can provide during this time of remote learning.

These times are very unique and tutors like Sean are looking for tools that would be best to support students in these times. It was good to try Go to Meeting this evening as it is more accessible for families that don't have access to some of the other online tools. Sean has an undergraduate degree in English and Science as well as an Education degree. He has been focusing on tutoring rather than in the classroom. Some of his students have really progressed from struggling to truly understanding. He finds it rewarding to help students succeed. You can contact Sean through email at hw.team@yahoo.com his company is called The Homework Team. His online rates start at \$30 an hour. He usually charges \$45 an hour but is able to reduce his costs for online sessions. Sean also does ESL help.

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He also has a network of fellow tutors, so if there is a subject that he doesn't teach he can help connect you with someone who does work in that area.

12. Motion to Adjourn 9:00pm

Moved: Wayde Hayley **Seconded:** Darja Zlindra

Passed

See you in September!

DRAFT