

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council and AGM**

Online with Zoom
Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Meeting held on Zoom. Zoom room opened at 6:31 PM
Meeting started at 6:35 PM
24 participants

PRESENT:

PAC Executive (2019/20 school year)

Chair: Daniela Girard
Assistant Secretary: Charlotte French
DPAC Representative: Alan Patola Moosmann
Members at Large: Norma Biln (Fundraising Chair), Corrina Hammond (Arts Liaison), Lorie Srivastava, Lisa Pindera (Co-Educational & Speaker Events), Sophia Di

Guests: Ranjit Bains (Principal), Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep), and Petr Pospisil (Teacher Rep)

1) Approval of the Agenda

Removal of approval of minutes from May 2020 regular meeting. These minutes will be done at the next regular meeting of PAC.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended

Moved: Lorie Srivastava

Seconded: Corinna Hammond

CARRIED by majority

2) Introduction and Opening

The Kits Parent Advisory Council Mission purpose and goals were presented to everyone. Daniela G. brought attention to the Kits PAC website, electronic newsletter, and the importance of these now that we cannot meet in person.

3) Events

Daniela G. reviewed events from last year and demonstrated where events and other information can be found on the PAC website.

Samples of events from the 2019-2020 school year include:

- a. Pub nights x 2 (support of the Boys Hockey Team and Graduation Events)
- b. Chair-ity – fundraising through sponsorship of chairs in the school theatre
- c. What's Next speakers – series of talks about post-secondary options
- d. Arts Night Fundraiser

4) School Updates

a. Teacher's report – Ms MacMillan & Mr. Pospicil

Ms MacMillan – said she is very happy to be back in the classroom. Teachers are generally feeling much more plugged-in than at the end of the previous school year. Ms MacMillan indicated that the logistics worked out by the Administration and VSB, and how they had to pivot in August, has been wonderful and very organized.

Ms MacMillan clarified that teachers are teaching two in-person classes per day. During the flex time they are teaching online for the students who are not in-person, holding online classes and tutorial session. They are also prepping their classes.

The quarter structure has been a great spark to think of things in a new way. It means that they have more intense relationships with the students because they can focus on two courses.

b. Principal's Report: Ms Ranjit Bains

Parents raised two questions in the chat, they would like an update on instructional time and logistics and an update on the restart of sports at school.

Ms Bains added her welcome to new parents and indicated that it is great to have the students and teachers back in the school. Having students back adds a lot of energy even though there are fewer students at a time in the building.

- School sports – waiting for green light and parameters from the school district on how sports can be started again.
- Clubs come under the umbrella of student government. Student council will meet next week. After that they will have a timeline for when the clubs can start.
- Grade 8 transition to high school. The Link leadership students will be leading the charge on building connection and school spirit for the grade 8s. This is an area of concern and focus.

Instructional Logistics: As a school they are obligated to stick to the school day structure as outlined by the school district. During the flex time teachers are teaching courses that are offered as full year classes like AP courses, drama, and skills classes. They may be meeting and supporting students one on one or in other formats. There are equity learning spaces at the school and students who need additional supports can request those through their counsellor.

Teachers are learning and finding the best ways to teach online or to make online materials engaging and including good resources for the students who are learning remotely. The focus of the next staff meeting is how to elevate and support students going forward.

Q. A parent asked about having all students in class and have more class time. How can parents lobby to have the schedule changed?

A. The number one guiding principal is safety. The current arrangement allows for the fluid movement between different phases and stages for COVID. Currently in stage 2

and are able to have face to face instruction. If things change and must move back to phase 3, fully online, everything is in place. They are equally prepared to move to Stage 1 and transition quickly, without loss of time, to completely face to face.

Ms Bains advised that all stakeholder groups were consulted and included in the development of the plan, including parents. It is important to allow time to adjust, it has only been three weeks. The teachers will get through the curriculum in 10 weeks. She has heard and relayed the concerns of parents regarding the instructional hours. The parent voice is always strong. She also asks that we give the school continued support and understanding moving through these changes.

Parent comments about the current instructional delivery structure:

- sees the benefit of the hybrid model. Reduces peer pressure. Student is loving having the opportunity to be self-directing and self-reliant.
- opportunity to move to the future and take advantage of technologies; tries to focus on the positive of what can come out of this for the future.
- is there a possibility to assign more work for the students and increase the practice load for the students?
- needs her child to be in more contact because they are not socializing and are depressed. Working parents are finding it hard to support their children, know where they are, and how they are doing
- How is the grading and quarter structure going to work for grade 11 and 12 students? The marks are important for applying to university.

Ms Bains indicated that they heard what parents wanted in June, more direct instruction. So, Kits chose to have more synchronised meetings online. Other schools are not. The teachers want to have the students do work when they can see it so that they know that it is the student's work. Please provide feedback directly to teachers so they know how long it is actually taking to do the work.

Ms Bains noted that some online classes are seeing a decrease in attendance, but attendance is no longer optional. Students need to be in the class. However, the school has to be mindful of those students who have to help support their family financially and other conflicts (eg. skills blocks). All online courses are recorded so they are available for reference. Teachers allow 30 minutes for students to return home or get to school after the in-person class block. The minimum number of online classes is 3 lessons a week. Some might be doing 2 class times and 1 tutorial time. You can connect with the classroom teacher to confirm.

Parents offered their thanks to the teachers and to the administration. The transition has been remarkably smooth and there is appreciation for how difficult this is.

5) Treasurer's Report: Daniela Girard

Reviewed highlights of PAC's financial situation.

PAC receives donations directly from parents and through fundraising. Funds support classroom and school needs outside the standard curriculum and supplies. We receive submissions from teachers and from teacher sponsors of clubs, teams, and student groups. BC gaming is staying committed to funding non-profit associations even though the casinos have been closed since March.

6) Fundraising Activities: Norma Biln

Fundraising had a highlight this summer. The Capital Projects Grants from BC Gaming raised the percentage they will fund to 80% of the cost of a project, to a maximum of \$250,000. There is an unfinished outdoor patio space at the school that could be used as an activity space to supplement the current fitness areas. A proposal has been submitted, for the maximum project value, that includes the original plans for upgrading the fitness areas and the renovation of the outdoor space. A team of about 12 people have contributed to the submission, including people at the VSB. At the August meeting of the executive, funds raised through the Chair-ity initiative and other fundraising activities were set aside to meet PAC's contribution to the project.

7) Volunteer Coordination – Lorie Srivastava

Lorie is doing some updates for the online volunteer form on the PAC website. Please review the form and let us know if you see a role you would like to help with.

8) District PAC (DPAC) Update and Nomination: Alan Patola Moosmann

Just as each school, under the school act, has a PAC to provide parent input and advice at the school level, the District also has a PAC to provide advice and input. DPAC also does advocacy and supports school PACs in doing their work of building community. Each school PAC has a representative on the DPAC. Parents can attend the regular meetings. Links for all of the DPAC events are on the website (vancouverdpac.org)

There is also a BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils that takes parent concerns to the Ministry of Education. Their website is: bccpac.bc.ca

Alan is now on the DPAC Executive so Kits can have another person as the school representative. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

9) DPAC Executive Representative Vote

No one stepped forward. Alan volunteered to continue in the role so is selected by acclamation

10) Kits PAC Executive Vote

Call for nominations and volunteers. No additional names came forward.

Elected by acclamation:

Chair: Daniela Girard

Vice-Chair: Lorie Srivastava

Secretary: Charlotte French

Treasurer: vacant

The following have volunteered to be **Members at Large** on the PAC Executive Committee:
Norma Biln – Fundraising Chair;
Corrina Hamond – Arts and Drama Liaison;
Sophia Di;
Cynthia Morin; and
Patricia Thiel.

11) Update from What's Next Committee: Corrina Hammond

What's Next arranges speakers representing post high school options for presentations to Kits parents and students. Evening sessions with multiple speakers were offered from September to March after which sessions have been offered online. Speakers included representatives from gap year programs, fine arts and vocational training schools and careers, SFU, UVic, CapU, and Langara College.

Joni Taylor from Emily Carr University will offer a session in October on admission requirements and process and she will be back at Kits to do a portfolio review soon after the session and help the students get the portfolio together as it takes a lot of work.

Daniela showed the area on the website where the announcements, presentation slides, and video links for What's Next events are listed. (Note: Materials from the first session of this year (Sept. 23), with EducationPlannerBC, are now posted on the PAC website:

<http://kitsilanopac.ca/parents-post-secondary-education/>

12) Arts Liaison Report: Corrina Hammond

The drama department will be doing short films and presenting them throughout the year. The Kits theatre company is on YouTube. There will be auditions in the Fall. The tech students from the films last year are now in arts programs at Emily Carr, UBC, and even working on set for Bat Woman.

13) Adjournment

A final note, PAC meetings will be moving to 7:30 from 6:30PM.
Thank you to Alan for organizing the meeting on Zoom.

Motion to adjourn

Moved: Lorie Sirvastava

Seconded: Alan Patola Moosmann

CARRIED by majority

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM