

**AGENDA of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council
Online with Zoom
Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

PRESENT:
PAC EXECUTIVE 2020/21

Chair: Daniela Girard
Vice-Chair: Lorie Srivastava
Treasurer: vacant
Secretary: Charlotte French
Fundraising Chair: Norma Biln
Members at Large: Sophia Di
Cynthia Morin
Lisa Pindera
Patricia Thiel
DPAC Representative: Alan Patola Moosmann

Regrets: Corinna Hammond

Total attendees online: 29

Guests: Principal: Ranjit Bains
Teacher Representatives: Carol-Anne McMillan and Ryan Parker
Student Council Representative: Lulu Clement

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

1) Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the agenda as posted on the Kits PAC website

Moved: Patricia Thiel **Seconded:** Norman Biln

Carried

2) Approval of Minutes from October 2020

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2020 meeting – as posted on the KITS PAC website

Moved: Alan Patola Moosmann **Seconded:** Lisa Pindera

Carried

3) Community Partnership Presentation by Chris Yu and Ciara Cawley from Kitsilano Neighbourhood House

Chris Yu is a youth worker at Kits Neighbourhood house and presented to PAC last year. Ciara has also joined the Neighbourhood house as a youth worker. They are getting the youth program up and running again

- Confirmed that they have renewed funding for the youth program. They don't have a lot of participants because of the pandemic but they are still moving forward.
- Gave a presentation on activities at the Neighbourhood House and will provide the Powerpoint slides to be posted on the PAC website.
- Offering youth drop-in programs focussed on grades 7 to 12. Most of the students are those in the transitional grades 7 and 8. The students who have attended are similar ages and attend the same school but didn't know each other. There is no registration fee and youth can come any time during the drop-in time. There are always snacks.
 - Drop-in Special Events - game nights, mask making, etc.
 - Youth Lounge – Monday and Wednesday 1:30 to 3:00 PM Grade 8 to 12. A space for the youth to work, socialize and have fun. A place to hang out, eat lunch and be with friends. WiFi, free snacks. No program or events. They can bring their homework or work on their computer.
- Monthly movie night. They play the movie on the bring screen in the hall. The hall has capacity for 20 youth with the COVID distancing requirements.

With the newest health order they have moved other programs online until January. They have been building relationships with groups at the school.

- Tuesday and Friday from 4PM to 5:30 PM on Zoom - online cooking classes, online games night, movie party, multiplayer puzzles.
- The activities are helping the students to build relationships with one another.
- No registration fee, and all materials supplied.
- Youth or family would need to arrange the time to come pick-up the supplies.

4) School Updates

- a. Student Council – new student council president is Lulu Clement. Elections were in September rather than the end of last school year. For the virtual clubs day they will have the clubs create videos. The videos will be posted on Teams so that students can review them and decide if they might want to join one of the clubs. This will happen after Dec. 1.

Canley cup – trying to figure out how to collect cans and cash through School cash online or Go-fund me. Looking at arranging a holiday spirit decathlon with a competition between classes.

Has grad council been set-up yet? Yes, Lulu is co-chair. Right now they are focussed on merchandise for grads such as hoodies and they are looking at some activities and fundraisers for the new year.

- b. Teachers Update – Ms Carol McMillan
Ms McMillan is sponsoring four clubs and said that the clubs are really getting going now. The environmental club is working on a recycled Christmas tree in the central atrium. There is a mental health club, a K-pop dance team, and a club focussed on helping seniors in the community during in COVID, such as delivering food.

Ms McMillan is teaching two grade 12 First Peoples English classes. This quarter the early application deadlines for universities come up in December so she is offering an additional session during Flex time to help students with essays for their scholarship and admission applications.

There is a Pro D Day this week with an Indigenous education focussed. The Pro D days have been great and she has been able to incorporate a lot of the material into the courses. Students are really enjoying it.

Q. How are the other teachers finding the quarter system.

A. Ms McMillan said that they are all on the same page and that, although it is challenging and she would prefer to be in person, but it is going well. The number of hours they are working it is about the same. But they have to deliver the classes more quickly and they need to adjust to that. Like everyone else, the teachers would like things to be 'normal' but it is going well in this format.

Q. Are students and teachers wearing masks in classrooms?

A. Most teachers wear the masks and are expecting the students to wear masks most of the time, especially if they are working with students one on one. Ms McMillan is not expecting students to wear the masks in the classroom as the desks are spread far apart. The students are making good use of the hand sanitizer. Ms McMillan is doing an extra wipe down of the desks and chairs after each class.

c. Principal's Report - Ms Ranjit Bains

The school community has been very resilient and adaptable. Although a lot of the school activities like the student council and clubs have been slow starting up, it has been great how they have found ways to get them going again. The students have been very impressive in their understanding of the limitations and the flexibility needed at this time. They have been very understanding.

The staff have really had to step up with the change in the class delivery structure and this was the first year for the new style report card for grades 8 and 9. They were able to make the changes and keep up the focus on the students.

For Professional Develop they are developing groups of focus and the largest group by far is the blended and remote learning practice group. They are all trying to learn and adapt to the new structure. Other practice groups include diversity, standards based grading and assessment, and others.

The athletic activities are getting going. Cross country has already wrapped up and other activities are getting underway.

Q. Lorie S. commented on how great the weekly newsletters have been and that they are very, very helpful. Some grade 8 parents have asked about clubs. How can they find out more?

A. The weekly newsletter has re-started since COVID and we are going to keep it going as it has worked out well for communicating with parents.

The student council will be starting a newsletter called 'Keeping Up with Kits' and the activity and club information will be distributed through Teams.

There has been one band performance and there will be more coming with the ability to share the link with the school community.

5) **Drama Club and Kitsilano Theatre Company** – Mr Ryan Parker

Here is the link for the activities from the summer

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVvTTpiGr191CVduYMP4a_w

Many of the schools focus on a musical or play and have found COVID a challenge because they can't have everyone in the theatre. Due to the seismic upgrade, Kits had already moved to film so they have kept that up and now the other schools are needing to make this adaptation. The Kits drama and theatre groups are working on the movie that they started last year with filming in Barkerville.

Thank you to PAC for the new camera, they now have 2 and are training 30 students on the cameras. They are having fun writing a musical; creating a version of Dante's inferno at the school which is a spoof comedy; creating What's Your Story which is interviews with teachers; Willa; and other projects. Students are writing scripts, directing, filming, editing, and learning all the parts. They have the exclusive rights to a Stephen King short story that they will be producing and filming.

The proceeds from the film showings will be going to the PAC's capital project to build out the 3rd floor patio space.

When they are in small groups the students are all masked. They are hoping to have a film festival in the May if the restrictions ease up a bit. By June the films will be on YouTube.

Q. Is there something impromptu or less formal to do for the holidays?

A. Maybe something like a sing along? The students are craving being together and doing things together. Mr Ryan has noticed changes. He used to have to remind students to show up for rehearsal but this year everyone shows up. If parents have ideas, you can email Mr. Parker at: kitsilanotheatre@gmail.com

Q. What projects are available for the younger students?

A. The senior students coordinate sitcom episodes that are just for the grade 8 to 10 students. All students who try out for the junior productions get a role. They are a lot of fun. They will be filmed and made available for everyone.

Q. Are there technical support roles in drama?

A. Yes. The students who are registered in off-timetable courses had priority for tech training this Fall but now he is happy to take volunteers.

They were very fortunate to have a large donation of costumes from a company that decided to retire and close the business. They are very excited and well supplied with costumes. The company had all of the costumes for a number of musicals.

Anyone can audition for the musicals, films, etc.

6) **Chair's Report** – Daniela Girard

We have had a volunteer for the role of Treasurer.

We have renewed the domain license for the website and Constant Contact, the newsletter and communications platform. These are now up to date for the next year.

The booking keeping has been moved on line to make it more accessible.

The next PAC meeting will be in January.

7) **Kits PAC Executive vote for Treasurer**

Catherine Hicks volunteered to be Treasurer

Motion to approve Catherine Hicks as Treasurer

Moved: Charlotte French **Seconded:** Alan Patola Moosmann

Carried unanimously

8) **Treasurer's Report**

There are two sources of funding – donations from families and gaming grant funds. This year we have received just under \$30,000 in gaming funding and just over \$7,000 from fundraising for administration and school support requests. Donations from families for general funding support are much lower this year. PAC has received additional donations that were raised for specific projects and are restricted to support the capital grant project. At the October meeting PAC approved 7 requests for funding of clubs, athletics, other extra-curricular activities were approved.

9) **Approval of Additional Disbursements**

Daniela reviewed the principles on which the funds are distributed – longevity of impact, number of students supported, academic and club support, etc.

There were three additional requests that came in just after the deadline. The requests are for: athletics \$10,000, sciences \$2,600, and the woodworking teacher for \$1,768 for new equipment for the woodworking club. The total amount requested is \$14,368. If we fund these at 100% we would be over extended for the moment. However, we have funds that can be used in the short term and replenished if the capital grant application is approved.

Moved: Norma Biln **Seconded:** Alan Patola Moosmann

Carried

10) **Fundraising Activities** - Norma Biln

Were supposed to hear back from the Gaming Grant submission on Nov. 20. Because of the change in government ministers they are waiting until the new minister is sworn in to make the announcements. They are saying Dec. 31 but Norma thinks it might be sooner.

If it is approved, we will be able to spend the money over the course of the project which can take up to 3 years.

11) DPAC Update - Alan Patola Moosmann

- a. Upcoming DPAC events (all online at 7 pm, links at vancouverdpac.org)
 - i. Thursday Nov. 26 – General meeting – topic: Sustainability
 - ii. Thursday Dec. 03 – Executive meeting
 - iii. Thursday Jan. 14 – Executive meeting
 - iv. Saturday Jan. 16 (1 pm to 4 pm) – Robert’s Rules / running effective meetings – open to PAC executive members
- b. VSB
 - i. Budget process – District will be seeking parent input on budget priorities for the coming year in February
 - ii. Long Range Facilities Plan – ongoing work by DPAC to encourage VSB to define operating capacity of schools in ways that reflect actual current uses of classroom space, and to improve enrolment projections by closer coordination with Vancouver City development plans
 - iii. School Liaison Officer review – VSB is reviewing program after calls to disband it; DPAC will be seeking PAC input over the next couple of months
 - iv. COVID - related issues: DPAC is hearing and conveying PAC concerns re hours of instruction, quality of remote learning, options for families choosing to remain at home
- c. BCCPAC
 - i. DPAC summit Nov. 20 and 21, presentations can be seen on BCCPAC website
 - ii. Gaming revenues from casinos down due to COVID; implications for 2020-2021 PAC gaming grants will be known once the next provincial budget is set in April. In the past few years the grants have been based on \$20 per student; historically these grants have never been less than \$10 per student.
- d. Newsletter – the next issue will be out during first week of December and will include more details and links to the items above

12) Update from What’s Next committee

The alumni panel was well received and had 24 attendees. The alumni spoke very well and provided thoughtful and insightful information for current students. They represented a range of areas of study and ranged from first year to fourth year.

On December 9 Laura Moss, a Kits parent who is also the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and UBC, will be talking about studying Arts at UBC and the admission process. December 16, Michelle Dittmer, President and Co-Founder of Canadian Gap Year Association will be talking about Gap Year opportunities.

In January, the VSB Career programs will be providing information about opportunities with their programs.

13) Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Lorie Srivastava **Seconded:** Catherine Hicks
Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM

Next meeting January 26, 2021 register [here](#).

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