

**AGENDA of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council
Online with Zoom
Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

PRESENT:
PAC EXECUTIVE 2020/21

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

Regrets: Corinna Hammond
Cynthia Morin

Total attendees online: 52

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

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

- 1) Welcome from the Chair and reminder of meeting protocols that included the Goals and Mission of the Kits PAC.
- 2) **Agenda Approval**
Motion to approve the agenda as posted
Moved: Patricia Thiel **Seconded:** Lorie Srivastava
Carried
- 3) **Approval of Minutes from Nov. 24, 2020** – found on [KITS PAC website](#)
Motion to approve minutes as posted
Moved: Alan Patola Moosmann **Seconded:** Catherine Hicks
Carried

4) School Updates

a. Student Council – Lulu Clement

- The Student Council is participating in the talent show being organized by the District Student Council. Winner of the Kits talent show receives a \$20 gift card and moves on to the next round. The participants submit videos and there is a panel who will do the judging.
- Spirit Week is Feb. 8 to 12 – the first week of Q3.
- Tacky tourist and other theme days are being planned.
- There will be a matching event for Valentine's Day. They are looking at using an online platform with a survey that is being used at other schools to do the matching. They are looking into the privacy and that it is hosted in Canada.

Grad Council

There has been a slow start to social events during the Fall. There will be a Valentine's plant sale with donations from stores in the neighbourhood. Over 400 tulips and other plants are available and will be sold through School Cash Online. Instructions on how to pick things up will be provided.
A wall of wishes – they are asking grade 12 students what they are looking forward to for their last year of high school.

Anyone parents who would like to help with grad arrangements please contact Daniela (Chair) at Kitspac@hotmail.com. Teri C. and Lisa P. have already offered to help with the Parent Grad committee.

b. Teachers Update – Ms Carol McMillan

Ms McMillan is very happy with the new scheduling changes for Q3 and Q4, rotation between online and in-person instruction is to happen weekly and grade 8 students are to receive more in-person instruction time. Ms McMillan is happy to have more regular face to face contact with the students because she has found the 2 week cycle a long time. Ms McMillan also congratulated the administration for all that they have had to juggle this year and thanked the parent ad hoc committee who really pushed for the more time in school for the grade 8s and for adjustments in the weekly rotation.

Ms McMillan is also happy to remind parents that 30 clubs are up and running. It is hard to get the word out and for clubs to connect with students. More sports are starting up again soon. There are many opportunities for socialization for the students.

A parent of a grade 8 student mentioned that it has been difficult for them to feel comfortable joining any clubs because of the overall lack of contact at the

school. The grade 8 students feel that the clubs and activities are for the older students. There were suggestions that older students could mentor or invite younger students to come to the clubs.

A question was asked about enriched English for grade 8 students. Ms McMillan confirmed that there is only enrichment now for grade 11 and grade 12. The philosophy in the new curriculum is that all students in every class should have the opportunity for expanded learning. This was not a choice of the English program.

A parent reported that a message came home with her daughter that the change in contact time arose because parents thought the teachers had not been doing a good job. The parent just wanted to make sure that teachers understand that parents appreciate the work the teachers have had to do.

Mr. Pospisil recommended that the grade 8 students contact the teacher sponsor for any clubs they are interested in. The teacher sponsor can help them learn more about the club and explain that they just want to come to listen and find out what the club is about. If they like it and get comfortable they can stay. There is a list of the clubs on the Kits PAC website.

Mr. Pospisil also commented that there is less feedback from students because of the remote learning situation. Please provide feedback and information to teachers if there is anything that is not going well and or you have concerns about your student. It helps the teachers a lot to know what is going on.

The student newsletter that is now coming out every 2 weeks. Please keep an eye out for it.

c. Principal's Report - Ms Ranjit Bains

Grad – awaiting some information from the District regarding the grad possibilities. What will be organized will depend on the public health directions and the VSB guidance. Ms Bains will connect and help coordinate the Grad Council students and parents who are interested in helping. Once Q3 is launched she will get back in touch with everyone about grad.

Enrichment classes have been reduced because of general direction from the Ministry with the new curriculum and the need to balance with the number of students per class who have learning designations.

Communications - The weekly Bulletins from the school are posted on Teams each week for all the students and the student newsletter is in the office window and on Teams every 2 weeks.

Course planning is starting at the end of this week. There will be videos posted on Teams and the counsellors will visit each of the classes to talk to the students. They feel that Zoom meetings are too hard to manage and will not be offering group meetings this year.

In response to questions about the new grade 8 schedule for Q3, Ms Bains indicated that they are meeting with teachers this week to work on the new arrangements. There will be information about how the schedule will work sent out to parents in the next bulletin. All the grade 8 students are in either cohort A or cohort B so this helps with coordinating when the flex time in-person sessions will happen. Some rescheduling will happen to make sure there aren't overlaps.

Students in Grade 9 to 12 may be invited to come in by their teacher during Flex time. This will be dependent on the teacher. If they do this with their remote class the teacher will still be posting material in Teams so that those who do not or cannot attend can keep up.

There is a standard for how much time the teachers must be providing online. The new mandate is that a remote lesson must be at least 30 minutes long.

Due to help and safety requirements, students have to be encouraged not to hang out together in the school. There is currently no timeline given for when clubs will be able to meet in person.

There is no information at this time about what will happen for next school year. There is a district committee meeting now to work on plans and options for next year.

Q. Why are other secondary schools in the province having lunch and clubs in person?

A. This is a decision of the VSB.

Teachers are expected to encourage students to socialize but it is a challenge for teachers and students. One parent mentioned that her daughter (grade 8) has not met any students and that there is no opportunity to talk to other students. This is something that now has to be embedded weekly in the changes for Q3 and Q4.

Ms McMillan observed that if there are less than 10 students in a class, it doesn't matter what grade, the students don't participate much. Teachers are trying to put as much energy out there as possible to encourage interaction.

Course selection – do parents sign off on student's courses? Yes, parents must sign the course selection form.

Q. What are online attendance rates now?

A. Ms Bains doesn't have data at the moment. She has been joining the classes to see how they are going. She finds that the number of students participating really ranges from class to class.

Lulu mentioned the Link program and that the grade 8s should have a link crew mentor to reach out to. Ms Bains confirmed that she will be reminding the Link teachers to make sure that regular contact is happening.

Q. How are grade 8 students being oriented to the Library?

A. There is usually an orientation during English classes. If they have not yet had English, they will receive the orientation during their English class.

Q. Daniela asked about the Code of Conduct and bullying. What is the process from the school to address a complaint of bullying.

A. There is a progressive discipline process. It is highly contextual since what can be done is dependent on the actions and whether they happened at school or outside of school. There is information about the progressive discipline process on the school website. Incidents need to be brought to school administration directly as they have to have the information directly from the individuals involved. If needed, the school liaison officer would be brought in. Dealing with bullying is a shared responsibility between the school and parents as there can be actions that happen on weekends or evenings. Suspensions don't happen immediately; any disciplinary actions are confidential.

Q. To Mr. Pospisil regarding the lab component of science courses given the current formats.

A. Mr. Pospisil is finding that the switch to rotating weekly is helpful because they do the labs during the in school week and the content heavy material during the at home weeks. It is working well.

Q. safety during Phys Ed classes, has there been learning across school districts of how to keep students safe.

A. The sharing of COVID safety is happening through Public Health. With the small class sizes in Vancouver, there is a different dynamic than some districts and a lot of the students are wearing their masks during Phys Ed at Kits.

5) Kits PAC Updates

Daniela (Chair) showed the attendees where list of current school clubs is on the Kits PAC website and where PAC events are listed. Any of the What's Next presentations that are recorded are posted on the website.

There will be more information about a program called Youth Empowering Youth added. It is a nine session program <https://lowentropy.org/services/youth-empowering-youth/>. Daniela provided link in the chat. The information will also be in the next Newsletters. Daniela encouraged parents to share information regarding programs that they have found helpful in supporting students.

Thank you to Patricia and her family for arranging the Cookie Bash – COVID addition.

The Khan Academy is a good resource for courses and proposed schedules when you are learning online. Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre is a good local website run by BC Children's Hospital with informative webinars and information on youth mental health. You can email them questions about mental health issues.

6) Treasurer's Report\$

The current bank balance is \$86,525.41. This is a combination of donations and gaming grant.

Because of the short year last year there were funds carried over.

The PAC funds are used to support Student Council, student clubs, and extra-curricular items for student equipment and materials based on requests submitted by teachers and teacher club sponsors.

Requests have been funded from the Gaming grant funds = \$24,267 and from donations = \$14,072. Leaving a total of \$48,186.41 for any further submissions.

7) Fundraising Activities - Norma Biln

Some funds were restricted by PAC in August in order to have them available for the capital project proposal that included improvements to the fitness facilities. How can we use the donated funds that were not specifically given for the fitness equipment? What kind of things should we fundraise for going forward?

Q. Is it possible to re-apply for the capital project and what would that look like? Norma advised that they don't know if the gaming capital projects grants will be available next year and re-applying would be mean waiting another year to spend the funds.

Motion: To remove the restriction from donated funds and proceed with plans to purchase equipment for the fitness area(s).

Moved: Kerry Watt **Seconded:** Norma Biln
Carried

In response to a question, Daniela confirmed that safety gear (eg. barriers) may be purchased with funds.

8) **DPAC Update** - Alan Patola Moosmann

- a. DPAC/Public Education issues newsletter – next issue will be published in the first week of February. Links to more complete information will be provided for many of the items in this report. If you have thoughts re topics or any information for the newsletter, or any questions, concerns or comments about any of the items in this report, please contact me (Alan) at apatola@telus.net.
- b. Upcoming DPAC events (all online at 7 pm, links at vancouverdpac.org)
 - Thursday Jan. 28 – General meeting – topic: Intentional Anti-Racism
 - Thursday Feb. 12 – Executive meeting
 - Thursday Feb. 26 – General meeting – topic: mental health
- c. PAC governance resource – DPAC hosted a workshop on Robert's Rules/running effective meetings on January 16. Executive members of close to 20 PACs attended, focus on common sense application of rules for running meetings to PAC/DPAC contexts. A recording is available for viewing by PAC executives on request.
- d. DPAC
 - i. "Pulse check" survey re this school year – DPAC received 1994 responses from 87 schools. Thanks to all at Kits who responded (about 5% of the total).
 1. Support for strengthened mask mandate (83% for all adults, 79% for more students)
 2. Support for increased in-class time in secondary (74%) and more active instruction during remote sessions (76%)
 - ii. Also advocating for
 1. Continued availability of well-supported option 4 until vaccinations more widely completed

2. More informative COVID exposure notifications, particularly specifying numbers of positive tests covered by each notification

The DPAC executive continues to convey these concerns raised by parents in ongoing conversations with district trustees and senior staff, and is encouraging greater consultation with parents in the development of the school schedule for next year. How can the district improve the hours of instruction, quality of remote learning and increase social interaction among students while maintaining the cohort size set by public health and best allocating its financial resources? DPAC is considering a 2021-2022 school year restart subcommittee to collect parent feedback and provide input to the VSB's planning; I will provide more details as the specifics are worked out.

- e. VSB – at yesterday's board meeting, trustees:
 - i. Approved the revised secondary schedule announced last week
 - ii. Approved the Long Range Facilities Plan, amended by moving the trustees' overall vision statement based on prioritizing quality education as a value from an appendix to a more central position. Having this plan in place now gives the province the required basis to assess the VSB's annual capital funding requests for seismic upgrades, projects for new/expanded schools and any school closure plans. Much work has been done by parents through DPAC to provide input to the plan, and significant outstanding issues remain (effectiveness of the public engagement process for developing the LRFP, methodology for enrolment projections, definitions of school capacity utilization, co-ordination with the City re the impacts of approved developments on enrolment, lack of data and standards re accessibility). These will continue to provide focus for DPAC's input into the development of the next (2022) LRFP.
 - iii. Received a report on the School Liaison Officer program review – phase one consultant report (background re current program and comparison with other districts) has now been released to the public. The second (consultation) phase is now in progress with commitment to including input from students and families of racialized groups.
 - iv. Trustees also introduced motions calling on the Health Ministry to add vaccinations for teachers, administrators and support staff as a priority for phase 3 of the vaccination plan (April to June) (passed) and asking staff to dedicate some of the federal COVID funding received by the district to hiring teachers to support Option 4, rather than relying largely on teachers on call, who can be pulled away to cover absences in the regular program (referred to committee)

- f. BCCPAC
 - i. Responded to BCCPAC request for information on current use of gaming funds, to provide background for their discussions with the Community Gaming Branch about next year's PAC grants
 - ii. AGM May 01 – resolutions on matters of provincial scope due by end of February. I will attend as our delegate (part of the scope of our DPAC rep's duties), if others are interested please let him know.
- g. Kits PAC executive transition planning – I am in the last year of the maximum three years consecutive service as DPAC rep allowed under our by-laws. We need someone else to step into this role next year! If you are interested or want to know more, or have someone in mind who you think would be a good fit for the position, please contact me at apatola@telus.net

9) Update from What's Next Committee

Since Fall the Committee has arranged sessions from Education Planner BC (Sept.), SFU (Oct. & Nov.), Alumni panel (Nov.), UBC Faculty of Arts (Dec.), Can Gap (Dec.), and VSB Career Programs (Jan.). Materials from these sessions that can be made available are posted on the Kits PAC website. Sessions for Spring are being planned.

10) Covid and Education Ad Hoc Committee

The Ad Hoc committee put out a report with information about parent concerns and a series of recommendations that parents would like to see. The report will be posted to the website and has been shared with Ms Bains.

11) Kits PAC Website

Thank you to Daniella Kurland who has been managing the PAC website for a number of years. Daniella will soon be 'graduating' and moving on. A new website manager is needed. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let Daniela Girard (Chair) know.

12) Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Lori Srivastava **Seconded:** Norma Biln
Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Submitted by C. French