

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council
ONLINE SESSION with Zoom
Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

PRESENT:
PAC EXECUTIVE 2020/21

Chair:	Daniela Girard
Vice-Chair:	Lorie Srivastava
Treasurers:	vacant
Secretary:	Charlotte French
Fundraising Chair:	Norma Biln
Members at Large:	Corrina Hammond – Art and Drama Liaison Lisa Pindera Cynthia Morin
DPAC Representative:	Alan Patola Moosmann

Total attendees online: 29

Guests: Principal: Ranjit Bains
Teacher Representatives: Carol-Anne McMillan and Petr Pospisil

Meeting called to order 7:07PM

1) **PAC Mission and Welcome note** Daniela Girard
Reminder that there are a lot of families in many different types of situations this year. We need to be considerate of all of the concerns, be kind and supportive of one another. The purpose of PAC is to build community spirit.

2) **Agenda Approval**
Motion to Approve the agenda as posted
Moved: Norma Biln **Seconded:** Lorie Srivastava
Carried

3) **COVID and Teen Health** Corinne Hohl
Lorie S. introduced Corinne Hohl who is an emergency room physician, epidemiologist, and the parent of a student in grade 10 at Kits. Corinne gave a brief presentation to parents about the epidemiology of COVID that was put together by four parents who are also physicians.

The presentation was put together because they understand that there is a lot of confusing information in the media and other sources and we are all experiencing various levels of stress during COVID19. The presentation brings together information that the medical community has learned over the past months.

In evaluating medical interventions there is always a benefits side and a harms side and it is about finding the balance. In March it was necessary to be very cautious because there was very little knowledge about COVID and the impacts.

Corinne provided slides showing the risks of death from different causes in various age groups. An additional slide showed the comparison of risk of death from influenza compared to COVID by age groups.

What is the risk of transmission? With 500,000+ students and educators back at school less than 10% of the cases have been in children. This percentage hasn't changed since the return to school. Most cases of COVID in school-aged children have been tracked to exposures from outside of school. From a risk perspective, the risk of a child catching COVID in school is 4 in 100,000 over the first 6 weeks of school.

The rates of hospitalization, ICU, and death are much lower than at the beginning of the pandemic because of the shift in age of cases to younger adults with fewer underlying conditions. The return to school was not associated with a corresponding increase in new cases of COVID. Peaks in new cases have been more closely associated with indoor transmission between adults, and not in schools. The existing public health measures in schools are working.

There is now concern about the impact of the isolation and lack of social contact for young people. The harms to teenagers in terms of the psycho-social impacts of being kept out of school is significant and concerning. These are the risks and harms that also must be considered.

Younger children are less likely to be infected and less likely to spread COVID to others. Teenagers are somewhere between children and adults in terms of infection and spreading to others.

A separate meeting to discuss this topic further was requested. Lorie S. has offered to coordinate a separate meeting to discuss this topic further and will include information about the arrangements in the next PAC newsletter or send a separate notice.

4) **PAC May 28, 2020 Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes as posted on website

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

5) **PAC AGM 2020 September 29, 2020 Minutes**

Motion to Approve minutes as posted on website

Moved: Norma Biln **Seconded:** Lorie Srivastava
CARRIED

6) **School Updates**

a) Student Council

Daniela read the report. Elections have occurred and results will be provided to the students tomorrow. The new Student Council President will attend the next meeting.

b) Teacher Update Ms. Carol McMillan

The grade 12s are handling the new format very well. In her classes they are having a lot of time for class discussion both in person and online. Ms McMillan's grade 12s have been attending online consistently.

The grade 8s were struggling more with online instruction. There is a noticeable deficit in writing skills in the grade 8s and the teachers are backfilling a little bit. The grade 8s are not as confident as they usually are. Only about 30% of her grade 8s were showing up or participating online.

Ms McMillan offered for the grade 8s to come in in-person during her online and flex times. She has started to hold extra face to face meeting during flex time. It is more valuable for grade 8s and they are a lot more productive and engaged in-person. Ms McMillan is fine with the quarter system but thinks it would be helpful, especially for younger students, to be in-person. There is an argument that it is good for the grade 12s to get acclimatized to the online format in preparation for colleges and universities.

Not all teachers feel as Ms McMillan does. Many teachers are reluctant to be in face to face classes.

Mr Pospisil only has grade 12s this quarter. He has seen a lot of engagement. They care about marks, so it is easier to engage them. This year the hardest thing is to help them be inspired by the material rather than just getting through the curriculum. It is important to remind students that the online meetings are mandatory. They can't lose marks for not attending but they are being monitored for attendance.

Clubs are starting up again. There are 27 clubs starting up and the information will be coming out shortly.

c) Principal's Report Ms. Ranjit Bains

Ms Bains provided a presentation with an overview of the school and the programs being offered by and housed within the school. There are 1440 students in the school this year. Programs include: French Immersion, Alternative Program for students who have not met with success in regular classroom, Student Support Programs – Pre-Employment Program, and Life Skills Program.

School Staff this year: 85 teachers, 15 support workers, and 10 building engineers and custodians

Ms Bains has received many questions about the structure of the school administration. Vice Principals stand in for the Principal when she is away from the school and they work with her in supervision of students, overseeing programs, and administration. Administrators are not part of the BCTF, although they were once when they were classroom teachers. Ms Bains provided a slide that outlined the stakeholders in a school and the associations they belong to and who they report to. Ms Bains explained the structure of the VSB senior management and roles.

Parents are partners in students' education. The school act gives parents the right, through PACs, to provide feedback in their school. The goal of PACs is to help parents learn more about activities in the school. All parents are members of the PAC. The PAC executive are elected to act on their behalf.

PACS can make recommendations to the Principal and to the Boards of Education. Principals consult PACS on issues that concern student learning. The relationship between the Principal and schools' PAC is an important one. The PAC Chair and or exec may meet with the Principal on a regular basis.

There is also a staff committee at the school that provides a similar role. They provide recommendations and feedback to administration. There are three separate union groups represented: BCTF, CUPE, and IUOE. There are several sub-committees that report back to the staff committee for input to the administration of the school.

Every day is different for a school Principal. Principals are referred to as lead learners and instructional leaders: they work with teachers to plan, implement and assess the curriculum. Most of her school day may include many managerial tasks such as reports, budgets, managing the facilities, and scheduling but during the school day she focusses on connection with people - talking to students, meeting with staff, and responding to parents. Open two-way communication with the school community is very important to her.

They are launching the Kitsilano professional learning communities for staff and teachers who will be part of these conversations that include everything from how to address racist and discrimination incidents in the school to how to provide more engaging lesson in an online environment. These session will be collaborative learning experiences for the staff. The school goal is to foster student success, provide life lessons, and encourage citizenship.

The principal's number one responsibility is school safety. She needs to make many decisions each day based on what is best for all the students in the school. At times decisions need to be made for individual students, but most often the well-being of all students must be considered. She must assess issues based on perspectives of 1440 students, 110 staff, and established policies.

Ms Bains reminded everyone that they send out a weekly bulletin. They are using the school app mostly for the calendar now and not for announcements.

Questions and concerns that parents might have are usually about: Curriculum, assessment, and homework. The classroom teacher is your first contact. If you are not happy with the resolution with the teacher, please talk to the grade administrator. If the question or concern is related to the school or policies, please contact Ms Bains. It is best to book an appointment with her, and during COVID it is necessary to book an appointment ahead of time.

As time ran out, Ms Bains offered to reach out directly to anyone who had forwarded questions for her ahead of the meeting.

7) **Treasurer's Report** Daniela Girard

Balance carried from the end of last year is larger than usual because there were a number of teacher requests that were cancelled because of the situation at the end of the school year. We have received a very small amount of donations this year in direct donations from parents. Usually we would receive 15 to 20 requests for funding from teachers for clubs or extra-curricular academic projects.

This year we have received only 7 requests: 4 academic requests and 3 request related to clubs. The requests for clubs can be funded from the gaming funds.

PAC has \$29,300 from Gaming Funds, \$6,440 in donations from parents. The total value of the requests is \$21,900. PAC is able to fund the full \$21,900 of requests and have sufficient funds to cover PAC administrative costs. For example, the Kits PAC domain name needs to be renewed this January. There will also be funds available should more requests be received.

For the capital grant submission, we have committed to contribute \$62,500 that has been raised and is being reserved until the outcome of the grant application is known later in November.

Motion to fully fund the 7 requests received totaling \$21,910.

Moved: Norma Biln **Seconded:** Corrina Hammond
Carried

8) **Fundraising Chair** Norma Biln

Norma reported that PAC should hear back by November 17 from the gaming commission as to the success of the capital grant submission. The application is for upgrading the fitness facility and upgrading the outdoor patio area for a fitness area.

Another \$800 has been received in October for direct donations to PAC. This is about half of what was received last year by this time. PAC has also received the lowest ever number and value of funding requests by teachers. This reflects that there is less going on at the school. Even if students wanted to be at the school there would be less available for them to do. The Fundraising Committee will keep asking and encouraging support for programming should there be any additional requests from teachers.

9) **DPAC Updates** Alan Moosmann

a) Coming DPAC events (open to all parents and guardians of students in Vancouver public schools). All online at 7 pm, check vancouverdpac.org for registration links:

- i) Thursday Oct. 29 – Town hall Q & A with district Finance staff re VSB budget
- ii) Thursday Nov. 12 – Executive meeting
- iii) Thursday Nov. 26 – General meeting – presentation topic: Sustainability
- iv) Saturday January 16, 1 pm to 4 pm – Robert's Rules / running effective meetings

b) Zoom accounts – provided to DPAC by VSB to assist PACs now meeting virtually - a lot of uptake from PACs, so DPAC exec members are now setting up and opening several meetings per week.

c) Simplified donation system – in response to parent feedback the VSB has created PAC-specific links for donations through SchoolCashOnline. Kits PAC is using ours; no longer any need for parents to scroll through the huge drop-down menu.

d) BCCPAC

- i) Kits PAC's membership renewed for 2020 – 2021
- ii) Summit for DPACs across BC Nov. 20 and 21

e) COVID-related issues – DPAC has heard and is following up on a variety of concerns brought forward by parents about:

- i) Transparency of VCH reporting of cases in schools
- ii) Reduced hours of instruction
- iii) Quality of remote learning

10) **Chair Update**

Daniela Girard

Ms Bains received a lot of very unkind messages and requests with unrealistic expectations. It was necessary for Ms Bains to clarify for everyone the roles, responsibilities, and priorities for the principal, school board, etc.

There are a lot of mixed messages to the teachers and administrators regarding how much homework, home much instructional time, etc. that is wanted or needed. Families have different needs.

There needs to be a respectful manner in having the conversation about what is desired for students. Be kind, understanding and gentle with one another. There are a lot of different needs and desires out there.

We still need a Treasurer for PAC. We are looking for a person with experience, anyone with bookkeeping or accounting experience.

11) **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Norma Biln **Seconded:** Lorie Srivastava
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlotte French, Secretary