

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

Online with Zoom
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

PRESENT:

PAC Executive (2020/21 school year)

Chair: Daniela Girard
Vice-Chair: Lorie Srivastava
Secretary: Charlotte French
Treasurer: Catherine Hicks
DPAC Representative: Alan Patola Moosmann
Members at Large: Norma Biln (Fundraising Chair), Corrina Hammond (Arts Liaison), Lisa Pindera, Sophia Di, Patricia Thiel, and Cynthia Morin

Guests: Ranjit Bains (Principal), Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep), and Petr Pospisil (Teacher Rep), and Lulu Clements (Student Council President)

*Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM with 16 attendees
At 7:20 PM – 18 participants*

1) Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented order adapted for guests
Moved: Catherine Hicks Seconded: Alan Patola Moosmann
Carried

2) Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2021 – posted on KITS PAC website

Motion: To approve the minutes as posted on the website
Moved: Lorie Srivastava Seconded: Catherine Hicks
Carried

3) Introduction and Opening

Daniela reminded everyone of the Kits PAC purpose and goals.

4) School Updates

a. Student Council – Lulu Clement

In Feb. they organized a few different events including the talent event. The talent event winner received a Nat's gift card and the runners up also won prizes.

Upcoming events include an online baking event, an easter egg hunt around the school, and a mask design competition.

Student council decided that instead of Springilano they will hold a Spirit event during the same time period. Details are still in the works.

Grad Council – had a tulip sale before Valentine’s day. It was very successful.

Grad merchandise sales are coming soon. There will be activities chosen by and specifically for the Grad Class is coming up the week of March 8 to 12. One idea for this year, instead of a grad breakfast they are looking at sending out breakfast packages to grads. Details are still being finalized.

Q. Easter Egg hunt – will it be outside, inside? Is it on school grounds?

A. They aren’t that far with the plans but it will likely be on school grounds. More details will be available when they have things sorted out.

Q. Just wanted to say that the talent show was really cool and the virtual format let visual artists be included. Her daughter was able to participate by doing a stop motion of herself drawing.

b. Teachers Update – Ms Carol Anne McMillan and Mr. Petr Pospisil

Tomorrow is collaborative time and is a good time for teachers to share information about what is happening. Ms. McMillan has 2 classes of grade 10s this Quarter and is finding that they are really great and more engaged than usual. She is holding extra in person classes and finding that they are all showing up. She has also noted that there is a loss of writing skill but they expected that with the shortened ending of the school year last year. She is front loading a lot of writing skills.

Q. A parent asked for more information about the Grade 12 English course options as it is course selection time.

A. Grade 12 English courses are:

- English New Media which is taught Mr. Parker (both grade 11 and 12).
- English First Peoples (Ms McMillan teaches this) and it is going well, they have 4 blocks of the course. It is a very rich course even in 9 weeks like it was this year.
- English 12 Enriched which prepares students for the AP exam is self-selected option. There is a lot of reading that students have to do on their own and students should check with their grade 11 English teacher to see if it would be a good fit.

Mr. Pospisil reminded everyone to order their yearbook as soon as possible. There will be a draw for anyone who purchases their yearbook before Spring Break. You can purchase the yearbook through School Cash Online. There will not be extras to purchase at the end of the year or by pdf this year.

Mr. Pospisil advised that, after attending the last PAC meeting, he let teacher sponsors of clubs know that the grade 8s may be contacting them to be able to come and just sit in on a club as per his notes from last month.

c. Principal's Report - Ms Ranjit Bains

It has been a very energetic February. There is a group of students who have put together a set of lessons for Black History Month on famous Canadians. It has been really nice. They have had very good feedback.

Tomorrow is Pink Shirt day. Can't do the usual activities so there is a video that teachers are being asked to show in their classes and there will be a few other activities.

There will be activities for International Women's Day in March. There will be more events focussed on diversity during the rest of the year.

Course planning requests were due yesterday. If students haven't handed them in, they need to see their grade counsellor. Only about 70% of the Grade 10s have submitted their forms. If your child is in grade 10, please make sure they get their course selection handed in.

Q. Please clarify what is expected for student instruction time during their remote week? Is there supposed to be a minimum amount of instruction time during the remote week? Has the amount increased?

A. For grade 8's there has to be 2 in-person sessions during their remote week and at least 1 more session that can be remote. For all other grades it is at the teacher's discretion.

5) **Guest Speaker: Youth Empowering Youth**- Shawna Deagle and Emerson

Emerson is a young person who was a participant at Youth Empowering Youth and is now a peer leader with YEY.

Emerson provided a presentation about Youth Empowering Youth and her experience. YEY is a leadership program that provides support and helps teenagers to be accepted and included and learn from one another. Having this connection and being part of a positive community has been really helpful during COVID.

There are weekly sessions that progress through topics. There are 2 age groups, for preteens and teenagers. During COVID the programs are delivered online. Emerson's group had participants from Toronto, Vancouver and even Kenya. The sessions have been run by the founders but now the youth are able to return and help to lead and facilitate sessions. The discussions are open ended.

The sessions help youth to learn tools to use in all types of situations. Emerson has learned about what is important is the relationships you create and the discussions that happen.

Shawna provided background on the organization. The parent organization is the Low Entropy Foundation. Vision: We believe that personal development should be available to all.

They expanded to youth and felt that youth should be able to be supported, empowered in building self-confidence. They are focussed on the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley and are expanding across the province.

The YEY program is online through Zoom and is 9 weeks in length, 90 minutes a week, starting every month. There are about 300 graduates in the program. They have expanded the program and expect to have 400 graduates this year.

For the 9 weeks the topics include:

- Ripple effect
- Attitude creates your life
- The moment you stop blaming you take back your power
- Take action in small steps

Some schools have contacted them because they have wanted to make it part of their leadership program. They have sometimes customized the YEY program for the schools. There is usually a cap of 35 students per session. The average is around 30.

Newsletter for YEY is at <https://lowentropy.org/services/youth-empowering-youth/>

6) Chair's Update

March Meeting or Pub Night – In March we don't usually have a scheduled PAC meeting but have a Pub night instead. This is not possible this year. What can we do instead of the usual Pub night? Should we have a regular PAC meeting? A virtual Pub night? The Pub night is usually a fundraiser that includes a meal for a set price of which portion goes to a target cause at the school. Last year one pub night supported new jerseys for the boys hockey team and the second pub night raised funds for grad celebrations.

There was a lot of support for a virtual pub night with the idea of focussing on inviting the grade 8 families. There is interest in organizing a Kahoot or other trivia game for the evening. Suggested date is Tuesday, March 30. Alan will arrange the Zoom meeting with some breakout rooms. Funds raised will help cover PAC administrative costs.

Maureen volunteered to organize the Kahoots and Lorie S. volunteered to look after finding the restaurant.

Norma B. wondered about having another social event later in the year that is focussed on raising funds for grad.

Athletics department – Daniela showed us slides of the gym and the championship banners that have now been able to be hung around the gym thanks to funds from PAC.

Website – Big thank you to Ray, the father of a grade 8 student, who has taken over being the Kits PAC webmaster. Thank you very much!

7) Treasurer's Report – Catherine Hicks

The funds available in the administration account for PAC direct costs = \$1938.03

Funds available in the Gaming Account = \$29,835.74

The applications that were received for PAC funding from teachers and clubs and were approved in the Fall are now being reimbursed including: funds to Theatre for a camera and a Mac for editing, Science Club, Math Club for competition fees, and other uses. These total about \$12,000.

Funds are needed for the general administrative expenses of the PAC.

8) Fundraising Activities - Norma Biln

There were some additional contributions that have come in but they have all been received and included in the Treasurer's report.

She is awaiting the plans from the Athletic department to learn what they need for the fitness equipment.

They will be looking into options for fundraising for the administrative funds for PAC and for Grad since it will be a bit of an interesting year for Grad.

9) DPAC Update - Alan Patola Moosmann

The Next DPAC update will come out the second week of March.

First, to clarify information in the last Kits DPAC newsletter, Option 4 is currently an Elementary school option that allows the children to stay home and have some teaching support to keep their children home. Usually, this is an option for families with immune compromised family members. Thank you to the parent who asked for clarification. Please let Alan know if there is anything that you find confusing.

On-going DPAC work - they are setting up working groups to provide input to the planning for school restart in Fall 2021. There has been at least ½ dozen Kits parents who have expressed interest in participating in this working group. The DPAC Chair will be in touch over the next few weeks.

DPAC is supplying Slack channels for the PACs to share ideas on specific topics. Alan is looking into this a bit more, but we do need to have position based email addresses (eg. chair@kitspac.ca, etc.) There is investigation underway about being able to do this.

The School Board Trustees put forward a motion to have an extra meeting each month just to hear delegations on any of the on-going topics. This came about because of additional restrictions that have been put in place for the Board meetings.

The school calendars have been completed for the next couple of years. The work was done with the understanding that the required instructional hours need to be met. The timetabling now needs to be set-up with the required instructional hours and the calendars in mind. This is what the working group on restarting will be working on.

The BCCPAC AGM will be on May 1, 2021. Last year the BCCPAC AGM did not consider any resolutions due to the situation with COVID and the limitations for input and discussion. This year at the BCCPAC AGM resolutions presented will be presented.

10) What's Next committee

We hosted Options Solutions last week. They had great tips and advice on dealing with the quarter system and preparing for university and college. The session was recorded and you can access it by emailing the presenter, Melinda.

The next session is March 9 at 7:00 PM. Richard Belton from the University of Victoria will be our presenter.

11) Community Resources

Daniela provided information about the 3 programs listed in the PAC newsletter:

- a. Kitsilano Neighbourhood House Virtual Drop-ins
- b. The Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland's Study Buddy Program
- c. Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre (BC Children's Hospital)

Encourage parents to sign up for the newsletter!

12) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Corrina Hammond Seconded: Alan Patola Moosmann

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by C. French