

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

Online with Zoom  
Tuesday, April 27, 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), Sophia Di, and Patricia Thiel

**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 7:06 PM with 41 attendees  
By 7:40 PM 46 attendees  
At 8:36 PM 29 attendees*

**1) Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda with an addition of discussion of Grad events

**Moved:** Catherine Hicks **Seconded:** J. Chesko

**Carried**

**2) Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2021** – posted on KITS PAC website

**Motion:** To approve the minutes as posted on the website

**Moved:** Norma Biln **Seconded:** Catherine Hicks

**Carried**

**3) Introduction and Opening**

Daniela reminded attendees of the Kits PAC purpose and goals.

**4) School Updates**

a. Teachers Update – Ms Carol Anne McMillan

Ms McMillan commented that teachers don't get a chance to talk to each other as much as usual so it is harder to give this update. Last term Ms McMillan had two groups of grade 10s which was wonderful and she found the students very engaged. She has just had her first day with a class of grade 8s for Quarter 4. This quarter will be easier for Ms McMillan because she has her prep time block this quarter.

**Q.** How is she feeling about moving to the semester system next year?

**A.** Really happy about it. It will be more manageable than the quarter system. She is very positive about the semester system. It is good to see the students everyday as it helps with the focus and intensity. Daily classes help students with engagement. Even during the quarter system she has seen a big improvement in students handing in assignments.

**Q.** How has she found student morale?

**A.** The students are quieter but they are really dialed in and appreciating the time in school. It has been like driving a race car. They are really focussed.

**Q.** How is this quarter easier?

**A.** This term Ms McMillan also has her prep block so it is an easier time for her as she only has 17 students in her one class – 7 in morning and 10 in the afternoon. She has always focussed on writing and always starts the grade 8's off fairly rigorously. She has taken out a few things but the focus and curriculum coverage is the same. She is just covering things faster.

**A.** What do you think the downsides are of the semester system from a teacher's perspective?

**Q.** In English there is a shorter turnaround time for reading so you have to consider how to structure your class time and assignments. There is also the need to coordinate prep time across the semesters. Mostly the teachers are very positive about the semester system.

Mr. Pospisil – no notes to add.

b. Principal's Report - Ms Ranjit Bains

Ms Bains started by acknowledging the tragic events of the weekend in the neighbourhood but made clear that the school is safe. There are additional counsellors at the school today. Doing all they can to make sure that everyone is safe and cared for. Please note that it is important to be mindful and respect privacy as speculation and continued discussion continues the impact of the event / the trauma of the event.

Thank you for your support and we keep the families involved in the tragic events in our thoughts and prayers.

Scheduling for next year is underway. All courses will be scheduled on a semester basis. There will be a learning hub model to address some of the skills learning classes. The administration and staff are looking forward to trying the

semester system. The benefits of a semester system include the ability to build connections and community and to stay on top of learning because you see the student more often and can help stay on top of assignments and progress.

The way assessment works and the way curriculum is designed will fit very well with the semester system. They are very excited about that.

Grad is also front of mind. She is meeting with some representatives of the Grad Committee tomorrow to review what is possible. The responsibility of the school is to host, plan, organize, etc. the Graduation Ceremony and, in the past, the winter formal. The Prom or any dinner dance or reception is organized by the parents or others. An example is the reception that was organized jointly with the parents and school at the QE in 2019. Dry Grad events were, historically, organized by the parents.

The students organize all the inhouse events – grad spirit events such as the Gotcha game. This year's Grad Council has taken a dive into the post-secondary information sessions and taking on that responsibility.

There were some issues with a prom event in the past that involved a parent putting the prom on their credit card and concern raised that the parent made some money from organizing it.

Due to public health restrictions, the school is not allowed to let the parents gather at the school or in attendance at the school during the graduation ceremony. The school has to provide a plan to be approved by the VSB and it has to meet health and safety requirements. Ms Bains is looking forward to working with parents at a scheduled meeting tomorrow to figure something out about how the parent portion can fit in.

School Liaison Program (with the VPD) – it is flux at the moment given that the board motion just past to discontinue the program. It will be a loss in terms of the positive aspects. The overall plans are still in flux at this time.

**Q.** Appreciate the note that was sent out this afternoon to the families and wonder what communications have taken place directly with the students regarding the tragic event in the community on the weekend involving teenagers?

**A.** This is an active police investigation, so it is not the school's place to speculate, ask questions, or take 'news' from social media. They had a number of meetings with staff to help support and provide guidance on how to address any information that may come to them. They did post the letter on the Teams

platform and the letter was also emailed to parents. The staff and administration are there to support the students.

**Q.** Will the grad ceremony be live streamed for parents?

**A.** They were hoping to live stream it but aren't sure if the band width will allow for it. They may be doing what they did last year and record the ceremony and make the recording available as soon as possible afterward. They must keep the total cost below \$100 per grad. There are guidelines from the District that they must meet. If restrictions lift and they can have parents in attendance, they have a plan to accommodate that as well.

**Q.** How many students are attending full time during the day?

**A.** Will get back to you as she does not have a count. Students must contact their teacher and grade administrator. To make those special arrangements.

Ms Bains advised the members of PAC that she is being transferred to Windermere Secondary for next year and the principal currently at Windermere will be coming to Kitsilano. This is in the regular cycle of movement for administrators.

Ms Bains expressed her thanks to the PAC for being very supportive and for all of the work that the Kits PAC does for the school. It is one of the most active PACs in the District. Ms Bains commented that it is very impressive how PAC fills the gaps when they arise with fundraising, offering What's Next for post-secondary information, etc.

Daniela G. (Chair) offered deep thanks on behalf of Kits PAC for all that Ms Bains has done for the Kits Secondary and supporting our students. Daniela noted that Ms Bains time at Kits Secondary included many major events:

- The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration,
- Managed the years of construction of the new school, and
- Led the school through the COVID.

Mr. Pospisil also announced that he will be leaving Kits at the end of the school year. He will be starting as a vice principal at Magee Secondary in the Fall. The PAC offered him our congratulations on his new position and thanks for his all that he has done in support of students at Kits.

#### **5) Treasurer's Report – Catherine Hicks**

A big portion of the funding that PAC receives comes from the gaming grant. Gaming grants have specific requirements as to how the funds are spent. In addition, we do fundraising events and receive donations from parents and other donors. These

donations may be directed to specific purposes or campaigns or may be general donations.

To receive funding support teachers sponsors of clubs and extra-curricular programs must submit written, specific requests for funds.

This year the requests that were funded from the Gaming Grant totalled \$30, 578 and were allocated to clubs, extracurricular activities, sports teams, music therapy, field trips, and the annual PAC scholarship.

\$7,700 in requests were funded from other donations.

\$1,172 of Gaming funds have not yet been allocated.

In previous years, all of the requests were not able to be fulfilled. There were insufficient funds to meet the full value of the requests received.

This year there were fewer requests and we were able to fill all to 100%.

#### **6) Fundraising Activities - Norma Biln**

The submission for the capital grant from BC gaming was not successful so the restricted funds were able to be released. The fitness equipment that the restricted funds were earmarked for was able to be purchased. The athletic department is purchasing the equipment and providing the receipts for reimbursement. The equipment change over will happen over the summer and be ready for September.

Parents will have to be very creative for Grad this year due to the limitations from COVID. The parent group has started a go-fund me page that has captured about \$600 and are working on asks to the Alumni for funding for grad this year.

#### **7) Chair's Update**

May will be the last PAC meeting of the year.

We will be having a different kind of Pub Night in May or early June. We are very fortunate to have a very generous parent whose restaurant has a food truck. They have offered to bring it to the park and give the PAC a portion of the proceeds from their sales that day. This could be used for another 'virtual pub night.

The Budget Process slide was shared with the PAC. It outlines the principles that are used for decisions regarding funding requests. Usually, PAC receives an itemized request with detailed estimates of costs.

#### **Grad Parent Committee Request**

Lisa P. outlined that parents used to organize a dry grad. This year there has been a lot of limitations due to public health restrictions. New information was received this evening that parents would not be allowed to congregate outside. There had been

discussions with the school administration about what parents might be able to do, particularly outside the school.

The parent group hope to put a banner outside the school wishing congratulations to the grads and ideas for flowers, balloons, etc. They also had a plan for a dry grad activity that would comply with public health to have an outdoor picnic and supply picnic boxes. It is unclear if this will be able to happen.

Daniela noted that the funding request does not include the information usually required / expected and that in past years the total amount requested and received from PAC for the grad was \$2,000.

Daniela asked for more specific information on costs and reminded the Parent Grad Committee that, like previous years, they can do the promotion of the May pub night so that the funds raised will be directed to support Grad activities. The Grad parent representatives acknowledged that the Pub Night is community building but it is not of specific interest to the Parent Grad Committee. They are looking at a direct ask to the grade 12 parents.

**Motion:** That PAC allocate the available \$1100 from the Gaming funds for the Parent Grad Committee to support the plans in the submission presented.

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

**Motion:** That any funds that become available from currently allocated funds for teacher requests, to a maximum \$2900 in total, be made available to the parent Grad Committee to support the submission as presented.

**Moved:** Norma Biln **Seconded:** Ebru Montagano

Daniela reminded that there is a process for reimbursement so please be aware that it takes a few weeks after receipts are submitted for reimbursements to be received.

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

There is a monthly DPAC newsletter that goes out depending on when the DPAC meetings are held. You can subscribe to the newsletter on the website at:

<http://vancouverdpac.org/>

All DPAC events are online at 7 pm and the links are on the DPAC website (see link above). For this coming month (May) the events are:

- Thursday May 06 – Executive meeting
- Thursday May 11 – Special meeting – topic: Advocacy (BCCPAC)
- Thursday May 27 -- General meeting -- topic: Anti-Asian racism

Alan is a member of the DPAC executive (treasurer). He has another year left in his term. In order to continue in executive positions, the executive member needs an endorsement from their home PAC each year. As an additional note, when a school has a representative as a member of the executive, they are also allowed an additional member to fill the role of the school representative.

**Motion:** That Kits PAC endorse Alan to continue his term on the DPAC executive for the 2021-22 year (one more year). (23 attendees online)

**Moved:** Lorie Srivastava **Seconded:** John Chesko  
**Carried**

**9) What's Next committee**

A group of parents organize presentations on post-secondary options for our families. The transition to online has gone well. Sometimes we have 30 + people and sometimes just a handful but those are cozy and good conversations too. Registration information is in the newsletter.

Upcoming Presentations:

May 3 - Kwantlen Polytechnic University

May 12 - Langara College

**10) Art's Liaison Report**

Over 200 students worked on a fabric art piece that hangs at the south end of the main school hallway. The piece that didn't get finished due to COVID last spring has now been installed 6 feet from the others. Have a look from the windows on the South side of the school

**11) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

**Moved:** Corinna Hammond **Seconded:** Lori Srivastava  
**Carried**

*Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by C. French*