

**AGENDA of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council meeting
Online with Zoom
Tuesday, May 25, 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: Corrina Hammond (Arts Liaison) and Patricia Thiel

Guests: Ranjit Bains (Principal), Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep),

Regrets: Sophia Di and Norma Biln (Fundraising Chair)

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM with 27 attendees
Max 28

- 1) Welcome from the Chair and over view of procedures for online meeting.
- 2) Approval of the Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented
Moved: Catherine Hicks **Seconded:** Corrina Hammond
Carried
- 3) Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2021 – found on [KITS PAC website](#)
Motion to approve as posted on the website
Moved: Lorie Srivastava **Seconded:** Alan Patola Moosmann
Carried
- 4) School Updates
 - a. Teachers Update – Ms Carol McMillan
The Kits garden, near Trafalgar street, is going gang busters. There are a lot of students from the environmental studies course French immersion and the environmental club working on it.
It is very nice to have students back in school for more days of the week now in Q4.
Reconciliation week went very well. There has been lots of discussion about the change of the name for the Blue Demons and the logo. It is well received and

lots of ideas are coming forward. The grade 8's have had great preparation on reconciliation topics from their discussions in elementary school.

Collaborative time this week has been cancelled so tomorrow is a regular day. The teachers don't want to take away the instructional time at this point in the year. A lot of the teachers want to do more land-based learning next year – back to field trips and overnight camping trips. There are a lot of ideas that teachers are planning to bring to PAC for funding.

Q. How is the course scheduling going?

A. The scheduling is going along. She doesn't know what she is teaching next year but knows that they know how many students have signed up for the various courses.

- b. Principal's Report - Ms Ranjit Bains

Thanked PAC for the lovely flowers to recognize her last PAC meeting as she is leaving the school and moving to Windemere.

Nominations form for Student Council will be out this week.

Reconciliation has been phenomenal in terms of the positive feedback from the students and their understanding of why the change is being made with the logo and mascot/team name. There will be a representative from the Musqueam speaking with them as well.

They are building the school schedule for next year at this time. It is the first time they are building a school schedule for a semester system and will be doing further training next week. Enrolment is up next year by 20 or 30 students. There is usually a lot of movement over the Summer so things will be a bit in flux until September. The schedule is not truly final until school starts.

Scholarships – finalizing scholarship recipients that will be announced at the grad ceremony.

Grad – graduation ceremony arrangements are being finalized and there will be announcements out by the end of the week. Ms Bains will be meeting with the members of the Parent Grad Committee later this week to discuss the roles of the different groups.

Nice to see how much happier everyone is this quarter. The teachers are really enjoying have the students back in the classroom. Students are really in class and engaged.

Q. Can the students ask for a change to their course requests?

A. Not right now because they have to build the schedule. Students will need to see their counsellor if they need to make a change.

Q. How many students are attending full time?

A. Only 1 that she knows of. There are a few who are not coming to classes in person.

Q. AP classes that have been cut by the VSB?

A. There are questions being asked about the continuation of special programs and mini-schools. This is a question about inequities and accessibility. Honour classes are considered a form of discrimination. There are 200 students at Kits that have designations of about 1370 students, which is a high proportion. It puts a strain on resources to include honour and AP courses. This year demonstrated that the ability of families with resources to provide support at home makes a big difference. This group tends to be over represented in honours classes.

Q. Can AP classes be taught in a semester system?

A. Yes, AP classes can be taught in a semester system

Q. Why is the logo being changed?

A. The demon is a mythical creature that is evil and the logo looks like indigenous art. VSB indigenous education has been part of this discussion as well.

Ms McMillan added: There's also the fact that the name Kitsilano is a settler spelling of the real Chief Kahtsahlano, so blending the word demon with a real indigenous chief just wasn't something we could continue with.

Ms Bains let PAC know that this has been the most engaged and supportive PAC that she can imagine working with. PAC's work allows the school to provide a wealth of opportunities for the students and supports the teachers in what they can do. Thank you for the growth and learning that we have helped her with during her journey.

Daniela added that during our partnership with Ms Bains, she appreciated how focussed Ms Bains was with continuous improvement of learning. She was always supportive of student extracurricular activities and attended events.

Patricia Thiel add that Kits had a series of principals before Ms Bains came and it has been wonderful to have consistent leadership during this time, with all that has gone on.

5) Guest Speaker – Sandie Rai from SACY (Supporting and Connecting Youth)

SACY is a joint program of the VSB and Coastal Health. There are SACY workers assigned to each high school.

Sandie is from the Teen Engagement Program with focuses on individual support and outreach, collaborative programs with community partners, and classroom support and coteaching.

Sandie Rai is the parent engagement worker for Kitsilano. They run workshops for families and parents. They work at building bridges.

Sandie has children of her own and also works at the Maples Treatment Centre
What topics do they cover?

- How to have conversations with youth about drugs and alcohol
- Help to bridge to community resources
- Building resilience in our youth

Their aim is to promote health and wholeness in all the areas - physical, mental, social, and spiritual health. They can work with you to try to bridge some of the gaps that families might be feeling in their lives

Parents do not need to go through a counsellor. They can contact Sandie directly.
skrai@vsb.bc.ca

6) Chairs Update

Please become familiar with the Kits PAC website (<http://kitsilanopac.ca/>)

Daniela also provided information about the Stigma-Free Society that works at reducing the stigma of mental health and provides various supports. There will be information posted on the PAC website.

Kitsilano Neighbourhood House has ongoing events for youth and are very creative in what they are offering to students. Their events include prizes and virtual events.

Reminder Public Health is not doing the usual vaccinations this year so a reminder that you can go to pharmacies or to your family doctor to maintain the vaccination schedule.

7) Treasurer's Report

Due to additional direct donations from parents and other donors and to funds that teachers have indicated that they will not be using this year, there is an additional \$800 available for the Parent Grad Committee.

Two scholarships of \$1,000 are being funded for grads.

Question about what is happening with the relationship with Cobbs bakery. It has lapsed at the moment. Sheila and Lorie indicated that they will follow-up.

8) DPAC Update - Alan Patola Moosmann

- a. DPAC Newsletter – the final issue for this school year to come out in early June
- b. Upcoming DPAC events (all online at 7 pm, links at vancouverdpac.org)
 - Thursday May 27 -- General meeting -- topic: Anti-Asian racism (presented by three of the authors of Challenging Racism BC)
 - Thursday June 10 – Executive meeting – PAC-led initiative for motion re “no school closures for two years”
 - Thursday June 24 – AGM and executive elections – 7 of 8 current exec in middle of terms and returning, leaving 5 open positions (thanks to Kits PAC for endorsing me to complete the third year of my term)
- c. Ongoing DPAC work
 - Working with other DPACs within Vancouver Coastal Health to bring questions from parents re public health measures and communication re cases in schools directly to VCH.
 - Framework for Enhanced Student Learning – DPAC represented on VSB working group implementing this Provincial framework intended to centre student success in all decisions within the education system.
 - Restart working group and proposed 2021-22 secondary schedule – will be called back into action to provide feedback to the VSB should health orders require revision to the current full time back to school/semester plan.
 - Looking for suggestions for topics for parent education presentations at next year’s general meetings, if there is anything you would find interesting and useful please let me know.
- d. VSB – meeting this evening to
 - Pass the 2021-22 Budget
 - Consider a staff recommendation to declare a portion of the Sandford Fleming Elementary site “surplus to educational needs” (would allow VSB to lease the land to generate revenue for school expansion projects, however, largely opposed by the local community which sees a growing school age population and a lack of local green space)
 - Consider additional funds (\$1.37 million) for a Safe and Caring Schools Department to resource services (youth support, coaching) to replace those formerly provided by police through the now discontinued School Liaison Officer program
 - Consider allocating funds to develop and implement an indigenous language program
 - Other – Superintendent Suzanne Hoffman is leaving to accept a position as CEO of the BCSTA.

e. BCCPAC

- AGM May 01 – executive elections and resolutions from PACs and DPACs. Amanda Hillis, current DPAC vice-chair, elected to a two-year term as a director. Nine of seventeen resolutions were considered before the time allotted for the virtual meeting ran out, and the BCCPAC exec is currently working to fulfill a motion brought forward by members to convene an extraordinary general meeting to consider the remainder. Resolutions passed included support for FSAs if used as intended, improving safe active transportation for students in rural districts, and making defibrillators standard equipment in schools. The AGM ended before Vancouver DPAC's resolutions asking BCCPAC to advocate for the Ministry of Education for adequate resources to support immune-compromised students learning at home during the pandemic, and to collect data disaggregated by race on student learning outcomes on a consistent province wide basis, could be considered.
- Parent Education Conference May 28 and 29 – Registration remains open, the program and registration form are available on the BCCPAC website. Any parent can attend.

Please contact Alan at apatola@telus.net if you have questions or comments!

Alan will finish his term as the DPAC rep from Kitsilano Secondary at the end of the school year. Thank you to Alan for your very thorough and insightful reporting on DPAC activities.

9) Update from What's Next committee

Report as in this month's newsletter:

We encourage the grade 10 students and parents to come to sessions as the information is really helpful for the grade 11 course selection process.

The alumni evening was very informative and well received. The alumni provided insights as to what it has been like for post-secondary students during COVID.

You can find recordings of the presentations, presentation slides, contacts and other resources on the Kits PAC website.

We will be continuing the sessions in the September.

10) Parent Grad Committee Update

The Grad ceremony is Friday June 17.

The Parent Committee is organizing an outdoor catered picnic. They are getting a personalized picnic blanket for each grad and then will cater a picnic for all the grads. The Committee is going to send out a request for funds to the grade 12 families and are

looking forward to the June 10 food truck event. They need \$10,000 to do all they have planned.

Daniela is waiting for final confirmation from Rogue regarding the date.

11) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Moved: Teri Charuhas **Seconded:** Lorie Srivastava

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM