

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Online with Zoom
Tuesday, January 25, 2022**

Meeting held on Zoom. Zoom room opened at 6:59pm
Meeting opened at 7:05pm with 33 participants (27 parents; 6 guests)

PRESENT:

PAC Executive

Chair: Charlotte French

Vice-Chair: Erin Arnold

Secretary: Sheila Kirkby

Treasurer: Catherine Hicks

Members at Large: Norma Biln (Fundraising Chair), Ishi Dinim (DPAC Rep), Daniela Girard (Past-Chair), Corrina Hammond (Arts Liaison/What's Next), Alan Patola Moosmann (Zoom Host/What's Next), Maureen Prentice (Member at Large/Newsletter Editor), Patricia Thiel (Grad Parent Liaison),

Guests: Benita Kwon (Principal), Danniell Lin (Teacher Rep/Counsellor), Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep), Chris Yu (Kits House), Madi Knox (Kits House) Niamh Ryan (Safe and Caring Schools Liaison)

PAC Executive Regrets: Ray Miya (Member at Large/Website Coordinator)

1. Welcome from the Chair and overview of procedures for online meeting

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the Agenda as presented

Moved: Catherine Hicks

Seconded: Erin Arnold

Approved

3. Approval of the Minutes from Kits PAC Meeting Tuesday, November, 30th, 2021

Motion: To approve the Minutes as presented.

Moved: Erin Arnold

Seconded: Alan Patola Moosmann

Approved

4. Guest Presentation: Kitsilano Neighbourhood House Youth Programs - Chris Yu & Madi Knox

Chris Yu and Madi Knox outlined youth programs at Kitsilano Neighbourhood House (Kits House), located at 2305 West 7th Avenue at Vine. The youth programs are designed to be safe and inclusive for youth in grades 7-12 to hangout with friends and have fun. (Most are in grades 7 & 8.) There is no registration fee. Free snacks (a big draw!). Youth can join anytime. Special events include arts & crafts, board games, movie nights, seasonal parties, cooking and community engagement.

Drop-in (in person) Fridays from 4:30-7:00pm.

Last Friday of the month movie night with pizza 5:00-8:00pm (\$5, subsidized if needed)

Online (Zoom) Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00pm

Kits House hopes to resume their Lunch Program at Kitsilano Secondary on Wednesday, February 9th, meeting every other week, then weekly after Spring Break. This is a safe, supervised drop-in space for youth to connect, play board games and eat their lunch or the free snacks. Held in the Life Skills Room #105, across from the office.

More information and updated programming can be found at kitshouse.org/youth-drop-in or on Instagram @kitshouseyouth or contact chrisy@kitshouse.org.

Question: Can we donate to support this program?

Answer: Donations of Board games or snacks are most welcome.

Question: Is there time to eat lunch during the program?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Does the program need volunteers?

Answer: Yes, student help with set up and clean up is always welcome.

6. Guest Presentation: Safe and Caring Schools - Niamh (Neeve) Ryan

Niamh (Neeve) Ryan the Safe and Caring Schools Coordinator introduced herself and provided a summary of her work. She is based at Magee Secondary Mondays & Tuesday, and at Kitsilano Secondary Wednesday through Friday. She can be reached at nryan@vsb.bc.ca.

The new Safe and Caring Schools program launched in May when the Vancouver Police School Liaison Officer Program ended. The program is being moulded to meet the needs of each school according to its neighbourhood and population. Niamh works with the four counsellors, with a focus on Grades 8 & 9 currently, and aims to build relationships with outside organizations, including the PAC.

She has started a Grade 8 Boys group, and is hoping to start a girls group. These groups allow for an open and safe space for the students. She wants the students to know she is a safe adult to come to in the school. There are snacks in her office. She can be reached on her work cell phone by text, and is happy to meet for a walk if a student does not want to go to her office.

In the second semester Niamh will be actively involved in the PE classes for their Health Units.

Question: Are there any trends or themes for student concerns?

Answer: Anxiety about returning to school; Bullying, after so much time online with limited social interactions; Academic pressures; Anxiety about course planning; International students trying to find connections.

Question: With so much work to build connections with our students will she be returning next year?

Answer: Yes, this is a two year pilot project, so she will return for the 2022-23 school year, and she

hopes longer.

7. School Updates

7.1 Student Council Update

No update this meeting

7.2 Teacher Update - Ms. Carol-Anne McMillan

The first semester is finishing well. Daily classes (instead of every other day when classes were full year) has allowed her to move through the course material faster and deeper. The Grade 8's are a bit less mature due to lack of personal interaction over the previous year, caused by Covid restrictions. She needed to review learning skills, multiple intelligences, study plans and work habits of all her students, even the Grade 10's.

At the request of some of the International Students she has helped them start an English Conversation Club during the Thursday FIT block, to allow more opportunities to sit and talk when so many social interactions are limited.

Regarding Course Planning, Ms. McMillan outlined the various English department options.

7.3 Parent Initiative Idea - Robert Ford

Robert Ford has a daughter who has graduated front Kits and a son who is in Grade 8. He would like to launch a PAC-sponsored Joke Contest, a "random run" initiative to support good mental health, with a low footprint on staff effort. The suggestion was very well received. Ms. Kwon suggests it would be a good fit with the Student Council mandate to build school spirit. Another idea would be in curriculum areas of English and Drama, and the announcements. Niahm from Safe and Caring Schools is also happy to be involved.

Robert Ford also spoke about the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Music Working Group he sits on, with a goal to boost Kindergarten to Grade 7 music programs in Vancouver elementary schools, which will in turn benefit the secondary programs. Kitsilano used to have a larger music program.

7.4 Counselling Update - Mr. Danniell Lin

This is a busy time of year for the counsellors. Thanks for everyone's patience and understanding. First semester ends Friday, January 28th and second semester begins Tuesday, February 1st. There have been mixed reactions to the semester system, some have loved it, others dread it. Monday, January 29th (Turn Around Day) all teachers will be at work but only students who need extra support to finish tasks will be invited to come to school that day.

The 2022-23 school year will be the second of a two year pilot project to test the semester system in Vancouver. Please watch for a survey from the District regarding semesters.

Student course planning for 2022-23 is underway. The Parent information sessions online Wednesday, January 19th evening were very well attended with almost 100 parents joining from senior grades and 200 parents from junior grades. The information slides can be found on the school website at <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/kitsilano/Guidance-and-Support/Course-Planning/Pages/default.aspx>

Students have been sent course planning information on Teams by grade by their counsellors. Course selections are due by Sunday, February 13th online, (blue paper form also required) giving lots of time to consult with counsellors and discuss it with families.

Mr. Lin is the Grade 11 counsellor this year and will move with the students to Grade 12 next year. Each of our four counsellors stay with their students from grades 9 through 12, sharing the grade 8 between them.

Regarding counsellor course loads and why we have four counsellors rather than five (ie. one per grade): the required ratio is one counsellor per 525 students. PAC and DPAC advocacy for better counsellor ratios would be most welcome.

Ms. Quon pointed out that with limited Teacher/Staff allotments, an additional counsellor would mean one less teacher, making for tough choices. Several years ago Kits had five counsellors for the first few weeks of the school year until Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) were clawed back when expected student enrollment was not met.

7.5 Principal's Report - Ms. Benita Kwon

1) **Functional Closure**

Functional closure of a school, which is determined by the school district, is due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high absenteeism of all staff or certain employees required for a school to function and the inability to replace those absences.

Functional closure may vary in length but is intended to be temporary. It is not the same as a long-term move to remote learning. Details for how this looks will depend on each site and each circumstance.

2) **Enhanced Health and Safety Protocol**

Since the start of the school year, we already have in place very effective measures to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. Upon our return from winter break and in response to the Omicron variant of COVID-19, we have added to these protective layers.

Entry and Exit

- Students are encouraged to arrive in advance of school start at 8:40 AM.
- Enter the school through the doors closest to your first class.
- Leave the building promptly after your last class.
- Exit the school through the doors closest to your last class and proceed off school property.

Movement Throughout the Building

- Maintain distancing while walking through the hallways.

- Stay to the RIGHT SIDE of the hallways and stairwells.
- Pick the most direct route to the location that you're going to.
- Follow signage regarding capacity limits in washrooms.

Lunch Break

- Head outside if weather permits.
- Spread out through the building as much as possible both between and within groups.
- Move to areas that have fewer people. Minimize the size of groups.
- Spread out when sitting at cafeteria tables. Do not sit at spaces marked with an 'X'.
- Some classrooms will be open for students to eat lunch. Be sure to sit spaced out between one another.
- Students are to maintain mask wearing unless actively eating or drinking. Clubs/Athletics (Mask On – Mask Off – Eat/Drink – Mask On)
- Clubs will meet online wherever possible.
- No spectators at athletic events or performances.

****We continue to encourage students to spread out and wear their masks at all times.****

Question: What is the threshold for Functional Closure?

Answer: There is no magic number. Staff and student attendance numbers are monitored daily.

Question: How are the Health & Safety Guidelines shared with students and families?

Answer: In the Week at a Glance (WAAG) updates and on the school website

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/kitsilano>

Question: Has there been any change to the Provincial Health Officer's guidelines for youth athletic tournaments?

Answer: No, not at the school level.

Question: What HVAC system and air filters are being used at Kits? Have they been upgraded?

Answer: The District has been working since March 2020 to improve air systems in all schools. Ms. Kwon was not sure of what exact changes have been made at Kits but can find out. We have a new school building.

3) **Visitors**

At this time, only staff and students are permitted to be in the school. Parents and other visitors are permitted in the school if this has been pre-arranged with a staff member ahead of time. Thank you for respecting and following this health and safety protocol.

4) **K.I.T.S. Code of Conduct**

It is expected that all members of the Kitsilano school community – students, staff and visitors follow the K.I.T.S. Code of Conduct at all times (Kind; Inclusive; Thoughtful; Successful). This helps to maintain a safe, caring and respectful community. A copy of the [K.I.T.S. Code of Conduct](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/kitsilano/Guidance-and-Support/Code-of-Conduct/Documents/KitsCodeofConductTemplate-FINAL_Revised_Oct%202020.pdf) can be found on the school website at: https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/kitsilano/Guidance-and-Support/Code-of-Conduct/Documents/KitsCodeofConductTemplate-FINAL_Revised_Oct%202020.pdf

Concerns:

- Vandalism mainly in boys washrooms, e.g. soap dispensers ripped off the wall
- Change room thefts
- Vaping in the school washrooms
- Poor behaviour as reported by neighbours and local businesses

Repairs after vandalism come out of the school budget, meaning money is not available to spend on other things. When soap dispensers are damaged the entire bathroom has to be closed because handwashing is not possible.

What is the school doing?

- Reviewed the K.I.T.S. Code of Conduct
- Discussions with classes

What can parents do?

- Talk with their child(ren) about the impact of these events on the school community
- Encourage reporting of incidents of concern. This is not tattling, it is ensuring the safety of others.

Students can slip an anonymous note to any teacher or safe adult in the school.

- Review the K.I.T.S. Code of Conduct together with their chil(dren)

5) **Semester Turnaround Day**

Semester Turnaround Day is Monday, January 31. There are no classes scheduled and students may be at school to see teachers and/or complete work, quiz, test, re-test at a teacher's request. Extra-curricular activities are not taking place during regular school hours.

6) **Program Planning for 2022-23**

Counsellors have been presented information to both students and parents about program planning for the next school year. It is very important for students to be selecting courses that they intend to take as the school timetable is built based on student course requests. Requests for changes after the course selection process cannot be guaranteed as space in classes is limited. Please note some key dates below.

- Jan. 21 – Feb. 13 Students enter course selections on MyEducation BC
- Feb 25 Course Request Verifications Published on MyEducation BC
- March 4 Course Request Corrections are due to counsellors

7) **January 2022 Assessment Session Cancelled**

Due to the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, the BC Ministry of Education has cancelled the January 2022 Provincial Graduation Assessment Session. The GLA 12 scheduled for January 24 – February 3 will not be taking place. The Ministry will be providing school districts further information on upcoming sessions in mid-February.

8) **Grad 2022 Update**

Tentatively, the Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 24 at 11:00 AM at the Orpheum Theatre (601 Smithe Street in downtown Vancouver) followed by a reception co-sponsored by the school and PAC. Depending on the state of things in the spring, the plans for these events could change including the date, time and venue.

Question: Will the Indoor Track Meet Take Place?

Answer: Not at this time. The calendar on the school website needs to be updated.

8. **PAC Chairperson's Report** - Charlotte French

Charlotte reviewed four of the nine stated purposes of our PAC, as found on our website at <http://kitsilanopac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Kits-PAC-Constitution-and-By-laws-revised-and-approved-April-28-2020.pdf>

- To contribute to the effectiveness of the school by promoting the involvement of parents and other community members;
- To work with the administration, staff, parents and community organizations to provide a healthy, safe and supportive environment;
- To provide a forum for the discussion of educational programs and services;
- To promote a spirit of tolerance and cooperation within the school community.

9. **Treasurer's Report** - Catherine Hicks

Typically PAC received funding requests from teachers, staff and clubs at the beginning of the year. With the dynamic situation over the past two years with school closures, and with our new semester system, we are accepting a second round of requests, closing Monday, January 31, 2022. The PAC executive will review the requests and bring them to the February meeting.

10. **Vancouver DPAC Report** - Ishi Dinim

Ishi acknowledged we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel̓ílwiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

He has attended DPAC meetings the last three Mondays held to give an opportunity for parents and caregivers to raise questions and concerns about how their students are experiencing education during the Omicron wave. 160 attendees and 5 school trustees were present.

Eric Hamber Secondary has a student journalism club <http://ehnewspaper.ca/>

There is a Working Group to expand music programs for Kindergarten to Grade 7, including a district-wide choral program. Every positive voice to get funding for music programs is welcome and needed.

He will be attending the DPAC Annual General Meeting on Thursday, January 27th. There is an invitation extended for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) participants to join and take part.

11. **Committee Reports:**

11.1 **Fundraising** - Norma Biln

Work is underway on the Chair-ity plaques for the chairs in the Theatre.

Sincere thanks were expressed to Norma for all her work on this huge ongoing project.

11.2 **What's Next?** - Corrina Hammond

Upcoming online presentations:

BC Institute of Technology (BCIT) - Tuesday, February 8th

Options Solutions - Tuesday, February 15th

Vancouver Community College (VCC) presented on Tuesday, January 11th. The presentation can be

found on our website: <http://kitsilanopac.ca/parents-post-secondary-education/>

11.3 Parent Education Speaker - Erin Arnold

Erin is liaising with the presenters from saferschoolstogether.com to finalize wording and registration. The presentation has space for 500 attendees. Registration priority to Kitsilano parents/guardians and staff. Information will be shared through the Kits PAC mailing list and in the WAAG. Invitation will be extended to feeder elementary school if space allows.

“Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship, And Cyberbullying”
For Parents/Caregivers Of School-Aged Students

DATE: Tuesday, March 1, 2022

TIME: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (Zoom login opens at 6:00 pm)

LOCATION: Remote via Zoom (info email with Zoom Meeting ID and passcode to be sent to all registered attendees on Monday, February 28).

As a parent/caregiver, you lead the charge as a digital role model. Help your child develop a strong digital citizenship foundation while reminding them that their digital tattoo reflects their real and online selves. Parents/Caregivers have an important role to play in providing support and guidance during critical periods. A snapshot of current trends and concerning apps will be provided to equip you in your digital parenting strategy.

- Social Media Update - The most current apps and trends in your children’s social media lives
- Digital Parenting Strategy - How to have important conversations with your child around social media safety
- Digital Footprint and Reputation - With their future approaching, recruiters and employers are taking note - What will they find?
- Family Tech Plan - Recommendations for family guidelines and parental controls

All parents and guardians are asked to please subscribe to the PAC mailing list at <http://kitsilanopac.ca/subscribe-to-pac-enevs/>

12. New Business

Parent Initiative: Joke Contest - Alan for Robert Ford
Rob will prepare a draft proposal for consideration.

13. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Patricia Thiel

Seconded: Ishi Dinim

Approved

Meeting adjourned: 9:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by S. Kirkby, PAC Secretary

Minutes approved at Kitsilano PAC Meeting Tuesday, February 22, 2022.