

**Minutes of the  
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting  
Online with Zoom  
Tuesday, November 30, 2021**

Meeting held on Zoom. Zoom room opened at 6:59pm  
Meeting opened at 7:05pm with 40 participants (35 parents; 5 guests)

**PRESENT:**

**PAC Executive**

Chair: Charlotte French

Vice-Chair: Erin Arnold

Secretary: Sheila Kirkby

Treasurer: Catherine Hicks

Members at Large: Norma Biln (Fundraising Chair), Daniela Girard (Past-Chair), Corrina

Hammond (Arts Liaison/What's Next), Alan Patola Moosmann (Zoom Host/What's Next), Patricia Thiel (Grad Parent Liaison)

**Guests:** Benita Kwon (Principal), Danniell Lin (Teacher Rep/Counsellor), Ryan Parker (Teacher-Theatre Dept. Head), Brendan Sangster (Teacher-Theatre Dept.), Zachary Severyn (Student Council)

**PAC Executive Regrets:** Ishi Dinim (DPAC Rep), Ray Miya (Member at Large/Website Coordinator), Maureen Prentice (Member at Large/Newsletter Editor)

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

Change of order of Agenda to allow guests from the Theatre Department to speak first, before the business of approval of agenda and minutes.

2. **Update from Theatre Department**

Teachers Ryan Parker and Brendan Sangster joined our meeting to outline the Theatre, Drama, TV & Film programs at the school. In addition to regular theatre classes for each grade there are 70 students enrolled "Off-Timetable" which gives them course credit for time spent outside of school hours on all aspects of theatre and film production including marketing, backstage, cameras, hair & makeup. The group of students able to use the film recording equipment has expanded from three to 40 and Kitsilano is becoming known for students' skills in film production.

Teachers have worked with the administration to allow parents to attend live performances and film screenings in the new year, including the Western student movie that was filmed in Barkerville two years ago that has not yet had a full public screening, and the "Kits Bop" student projects filmed during the 2020-2021 school year.

Please refer to [kitsilanotheatrecompany.com](http://kitsilanotheatrecompany.com) for updates including the 2022 Film Festival and audition notices. Mr Parker and Mr. Sangster can be reached at [kitsilanotheatre@gmail.com](mailto:kitsilanotheatre@gmail.com)

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

Charlotte F. provided an overview of the agenda

**Motion:** to approve the agenda as amended to place Item 4. Presentation from Mr. Parker and Mr. Sangster before Item 2. Approval of the Agenda.

**Moved:** Norma Biln

**Seconded:** Erin Arnold

Approved

### **4. Approval of Minutes from Kits PAC AGM and Meeting October 26, 2021**

**Motion:** to approve the minutes as presented

**Moved:** Norma Biln

**Seconded:** Catherine Hicks

Approved

### **5. School Updates**

#### **a. Student Council – Zachary Severyn, President**

The Canley Cup fundraiser for the Vancouver Food Bank is on now. All donations for this district-wide competition are collected through [schoolcashionline.com](http://schoolcashionline.com) Current total collected is unknown but we hope Kits will be a top supporter in the city.

Student Council Winter Spirit Week will include Ugly Sweater Day and Candy Canes. A Winter Skate at Kits Rink is in the works. The Grad Committee is organizing monthly Spirit Days including “Anything But a Backpack” last month when grads carried their books and gear in a cooler, golf bag, etc.

#### **b. Teachers' Update – Mr. Danniell Lin**

The semester is progressing with virtual Parent-Teacher conferences and the first round of report cards. There are three weeks left before Winter Break, then three weeks in the new year to complete semester one.

The Student Services department is happy to be back at full capacity with the return of Mr. Gauthier (Indigenous Education Worker) and Ms. McDonald (Grade 9 Counsellor). The department continues to support both ongoing and emergency student needs.

The school is preparing to disseminate information for course selection for the 2022-2023 year, in January 2022.

Question: What type of questions do staff get asked? Everything from strategies for managing semester scheduling to how to use the Flexible Instruction Time (FIT) period to best advantage. FIT is two 50 minute periods per week to give students time for extra support within school hours, without interfering with extracurricular activities before and after school.

Regarding Winter Break, a reminder that for some students this is a challenging time because school is their safe space.

Question: Can PAC help with tutoring suggestions for parents? BC Teachers Federation maintains a list of teacher-tutors at [tutor.bc.ca](http://tutor.bc.ca). There are no recommendations nor vetting of outside/private tutors or tutoring companies.

### **c. Principal's Report – Ms. Kwon**

#### **i. Fuel Shortage**

During this difficult time for our province, everyone is encouraged to do what they can to limit fuel use. Please adjust your commuting habits where possible – walk, bike, take transit or carpool when possible.

Schools are open and there are no impacts to instruction by the fuel shortage. The Vancouver school district is doing their part to limit the use of fuel by:

- transitioning Board and committee meetings to be virtual
- providing staff who are able to work from home the opportunity to do so while maintaining current services
- adjusting some non-essential sporting and extracurricular activities or field trips
- rescheduling or adjusting planned maintenance and grounds work

This affects field trips and athletics, including the ski team travelling to Whistler.

#### **ii. Indigenous Focus Day**

Staff participated in the District Indigenous Focus Day on Friday, November 26. The speakers and youth panels were excellent and the discussions amongst staff was rich and ideas for action in our Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) work as a school community very promising. The staff is excited to be continuing this work in and outside classrooms.

Ms. Kwon was very impressed with the teachers energy and enthusiasm despite Parent-Teacher meetings the night before.

#### **iii. VSB Secondary School Schedule**

For the 2022-23 school year, Vancouver secondary schedule will be a semester model.

- move to semester model was made based on information gathered from students (pre-pandemic), as well as teachers, students, and parents that indicated a preference for fewer courses at one time as well as flexible time built into school schedules
- semester model will be in place for a minimum of two years; this will provide adequate time to evaluate what works best for students and schools
- the District is working on short term (this year), medium term (next year), and long term (2023 and beyond) adjustments

#### **iv. Program Planning 2022-23**

Departments have been working on finalising course offerings for the next school year. The 2022-23 Program Planning Guide will be available at the end of December 2021. Counsellors will begin the program planning process, i.e., course selections, with current grades 8-11 students in January. 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.

Parents are invited to our virtual Program Planning Evening on Wednesday, January 19 to learn more about the process and how to support their child in selecting courses for the upcoming school

year.

v. Grad 2022 Update

We are planning with optimism that we will be able to have our traditional grad activities that we've had in past years (pre-pandemic) albeit adapted and different. The Grad Council is working hard and planning activities that will unite their class, celebrate and build fond memories of their time at Kitsilano. There are two school sanctioned grad events, the Graduation Ceremony and Reception in June. This is scheduled to be at the Orpheum. Depending on the state of things next spring, this could change. The 2022 Grad Class has approximately 300 students.

· Grad Council

→ Grad Activities/Events

→ Grad Merch

→ Fundraising for grad gift and end of year grad event

· School Sanctioned Grad Events:

→ Graduation Ceremony: Friday, June 24, 11:00 AM at Orpheum

→ Reception (co-sponsored with PAC): Friday, June 24 at Orpheum

· Non-School 'Grad' Events:

Grad Prom, After Prom, Grad Car Rally, Grad Camp-out/Sleepover, Grad pranks, etc. are not school sanctioned events. Our school does not sponsor, condone or support these types of events in any way. Participation in these events and associated activities may not only be unsafe but may be inappropriate or even illegal.

vi. School Support Services

With reference to an incident in November when many of our students witnessed first responders coming to the aid of a homeless person who overdosed and died on Broadway just before school started one morning, sometimes there are incidents that happen outside of school but still impact students and their families in our community. Please know that the school is a good place to help access resources and supports. Contact the administration, school counsellor or school office for assistance.

vii. Fall Athletics Results

Our fall athletics teams had a very successful season. Teams did well in city play (results are in parenthesis). Our return to athletics and the season was made possible by all the volunteer coaches, staff sponsors and families.

- Tier 1 Senior Boys Soccer (1st), finished 8th at BC Coastal Championships
- Tier 2 Senior Boys Soccer (1st)
- Tier 2 Senior Boys Soccer, Gr. 10 (7th)
- Juvenile Boys Soccer (1st)
- Bantam Boys Rugby (2nd)
- Girls Field Hockey (3rd)
- Senior Boys Volleyball (3rd)
- Senior Girls Volleyball (5th)
- Junior Girls Volleyball (7th)
- Juvenile Girls Volleyball (1st)

- Bantam Girls Volleyball (4th)
- Cross Country (various individual finishes)
- Swimming (various individual finishes)

#### 8. Athletics – Winter Sports Teams

- Bantam Girls Basketball
- Bantam Boys Basketball
- Juvenile Girls Basketball
- Juvenile Boys Basketball
- Junior Girls Basketball
- Junior Boys Basketball
- Senior Girls Basketball
- Senior Boys Basketball x 2
- Senior Boys Table Tennis
- Senior Girls Ice Hockey
- Ski Racing
- Wrestling
- Gymnastics

It was noted that there is a distinction between the above sanctioned BC School Sports and the students club that are not officially sanctioned, including the Boys Ice Hockey Team and the Ski and Snowboard Club.

Questions:

Q. Alan asked about the Safe and Caring School Liaison, created to replace the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Liaison that ended after the 2020-2021 school year.

A. This is not a replacement for the VPD but filling part of the work the VPD used to do. The role is evolving at all schools. Niamh "Neeve" Ryan is the Safe and Caring School Liaison for Kitsilano. They work with students at risk with referrals from the counsellors or administration. Niamh is on site Wednesday to Friday, with flexibility as needed.

Q. Patricia expressed thanks on behalf of parents for the opportunity to meet with teachers during the Parent-Teacher Night, and for the Week at a Glance (WAAG) newsletter that is sent every Sunday.

A. Students receive all the information in WAAG online through Teams.

Parents are reminded they can reach out to teachers any time. Next semester there will be another Parent-Teacher opportunity in May.

Grad parents can expect a planning letter soon. Follow Instagram for gradwear sales, spirit weeks and other grad information: [www.instagram.com/kitsgrad2022/](https://www.instagram.com/kitsgrad2022/)

#### **6. Chairperson's Update – Charlotte French**

Charlotte highlighted the first three items in the Kitsilano Secondary PAC's list of Purposes, as found on the PAC website at <http://kitsilanopac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Kits-PAC-Constitution-and-By-laws-revised-and-approved-April-28-2020.pdf>

- a) The purpose of the Council is to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and the well-being of students in Kitsilano Secondary School.
- b) To advise administration and staff on parents' views on any matter relating to the school – programs, policies, plans and activities;
- c) To communicate with parents and to promote cooperation between home and school in providing for the education of children.

All members of the PAC Executive can be reached through [kitspac@hotmail.com](mailto:kitspac@hotmail.com)  
 Please sign up for the PAC Newsletter, and please remind your parent-friends to do so. You must opt-in, it is not automatically sent to all parents; it must be requested.

<http://kitsilanopac.ca/subscribe-to-pac-enevs/>

Please check the website for updates <http://kitsilanopac.ca>

The focus for PAC Executive has been on the Budget and Spending, and on Speakers for Parent Education. Topics and speaker suggestions are welcome.

**7. Treasurer's Report – Catherine Hicks**

Last meeting we focussed on a very detailed review of funding requests from teachers and clubs.

Gaming Account:

Opening balance July 1, 2021	\$ 8,103.09
Gaming Grant Proceeds received October 18, 2021	<u>\$29,360.00</u>
Total Available Funds	\$37,463.09
2019/2020 Requests Carry Forward	\$ 1,701.22
2021 Requests Approved	<u>\$33,971.00</u>
	\$35,672.22

Remaining Gaming Funds Available to be Allocated: \$1790.87

Received through Cash Online \$24,335.00

There will be a second round of funding requests in the New Year.

PAC received a donation of \$929.91 from the Stong's Markets' Online School Rebate Program. For all parents/faculty/alumni that spend money online at [express.stongs.com](http://express.stongs.com), Stong's will donate 4% of the orders back to the PAC. The more parents that participate, the higher the revenue will be generated for the school. i.e. For every \$1000 spent, \$40 will be donated to the PAC. Please choose our school during the checkout process. Please tell your friends, family and neighbours.

**8. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) – Alan Patola Moosmann for Ishi Dinim**

The DPAC Monthly Bulletin can be found at [vancouverdpac.org](http://vancouverdpac.org)

The next DPAC Executive Meeting will be online on Thursday, December 9th at 7pm.

DPAC Executive elections are under way. Michael Lang has been nominated by the Kerrisdale Elementary PAC. He is particularly interested in Active Transportation. All school PACs in Vancouver can vote by December 8th.

In October there was a motion to set parameters recommending no decisions on school closures be made until there is more transparency and coordination with development plans across the city to predict need for schools, to avoid problems like the lack of school in the Olympic Village area.

The annual change of chairperson for the Vancouver School Trustees has seen Carmen Cho step down. Janet Fraser is again in the chair.

The first school to go through the new renaming process will be Sir Matthew Begbie at 1430 Lillooet Street (near East 1st and Renfrew). The school is also being rebuilt and will have a new Musqueam name: **wə́kʷańəs tə syaqʷəm** (the sun rising over the horizon). Pronunciation demonstrated by Musqueam elder Larry Gran at link: <https://youtu.be/REWqX8hUVhQ>

## **9. Committee & Liaison Reports**

### a) Fundraising and Pub Night

Pub Night – Daniela Girard

While these are important social and community building and fundraising events, December is a busy month to organize anything this year. We will have to wait and see if health guidelines will allow for group gatherings in January.

Fundraising – Norma Biln

PAC recently received a donation of \$7500 from a parent working for a company that matches donations.

Norma wants to ensure that new teachers know they can request money from PAC and that teacher-sponsors know clubs can also.

Are there any ideas of what we can do in the second semester that we weren't able to do before.

### b) Teacher Appreciation “Cookie Bash” - Patricia Thiel

Clarification that cookies can be baked at home in non-commercial kitchens but must be pre-packaged for distribution, not on open platters. This is the same practice followed for staff and district meetings. Information will be emailed to parents to explain how and when to bring in cookies to share with the teachers and staff to express our ongoing appreciation for their work. Thanks to Christina Morgan who organised this event for six years and has been very helpful sharing her planning knowledge with Patricia.

### c. What's Next? – Corinna Hammond

The Emily Carr University of Art + Design virtual presentation on November 3rd was well received. Sheila noted that the in person campus tour on November 29th was very interesting.

The Education Planner BC presentation from September 22nd is now available on the PAC website at <http://kitsilanopac.ca/parents-post-secondary-education/>

**12. Motion to Adjourn**

**Moved:** Patricia Thiel

**Seconded:** Norma Biln

Meeting concluded 8:55 pm

*Respectfully submitted by S. Kirkby, PAC Secretary*

**Minutes approved at Kitsilano PAC Meeting January 25, 2022.**