

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
On Zoom
Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

Waiting room opened at 7:00pm. Meeting called to order at 7:04pm with 33 participants (29 parents; 4 guests).

PRESENT:

PAC Executive

Chair: Charlotte French
Secretary: Sheila Kirkby
Treasurer: Tina Pfeifer (see item 6.)
DPAC Rep: Ishi Dinim

Members at Large: Norma Blin (Fundraising), Philip Coldrey (Athletics Liaison), Corrina Hammond (Arts Liaison/What's Next), Alan Patola Moosmann (Zoom Host/What's Next)

Guests: Patrick Gregg (Student Council President), Benita Kwon (Principal), Carol Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep), Chris Yu (Kitsilano Neighbourhood House Youth Worker)

PAC Executive Regrets: Ray Miya (Member at Large/Website Coordinator), Catherine Hicks (Member at Large), Kristen McDougal (Athletics Liaison), Maureen Prentice (Member at Large/Newsletter Editor)

We acknowledge that we live, work, play and learn on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

1. **Welcome from the Chair and overview of procedures for online meeting**
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion: To approve the Agenda as posted on the PAC website.
Moved: Alan Patola Moosmann
Seconded: Corrina Hammond
Approved
3. **Approval of the Minutes from Kits PAC Meeting Tuesday, October 25, 2022**
Motion: To approve the Minutes as posted on the PAC website.
Moved: Maryam Foroughi
Seconded: Lisa Bergman
Approved
4. **Spotlight Speakers: Kits House Youth Programs** - Chris Yu
Teddy Chan, the new Executive Director at Kitsilano Neighbourhood House (Kits House) sent his regrets. Chris Yu, Youth Worker, outlined the Friday Night Youth Program, a weekly drop-in program from 5:00-7:00 pm aimed at Youth ages 12-18, in grades 7-12. Everyone is

welcome. Their regular attendees include newcomers and complex learners. It is intended as a safe and inclusive space. No registration fee. Join any time. Special events include arts & crafts, field trips and a monthly movie night (5:00-8:00 pm with option for \$5 pizza dinner). Workshops have included Expressive Art Therapy, and Online Safety with Telus. Next up on December 8th is a Youth Financial Workshop with Gulf & Fraser on ways to save and the differences between wants and needs. The Youth Committee also has a clean up crew, great for students looking for volunteer hours.

Parents expressed support for Kits House programs and staff after protesters tried to disrupt a Drag Storytime event last week.

In response to questions Chris said that most of the youth taking part are in grades 9 & 10. There used to be a lunch-time program at Kits Secondary but it is not running anymore due to limited staff hours.

Location: 2305 West 7th Avenue at Vine Street

Contact: ChrisY@kitshouse.org to sign up for Youth Program newsletter, ph: 604-736-3588

Website: kitshouse.org

Instagram @kits.house.youth and @kits.house

5. School Updates

a) Student Council Report - Patrick Gregg

Students are taking part in the city-wide CANley Cup fundraiser for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. They are collecting cash donations via School Cash Online only because cash donations are the best way for the Food Bank to get the right food items for people in need. There is a raffle to raise money with prizes of gift certificates from The Keg and Plenty, and a Students v. Teachers Basketball Game on December 8th at lunch.

Grad Council will hold a Grad Thrift clothing sale on November 29th and a Grad Skate on December 6th. Instagram @kitsgrad23 for updates.

Student Parliament discussion topics included the Pride Club representative requesting more LGBTQIIA+ classroom content. Principal Benita Kwan suggested forwarding this suggestion to the Vancouver District Student Council.

b) Teacher's Report - collected and submitted by Carol-Anne MacMillan, English Dept.

Holiday Season - Senior Theatre Production (Parker)

There are TWO senior production plays the last two weeks before Winter break:

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (Dec 6-8) is 'Hauntings', which starts at 7:00pm. A modern ghost story/suspense/mystery rated PG-13 for some coarse language and suspense.

The last week of school is also a secret murder mystery from the amazing Agatha Christie!

Shows are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (December 12th, 13th, and 14th) and also start promptly at 7:00pm. Come to one of our 'Hauntings' shows to finish out the 2022 year and support the program!

Technical Ed (Adam Lipsky)

Thank you for your support! We have purchased most of the items sponsored by PAC. In addition to your support, administration has successfully updated the shop stools, replaced worn out hand tools, and added a white board in both the shops. The maintenance department helped with a deep clean and service of the machines. And the technology committee supported several computers for students to design and upgrade their industrial projects. We really appreciate your support; every little bit helps. If you have metal or wood that could be donated, please let us know and we can evaluate its usefulness for student projects.

Climate Change Panel (Jillian McGuire)

Teacher, Jillian McGuire is planning a Climate Change panel for late January/early Feb. Would there be any interest in an evening event for Parents?

Counselling

A reminder to parents about the grade 8 students receiving talks from the district Supporting and Connecting and Youth (SACY) program around cannabis use. Grade 8 & 9 parents are invited to the SACY parent evening (online) regarding cannabis use on December 6th. A link was sent out to those parents already regarding the parent night.

On January 12th the student services department will be bringing in The White Hatter (<https://thewhitehatter.ca/>) to all students at Kitsilano. The presentation will focus on cyberbullying, sexting, nudes, intimate images and the laws. This will be an online presentation for all students.

News from Sciences (Mathilde Yang, Nimaya Fernando and Jennifer Thi)

Sciences 8 students are all going to the Britannia Mine Museum in December for our Geology unit! (December 6th for mainstream Science classes and December 13 for French Immersion classes) Thank you to volunteer parents (at least 12 of them) for chaperoning the field trip. Thank you to PAC for the funds that helped with the costs! Students are really excited!

Economics (Alicia Kersten)

I have awesome things to share 😊 This past month I took my Econ 12 students to the Vancouver School of Economics for an engaging lecture delivered by Dr. Patrick Francois at the school. The students LOVED it! They got to experience the feel of a university lecture, learn about the professor's research, and see how economics is studied at the university level. The other thing I did was take my Rock The Street Wall Street financial literacy club for female identifying students to Broadridge Financial, a FinTech firm in downtown Vancouver. We got to hear a keynote from the GM of Canada (who is a woman), tour the WeWork office space, learn about all of the women that work in finance at this firm, and do an engaging activity on budgeting for post-secondary. It was awesome. 😊

Model UN

Thanks to PAC for funding the Model UN Club, which had a formal debate event in our theatre on November 28. Approximately 25 country delegations debated the incredibly interesting topic of bio-engineering, from GMO to human embryos. Delegates not only debated, but each group had to prepare a position paper.

Grad Council

1. fundraiser selling coffee—blue is decaf, gold is dark and Fiat Lux is espresso.
2. Grad clothing swap- grads brought in clothes in good condition and students from all grades can browse and takeaway. The leftovers were then donated to a women's shelter.

c) Principal's Report - Benita Kwon

Ms. Kwon shared a photo of an impromptu lunch hour viewing of the Football World Cup last week. The students were awesome about heading back to class when lunch ended even though the game was not over yet. Students are still enjoying the post-pandemic novelty of doing large and small things together.

i. *VSB Secondary School Schedule Survey*

Students, families and staff are invited to complete an online survey to share feedback about a preferred secondary schedule. Please share your feedback on an instructional model (semester or linear) that prioritizes student achievement and well-being.

- Semester (up to four classes that run for one semester twice a year)
- Linear (up to eight classes that run for the full school year)

Through meetings, group discussions and surveys, recommendations will be developed for how to best prioritize student success while meeting the needs of diverse learners, staff and families.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and is available until **November 30**. To take the survey, click one of the [time-sensitive] following links:

- [Student Survey](#)
- [Staff Survey](#)
- [Family/Caregiver Survey](#)

ii. *Program Planning 2023-24*

Departments have been working on finalizing course offerings for the next school year. The 2023-24 Program Planning Guide will be available at the end of December 2022.

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 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 Program Planning Evening on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 to learn more about the process and how to support their child in selecting courses for the

upcoming school year. This will be combined with a Grade 7 Parent Information Session and Arts Night.

iii. *Student and Family Affordability Fund*

Vancouver District has provided guidelines for schools to spend their money allotment from the Student and Family Affordability Fund. Monies must be spent by June 30, 2023.

- Food and Nutrition (targeted)
- Food and Nutrition (universal)
- Family Assistance (targeted)
- Family Assistance (universal)

Resources already paid for are not eligible. Students would like a reduction in fees for field trips, supplies and grad fees. The School will buy food to have snacks on hand so that teachers don't have to do so. There will be an opportunity for confidential family requests to access funding as well.

iv. *Grad 2023 Update*

Grad events for this school year include activities/events planned by Grad Council and Graduation Ceremony and Reception in June.

· Grad Council

- Grad Activities/Events
- Grad Merch
- Fundraising for grad gift and end of year grad event

· School Sanctioned Grad Events:

- Graduation Ceremony: Monday, June 26, 7:00 PM at Queen Elizabeth Theatre
- Reception (co-sponsored with PAC): Monday, June 26, 7:00 PM at QE Theatre

The evening time slot will allow teachers to attend, unlike last year when graduation was at 11:00 am.

· 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 is not only unsafe but may be inappropriate or even illegal.

Q: Other schools hold a prom that is school sanctioned. Why does Kits not?

A: Historically there were problems with the event. Ms. Kwon is happy to start a conversation this year for future planning.

Q: Will Kits have AP (Advance Placement) classes?

A: Yes, Psychology and European History.

Q: Can Parents meet with the counsellors at the Program Planning night?

A: Planning night is for general questions for everyone, not individual cases.

Parent comment that the survey regarding semester v. linear school year had methodological limits since students in grades 8-10 have not experienced linear (full year) courses.

Parent's comment that it can be confusing keeping track of where students should find course information - Teams, websites, moodles, handouts. While there is a richness to online components of the classes, there are too many different platforms being used by different teachers.

Response: Teachers have the autonomy to decide which program they will use. Ms. Kwon will share this comment with senior staff.

Q: Is the school aware of the RV that is always parked between school and the community centre, painted with marijuana-related art.

A: Yes, it has been reported to the police.

Q: Vaping is still going on in the school bathrooms and some students are still feeling uncomfortable accessing the bathrooms because of the presence of the vapers and the smell. How is the school addressing this?

A: The majority of the students are well behaved. The Vice-Principal, Mr. Godfrey, confiscated 20 vapes in one week. They were not returned and families were contacted.

Reminder of the Procedure for a Snow Day (anticipated for the day after the meeting): Social Media and Radio will announce if schools are closed before 7:00 am. If there is no announcement then school is Open.

6. Chair's Update - Charlotte French

We are delighted to announce we have a volunteer for the Executive position of PAC Treasurer.

MOTION

To elect Tina Pfeifer as Kitsilano Secondary PAC Treasurer.

Moved: Alan Patola Moosman

Seconded: Philip Coldrey

CARRIED

Welcome Tina!

7. Financial Report - Charlotte French

Charlotte outlined the two pools of funding available to allow the PAC to support school activities: the BC Gaming Grant, which comes with specific restrictions on use, and Direct Donations, which we can establish the criteria for allocation. Our long standing priorities include academics, impact for the most students, longevity of the investment, availability of funds. .

The Direct Donations drive this Fall did not raise enough money to fulfil all the requests we received from teachers, including a large request for the gym/fitness area and for technology for Modern Languages. You can still donate through School Cash Online.

Please sign up for the PAC Newsletter: <http://kitsilanopac.ca/subscribe-to-pac-enevs/>

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Cookie Bash - Sheila Kirkby

The annual Cookie thank-you to staff will take place on Thursday, December 15. Watch for information on how to sign up.

b. Pub Night - Philip Coldrey

Tuesday, December 13 from 6:00-8:00 at The Ellis Pub at 2204 York Avenue. Tickets are \$30 each for a burger, fries and a drink. 70 spaces available. Children are welcome. Grade 8 & 9 parents especially encouraged to attend. There will be a Getting to Know You game. Link to order tickets will be available soon.

c. Anti-Racism/Inclusion Working Group - Alan Patola Moosman & Ishi Dinim

This group came about following an extended discussion at the May 2022 meeting about dealing with difficult incidents of hate at our school. It is difficult to gain traction but this is important. Unfortunately, when incidents occur the follow up can be isolating and exhausting, and frustrating when issues are not resolved. It can be messy and imperfect - even choosing a name for the group - but these issues are not going away. We envision the committee to be a place:

1. where parents can bring concerns to the school administration.
2. to hear from the administration about the district procedures and processes for dealing with incidents.
3. to help offer education opportunities including how we can be effective as bystanders.
4. to connect with other schools to learn about work that has been or is being done elsewhere.

The next step is to expand and diversify. Anyone interested can contact Alan at apatola@telus.net

d. What's Next Committee - Corrina Hammond & Alan Patola Moosmann

A presentation by the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) is planned for Tuesday, February 7, 2023. An invitation will be sent out closer to the date.

e. Arts Liaison - Corrina Hammond

Looking forward to Senior Theatre Productions, as mentioned earlier in the Teachers' Report. We are delighted to announce the Kits Jazz Combo will perform at the in person PAC Meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

f. Athletics Liaison - Philip Coldrey

The November PAC Newsletter included an introduction to what goes on in Athletics at our school throughout the year (reprinted below).

Kits Athletics 101

What Teams are Playing?

Athletics at Kits is divided into three seasons: fall, winter and spring. The fall season is just wrapping up (volleyball, soccer, field hockey, cross country and rugby) and the winter season is just getting started (basketball, wrestling, table tennis and ice hockey).

When are Games?

The full schedule is posted on the Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletics Association (VSSAA) website <http://www.vancouverchoolsports.ca/> and can be navigated by seasons and sports. Look up your sport, grade and you should see a full schedule of games.

What Grades are Bantam, Junior, Juvenile and Senior?

We know it's a bit confusing but Bantam is grade 8, Juvenile is grade 9, Junior is grade 10 and Senior is grades 11 and 12.

How do I keep up to date on Kits Athletics?

You can follow @kitsathletics on Instagram to keep up to date with all the goings on.

g. Grad Parents - Alan Patola Moosmann

Anyone interested in helping with planning the reception after the grad ceremony on June 26th is asked to contact Alan at apatola@telus.net

9. DPAC Update - Ishi Dinim

The Vancouver School Board voted to reinstate the School Liaison Officer (SLO) [Police in schools] program. This is not supported by the DPAC executive.

Alan suggested parents may be interested in watching the recording of the Trustees' Statements before the 5-4 vote. The discussion is from timestamp 1:19:36 onwards. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeU6zjfK8F0>

The survey about Semester v. Linear school year was open for feedback for a short period of time and was only available in English. It is hoped that future surveys will have a longer opportunity to respond and be available in multiple languages to better reflect the diversity of parents in our district.

The new School Trustees have been assigned their committee roles and school liaisons. The Kitsilano Secondary Trustee is Victoria Jung, the Chairperson. We would like to build a good relationship with her. Should we invite her to attend a PAC meeting, or Arts Night?

10. Other Business

No other business.

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 9:00 pm

Moved: Philip Coldrey

Seconded: Corrina Hammond

Carried

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 - In Person!

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by S. Kirkby, Kits PAC Secretary

Approved January 24, 2023.