

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
in the School Theatre
Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm with 23 participants (20 parents; three guests).

PRESENT:

PAC Executive

Chair: Charlotte French
Secretary: Sheila Kirkby
Treasurer: Tina Pfeifer
DPAC Rep: Ishi Dinim

Members at Large: Norma Blin (Fundraising), Philip Coldrey (Athletics Liaison), Corrina Hammond (Arts Liaison/What's Next), Kristen McDougal (Athletics Liaison), Alan Patola Moosmann (Zoom Host/What's Next), Maureen Prentice (Member at Large/Newsletter Editor).

Guests: Patrick Gregg (Student Council President), Benita Kwon (Principal), Carol Anne McMillan (Teacher Rep)

PAC Executive Regrets: Ray Miya (Member at Large/Website Coordinator), Catherine Hicks (Member at Large).

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

1. Welcome from the Chair

It is lovely to be together in person this month.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION To approve the Agenda as posted on the PAC website.

Moved: Tine Pfeifer

Seconded: Maureen Prentice

APPROVED

3. Approval of the Minutes from Kits PAC Meeting Tuesday, November 29, 2022

MOTION To approve the Minutes as posted on the PAC website.

Moved: Anna Friedlander

Seconded: Carla Stratidakis

APPROVED

4. School Updates

a) **Student Council Report - Patrick Gregg**

Patrick told us about Student Council's main December activity, the CANley Cup Fundraiser for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank) and the upcoming Spirit Week February 6th to 10th.

For Student Council updates follow them on Instagram @kitsstudentcouncil_ (note underscore).

Grad Council activities include a Winter Skate (December 3rd), Grad Spirit Week (January 23-27), Winter Formal at the School (February 9th 6:00-8:30 pm; tickets must be purchased by January 25th). The pre-ordered Grad Merchandise has arrived.

For Grad Council updates follow them on Instagram @kitsgrad23

Prom (a dinner & dance) is coordinated by students and parents and is not a part of the official school-sponsored graduation activities. Parents of Grade 11 students are invited to start a conversation with Ms. Kwon about a school organized Prom next year (2024).

Q: What can be done to get more students out to cheer at sports games?

A: Athletic events are included in the school announcements if requested by the teacher sponsor. Ms. Kwon mentioned that many students have other activities after school and don't have time to cheer on the teams.

For Athletics updates and schedules follow them on Instagram @kitsathletics or check the Vancouver School Sports website <http://www.vancouverchoolsports.ca/>

b) **Teacher's Report - collected & submitted by Carol-Anne MacMillan English Dep**

Thanks to families for the generosity in organizing the 2022 Cookie Bash! Snickerdoodle bars are haunting staff dreams!

Black History Month - Led by staff members, Ms. Dhudwal and Ms. Fernando, all teaching staff (80 of us) had a VERY productive collaborative time recently to develop some dynamic and engaging lesson plans - enough to span the whole month with 15-20 daily lessons. We are also being guided by the Students of Colour Club, who have been planning some activities as well.

Course Selections for next year are happening right now. Each grade level will have an assembly to guide them, and course selections will run from Feb 1 to Feb 17 via MyEdBC. Students are also being guided by classroom teachers about the new grad requirement around 4-credit courses that are entirely Indigenous curriculum focussed. The two choices for Grade 12 students next year are: English First Peoples 12 (an equivalent to the "regular" English 12) and First Nations 12 (a Social Studies course)

PRIDE Club Pronoun pins will be distributed tomorrow. The PRIDE club took on this effort again this year, and are very grateful to PAC for their financial support.

Fine Arts Night last week on January 18th was a GREAT success and all the gallery artwork will remain on view until January 30th. Ms. McMillan's English 8 class organized an Escape Room that was very well attended and super-fun! Stay tuned for future escape room fun in Semester 2!

Creative Writing 12 teacher, Mr. Ramsay arranged for guest speaker, Nardwuar the Human Serviette, a popular local musical journalist. Students report it was "pretty wild" and they had an awesome time. His website is nardwuar.com.

Grad Council

- A Spirit Week is happening right now
- DANCE on for Feb. 9!
- Grad Merch is IN!

Leo Club is planning a little fun for Valentine's Day - we're making sugar heart cookies to sell. Proceeds will likely go to either the Heart & Stroke Foundation, or towards the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Women's Memorial March. We also raised \$500 from the holiday candygram event and proceeds for that will be donated to local Youth Suicide Prevention program. We're also looking further ahead to events around Earth Day/Week in April.

From Ms. Leslie in Counselling: The Ministry of Education has added a new "consent and gender-based violence" focus area to the Erase strategy. As part of the on-going work through Erase, they are pleased to announce the new student and parent/caregiver sessions coming up in the next month. In these sessions, they will explore the topic of consent, and the dynamics of gender-based violence. These sessions will be held on February 2, February 7, February 27 and March 8, with various times throughout the day, as well as evening sessions. Please share these opportunities with parents/caregivers of children in grades 5-12. All trainings can be found at the link below, with the student and parent sessions beginning on page 2.

[erase-training-schedule.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

From the Science Department: the first two (of 4) Science 8 Field Trips to Britannia Mine Museum happened and the kids had an amazing time! Thanks to PAC for their generous support of the trip. The second two trips will occur in April 2023.

From Pauline Lo, Music Teacher: Music Concert on January 26th, 7pm, Kits Theatre. Also, Tour Band and Choir Club are starting up in early February. Singers and instrumentalists wanted!

Theatre Department: Grade 10 production "Mask Mandate" on January 31st in the Theatre.

c) **Principal's Report - Benita Kwon**

Ms. Kwon has been reviewing scholarship applications and is very proud of the energy, innovation and talent in our students.

i. Vancouver School Board (VSB) Secondary School Schedule

The District announced on January 10 the decision to continue with the semester model. All students, families and staff received an emailed letter outlining the decision and how they arrived at the decision using the information collected from their engagement process.

See the [engagement summary report](#) for more details.

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/60324/preferred-secondary-schedule>

- in alignment with the [Education Plan](#), student voices were centred in this decision

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/4996/education-plan-2026>

- results of the student survey indicated that 67.76 per cent of participating students preferred the semester model

- there will be an increase in Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) to 160 minutes per week (from 100 minutes) at all VSB secondary schools

Q. Are any courses at Kits linear (full year) rather than semester?

A. Theatre is off-timetable and linear.

ii. K-12 Student Reporting Policy

The implementation of the new [K-12 Reporting Policy](#) will take place in the next school year.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/student-reporting-framework>

The BC Ministry of Education has provided a [brochure for families](#) for more information.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/student_reporting-brochure_for_families.pdf

Over the next year, more information and resources will be developed to support families in understanding the proficiency scale prior to changes in 2023/24.

“I” Incomplete will be replaced by “IE” Insufficient Evidence. There will be no more work habits, with more focus on core competencies, and a more narrative format. Grades 10-12 will still receive % grades.

iii. Program Planning for 2023-24

During the month of January, counsellors will present information to 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. Students will enter course selections on MyEducation BC, February 1-17. Requests for changes after the course selection process cannot be guaranteed as space in classes is limited.

Parents/Guardians are asked to please look at the course offerings with their students and discuss options.

iv. Semester Turnaround Days

Semester Turnaround Days are Wednesday, February 1st and Thursday, February 2nd. 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.

v. White Hatter Presentation

On January 12, all students watched a presentation on digital literacy and internet safety by the White Hatter. The presentation included information about cyberbullying, sexting, nudes, intimate images and the Canadian Law. For more information see thewhitehatter.ca

vi. Washrooms

The incidents of vandalism in washrooms has declined. Vaping in washrooms is still happening but noticeably on the decline. Staff continue to monitor washrooms.

vii. Team Name

We are waiting to hear from the Musqueam Language Department for permission to use the requested Musqueam name for Kitsilano's team name.

Q. What about the kids who can't use the washrooms because of the vaping smells or discomfort with the activity?

A. It is hard to follow up with individual cases because reports are usually made anonymously.

Q. What about the weed selling van that has been parked between the school and the community centre since the fall?

A It has been reported to the police. Please feel free to call the police non-emergency number to report it, 604-717-3321.

Q: Please clarify if students are at school on February 1st & 2nd for Semester Turnaround? This is particularly important for parents of younger students.

A: There are no scheduled classes although they are technically instructional days. Students who need to finish work or write/rewrite tests can see their teachers, but most students will stay home while the teachers finish up the First Semester and get ready for the Second Semester to begin on Friday, February 3rd.

Comment: Can students retake tests to improve their grades during the Semester Turnaround days, or are only failing students given support? There should be no shame in going into school during Turnaround, it's not just for students who are doing poorly.

Q: Regarding the decision to continue the Semester system, is Kits looking at linear (full year) math or physical education?

A: No, not right now. It is very difficult to schedule a hybrid combination of linear and semester classes.

6. Chair's Update - Charlotte French

The mission of our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and the well-being of students in Kitsilano Secondary School.

The members of the PAC Executive introduced themselves to the group.

Succession Planning: Charlotte outlined the importance of PAC finding a new person to take the role of Chair after Spring Break to allow for the logistics of a proper handover of responsibilities and to have a new Chair in place by June for the submission of the application for our BC Gaming Grant (approx. \$30,000 annually).

Ideally the Chair has a child in Grade 11 or younger, rather than Grade 12, so they can hold the Past-Chair role while still a parent at the school.

7. Financial Report - Charlotte French

In the fall of 2022 PAC made allocations for financial support to teachers and clubs with the funds available at the time, including the \$30,000 (approx) Gaming Grant and direct donations made through SchoolCashOnline. We did not have enough money available to fully fund all the requests.

Additional donations have come in since that distribution of funds, so we now have \$12,718.75 available.

Two outstanding items from Fall are a piece of equipment for the school weight room, that we could partially fund but it could not be purchased without full funding, and a request for more iPads for the Modern Languages Department (there was a correction received for the request). We are now in a position to fund these, including a subsequent cost increase in the weight room equipment and to put out another call for funding requests from teachers.

In addition, we were waiting for a quote from Indigenous Education for a refrigerator they want to support their services. The quote has been received and so we are bringing forward a request for an increase to the allocation.

Each year we try to provide speakers on topics of interest for parents and families. There is a cost for some speakers. Therefore, in order to be able to book and confirm the events, a motion is being brought forward to allocate a portion of funds for parent education speakers.

MOTION

1. To increase the allocation to Physical Education from \$5,543.20 to a maximum of \$9,100 to purchase the accessible Life Fitness multi-jungle extension
2. To increase the allocation for Modern Languages from \$884 to a maximum of \$2,684 for the purchase of classroom equipment, including iPads.

3. To increase the allocation to Indigenous Education from \$319.15 to a maximum of \$645.
4. To approve a new allocation for Parent Education speakers of up to \$2,000.

Moved: Norma Blin
Seconded: Valia Thornburn
APPROVED

Please see Appendix 1 for Financials.

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

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

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

The What's Next Committee organizes presentations for parents about post-secondary planning. While our students have access to presentations and information at school, parents find it useful to know more as well. The role of the counsellors has changed in the last 10 years. There is no longer career resource staff in the Vancouver high schools and admission requirements for the universities and colleges are more complex. Many of the institutions have improved their online information. Education Planner BC is a very good online resource for BC Institutions.

Upcoming sessions organized by the Kits PAC What's Next Committee include:
Vancouver Community College (VCC) - Tuesday, January 31, 2023 - online
BC Institute of Technology (BCIT) - Tuesday February 7, 2023 - online

Registration information is sent to everyone on the PAC mailing list. Suggestion to include this information in the Week At A Glance (WAAG) sent out by the school.

We are looking for new parent-volunteers to take over this committee since current volunteers' children are graduating this year.

b. Arts Liaison - Corrina Hammond

As mentioned previously, Arts Night on January 18th was a big success, as was the visit by Nardwuar the Human Serviette. He and Mr. Ramsay discussed deep research, the benefits of the do-it-yourself approach to journalism and managing your own media channels. Nardwuar delivers a positive message to students about the upside of failure, "keep on keeping on" and much more.

Nardwuar did a promotional piece on Instagram (@kitsilano_fanclub) for the Senior Girls Basketball Team. His presentation was free of charge.

Corrina explained that in the past there was limited sharing about what was going on in the arts programs (music, theatre, fine arts, graphics) so she created the position of Arts Liaison. This information is now also communicated through the WAAG and the Principal and

Teacher reports at our meetings. If you are interested in being more involved in PAC a department liaison role is a great way to do it.

c. Athletics Liaison - Philip Coldrey

Lots of basketball games are coming up for boys and girls, at all levels (bantam, juvenile, junior & senior). Instagram accounts for updates and schedules include: @kitsilanobasketball @kitsilano_fanclub, @kitsvarsitygirls

d. Pub Night - Philip Coldrey

The Pub Night on Tuesday, December 13th was a well attended community building event. The Kits Jazz Band was great and The Ellis regulars enjoyed it, too. Watch for information about the next Pub Night social activity.

e. 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. Grade 11 parents as well as Grade 12 parents are welcome. (Grade 11 parents' involvement helps with continuity for next year.)

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

After initial ideas and enthusiasm to create this important new committee, people have been busy and further development has been slow. The next step is to expand and diversify.

Discussion of resources and advocacy including the government program "erase = expect respect & a safe education" <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

Anyone interested in helping can contact Alan at apatola@telus.net

9. District PAC (DPAC) Update - Ishi Dinim

The next DPAC meeting is Thursday, January 26 at 7:00pm on Zoom. The topic is inclusive education and unlearning ableism. All are invited to attend DPAC meetings. For morning information, monthly newsletter and to sign up for the DPAC mailing list please see <http://vancouverdpac.org/>

10. Other Business

No other business.

11. Adjournment

MOTION to Adjourn at 9:00 pm

Moved: Ishi Dimin

Seconded: Anna Friedlander

CARRIED

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 - on Zoom

Upcoming Meetings: Tuesday, April 25 & Tuesday, May 30, 2023 - locations tba

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by S. Kirkby, Kits PAC Secretary

Approved at meeting February 28, 2023

APPENDIX 1 - Financial Report Slide from Presentation

Department, Club, Team	Purpose of Request	Request Amount	Gaming Grant	Parent Donations & Fundraising Initiatives	Fundraising Events & Partners
	TOTAL ALL REQUESTS	\$0.00	\$28,846.40	\$23,353.35	
KITS PAC Expenses					
PAC Events	2023 Parent Grad Committee	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00		
	PAC Annual Grad Scholarships* 2 @ \$1,00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		
	Teacher Appreciation	\$600.00			\$600.00
	Parent Education	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	
PAC Operations					
	Constant Contact	\$500.00			\$500.00
	Quickbooks - account cancelled				
	Banking Fees and Charges	\$100.00			\$100.00
	PAC Administrative Expenses - other	\$500.00			\$500.00
	BCCPAC Membership	\$75.00	\$75.00		
PAC TOTAL		8,275.00	\$4,575.00		\$1,700.00
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET		8,275.00	\$33,421.40	\$25,353.35	\$1,700.00
Proceeds Received - Current Year					
Gaming Grant			\$30,920.00		
Donations				\$17,600.00	
Fundraising activities					334.75
Opening Bank Balance			\$4,264.68	\$20,472.10	\$1,411.75
Available Funds			\$35,184.68	\$38,072.10	\$1,746.50
Surplus/(Deficit)			\$1,763.28	\$12,718.75	\$46.50