

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Hybrid Meeting - in the School Theatre & Online
Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

After some challenges connecting to the school wifi to initiate the hybrid meeting it was called to order at 7:27 pm with 25 participants (11 in person; 14 online; including 4 guests).

PRESENT:

PAC Executive

Vice-Chair: Philip Coldrey
Secretary: Sheila Kirkby
Treasurer: Tina Pfeifer
DPAC Rep: Ishi Dinim

Guests: Ryan Blunden (Stong's Market), Benita Kwon (School Principal), Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher), Rachna Rajavel (Student Council President),

PAC Executive Regrets: Maureen Campbell, Co-Treasurer; Ray Miya (Member at Large/Website Coordinator); Maureen Prentice (Member at Large/Newsletter Editor); Elena Yelizarov, (Member at Large: Newsletter).

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

1. Welcome from the Vice Chair

Thank you to everyone for their patience getting the meeting started this evening.

2. Presentation by Ryan Blunden of Stong's Market

Before the meeting, Ryan Blunden, the Online Business Manager at Stong's Market, presented Kits PAC with a giant cheque for \$902.29. This money was raised over the past year when Stong's Express customers designated Kitsilano Secondary to receive 4% of their online grocery purchase through the School Rebate Program. Thank you to Stong's and Stong's customers for supporting our students. Access the program at express.stongs.com.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION To approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Gaya Murthy

Seconded: Tina Pfeifer

APPROVED

4. **Approval of the Minutes from Kits PAC Meeting Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

MOTION To approve the Minutes as posted on the PAC website, with correction to section numbering.

Moved: Tina Pfeifer

Seconded: Ishi Dimin

APPROVED

5. **School Updates**

5.1 **Student Council Update** - Rachna Rajavel

Kitsilano is taking part in the CANley Cup, a friendly competition organized by the Vancouver District Student Council, between Vancouver secondary schools in support of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Cash donations only are being collected through School Cash Online. Watch for an email from the school. There will also be hot chocolate sales at the school.

The next big Student Council activity will be Winter Spirit Week from December 18-22.

Grad Council is doing a coffee bean fundraiser. Sales end November 30th.

Student Council information is shared through PA announcements, posters in the school, the Student Council channel on Teams, in the Week at a Glance (WAAG) newsletter found at <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/kitsilano/page/2590/newsletters-and-waag> and on Instagram @kitsstudentcouncil_

5.2 **Principal's Update** - Benita Kwon

i. **Update: Ski Club**

A meeting with the administration and ski club staff sponsor has taken place. Misinformation was communicated to parents and students. Paperwork for ski trips have been submitted to the District and the school club is currently waiting approval.

ii. **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, November 30 from 3:00 – 7:00 PM. The online booking system will be open to parents starting November 24. There will be an early dismissal at 2:00 PM to allow teachers to prepare for conferences.

Q - The Parent Teacher Conference meeting slots are full. Does this always happen?

A - Each teacher has time for 20 Parent Teacher Conference meetings online. The sessions are intended for students who are struggling. Teachers can meet other times as well. Ms. Mcmillan says, "Don't be shy about contacting your child's teachers."

iii. **Program Planning 2024-25**

Departments have been working on finalizing course offerings for the next school year. The 2024-25 Program Planning Guide will be available at the end of December 2023. 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 **Program Planning Evening on Tuesday, January 23, 2024** to learn more about the process and how to support their child in selecting courses for the upcoming school year.

iv. Grad 2024 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: Tuesday, June 11, 7:00 PM at QE Theatre
- Reception (co-sponsored with PAC): Tuesday, June 11, 7:00 PM at QE Theatre

· 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.

5.3 Teachers Update - Carol-Anne McMillan

Parent-Teacher Conferences – November 30 online 3 to 7 pm. Reminder that if you're unable to book a time slot, just reach out to teachers by email to set up another time.

Senior theatre production: "The Girl in the Goldfish Bowl" Dec 12 to 16 at 7 pm.

Mark McLean (English Dept)'s Student Forum has been meeting and students have suggested the following interests.

- Hold a Club Day each semester
- One central board for Clubs (or other student-centred) flyers, posters, etc.
- Have a "Wall of Achievements" in a central location for all to see (and post?)
- Bring the Honour Roll back
- Bring in more (youth-aged?) speakers who can discuss Equity issues

Marlene Perrett, from FI sent this message: "Simply our gratitude for PAC's work and for funding for so many student events. They are very grateful for the financial support of PAC! Also, CLE 10 classes (Career Life Education) attended the Career and Trades Fair today. It was well worth our visit!"

Regarding the Indigenous Focus Professional Day on Friday, November 24: "I was with 150 or so other English and English Language Learners (ELL) teachers at Gladstone Secondary School. The focus was on land-based learning. Some of us were disappointed with the morning half as it was all pre-recorded video in a windowless auditorium, so ironic! But the

afternoon was GREAT! Each of us brought a “best lesson” to share with others and I walked away with a FULL HEAD. I’ve ordered six new books for myself and can’t wait to start using them in class.”

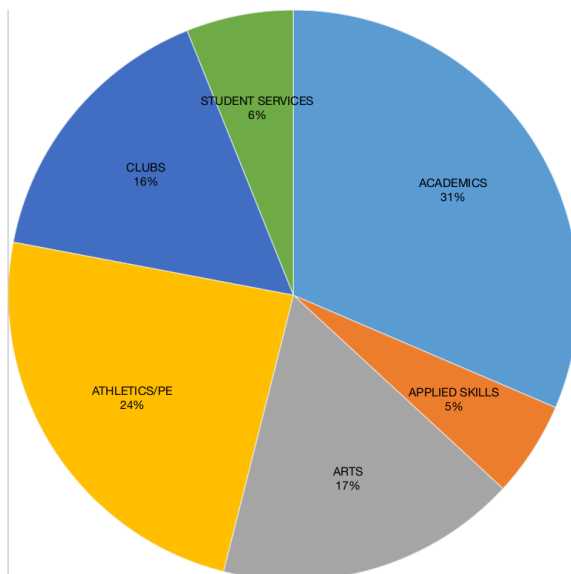
“University Applications are underway. With my 3 blocks of EFP 12, we did a small unit on ‘personal narrative essays’, and this went very well! 42/80 (thus far) students have a 10/10 on their essays, and I GREATLY enjoyed reading them. It’s great to learn more about them and their post-secondary aspirations as it helps me when working 1-to-1. Many were very moving, and clearly, many derived a great deal from the writing, easily seeing how this writing assisted their ‘uni apps’.”

Lots of Counselling workshops are being arranged during FIT for the Grade 12s, for instance “Consent” and some drugs & alcohol workshops. From Michelle DeYoung, Dept Head: Most of the University visits are now complete and they’ve all been well attended with lots of great information being sent out to our students.

6. Annual Cookie Bash - Sheila Kirkby

The annual Cookie Bash, a Staff Appreciation Event, will be held Thursday, December 16th. Families will be invited to bring in two dozen cookies (or more or less) in the morning. Last year about 70 families provided around 1600 cookies to help show our appreciation to the 120 teachers, counsellors, support workers, office staff, janitorial staff and administrators at our school. Watch for an email announcement to sign up in early December.

7. Financial Report - Philip Colrey



Fall 2023 distribution of PAC funds:
31% Academics
24 % Athletics
17% Arts
16% Clubs
6% Student Services
5% Applied Skills

We hope to be able to do another distribution in the Spring for the second semester, if funds allow.

Tax receipts are issued for donations made through schoolcashonline.com (see end of minutes for instructions)

9. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) - Ishi Dimin

The Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) is a collection of parents (elected by individual school PACs) working with the common goal of supporting education for all

children of Vancouver. They meet on a regular basis during the school year and advocate to staff, trustees and speak to media, and have stakeholder input on Vancouver School Board committees.

Interested parents are welcome to join DPAC Working Groups including:

1. *Black and Indigenous Working Group, contact: biwg@vancouverdpac.org*
2. *DPAC Facilities Planning, Samantha Anderson (coordinator)
facilitieswg@vancouverdpac.org*
3. *Health & Safety Working Group, Roger Haskett (coordinator)
hswg@vancouverdpac.org*
4. *Inclusive Education, iewg@vancouverdpac.org*
5. *Active Transportation and Safe Routes, saferoutetracker@vancouverdpac.org*
6. *Food Framework, Celena Benedorf (coordinator),
foodframework@vancouverdpac.org*
7. *Music Working Group, musicworkinggroup@vancouverdpac.org*
8. *Anti-Oppression Working Group, contact: karen.tsang@vancouverdpac.org*
9. *Sustainability (not currently populated, volunteers welcome)*
10. *Childcare (not currently populated, volunteers welcome)*

One current DPAC project is a “Know Your Rights” campaign to coincide with the return of the School Liaison Officers (SLO) program.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports

10.1 What’s Next Committee - Sheila Kirkby

The What’s Next Committee coordinates online evening parent education sessions about post-secondary options to supplement the daytime programming students attend.

This month: UBC - Tuesday, November 7th, 2023. Here is a link to the general Fall 2023 “All About UBC” presentation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHlsNXLg9cs>

Options Solutions - is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

Watch for announcements for other presentations, including BC Institute of Technology and Vancouver Community College.

If there are any schools or programs parents would like to learn more about, please contact kitspac@hotmail.com. We are looking for a volunteer to help organize these sessions. Please contact kitspac@hotmail.com if you can help.

10.2 Arts Liaison - Sheila Kirkby for Kim Thé

Kim has had to resign from this position. We are looking for a volunteer to update PAC on Arts. Please contact kitspac@hotmail.com if you can help.

Save the date for Arts Night: Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

10.3 Athletics Liaison - vacant

We are looking for a volunteer to update PAC on Athletics. Please contact kitspac@hotmail.com if you can help.

10.4 Grad Liaison - Welcome Vicki Mitsiadis!

Thank you Vicki for offering to share news about Class of '24 Graduation plans.

11. Other Business

Parent Question - With respect to yesterday's announcement of the suicide by a Prince George pre-teen student caused by online exploitation, are there any plans for programming at our school to prevent this kind of tragedy.

A - Presentations about online safety and consent are given school-wide to students each year, organised by the counselling staff. Past presentations have been given by whitehatter.ca. In October all the Grade 12's attended a one-act play about consent, "Dissolve."

11. Adjournment

MOTION to Adjourn at 8:05 pm

Moved: Tina Pfeifer

Seconded: Ishi Dinim

APPROVED

Next Meeting: ~~Tuesday, January 30, 2024 - Hybrid, online & at the school~~

UPDATE: WEDNESDAY, January 31, 2024 - online

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by S. Kirkby, Kits PAC Secretary

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

Follow Kits PAC on Instagram @kits_secondary_pac

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Ongoing Opportunities to support our students:

Direct Drive for donations, announced every September and continuing throughout the year. PAC suggests \$50 per student.

Through [SchoolCash Online](#) you will receive a tax receipt immediately when you make a donation of \$20 or more.

1. Go to [SchoolCash Online](#) or find the Donation link on the Kits PAC website.
<https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/1869/196/false/true?fundDestination=S-Kitsilano%20PAC>
2. Select the size of your donation.

3. For Fund Destination, select from the drop-down menu: S-Kitsilano PAC
4. Click: Add To Cart
5. On the next screen click Continue, then Select your Payment Method, and Complete Your Order.

Local merchants who donate to Kits PAC when people shop with them:

- Stong's Market Online Grocery Delivery - express.stongs.com When you order groceries online with Stong's you can choose to support Kitsilano Secondary and they will donate 4% of your order to us. This raised over \$900 last year!
- COBS Bakery - Broadway at Macdonald & 4th at Vine. Ask to support Kitsilano Secondary when paying and they will donate 5% of your order to us.
- Jar Bar Refillery Kitsilano - 2169 West 4th at Yew. Ask to support Kitsilano Secondary when paying and they will donate 5% of your purchase.
- FlipGive - Kits PAC earns cash back when you buy gift cards to pay for the things you already need at places like Starbucks, Home Hardware, Walmart and many more. We get paid when you shop online, dine out, book hotels or activities. SIGN UP TODAY at flipgive.com with code RNM6H5.