

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Online
Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

Waiting room opened at 7:00 pm.

Called to order at 7:05 pm with 20 participants (including three guests).

PRESENT:

PAC Executive

Vice-Chair: Philip Coldrey

Secretary: Sheila Kirkby

Treasurer: Tina Pfeifer

PAC Executive: Maureen Prentice (Member at Large/Newsletter Editor), Vicki Mitsiadis (Grad Liaison)

Guests: Benita Kwon (School Principal), Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher), Rachna Rajavel (Student Council President),

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

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

Before starting the meeting, the launch of a fun new initiative to encourage people to read to the end of the PAC Newsletter. Liz P. won the draw for a \$10 gift card for Storm City Coffee, generously donated by the West Broadway Business Improvement Association. Be sure to read to the end of the February PAC Newsletter for another opportunity to win.

1. Welcome from the Vice Chair

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION To approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Maureen Prentice

Seconded: Jay Hindel

APPROVED

4. Approval of the Minutes from Kits PAC Meeting Tuesday, November 28, 2023

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

Moved: Maureen Prentice

Seconded: Vicki Mitsiadis

APPROVED

5. School Updates

5.1 Student Council Update - Rachna Rajavel

Winter Spirit Week from December 18-22 had lots of fun theme days for students and grads.

Watch for CandyGram sales for Valentines Day.

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 Teachers Update - Carol-Anne McMillan

From Rachel Prior-Tsang

I have been pleased with the variety of projects we have completed with students this semester as well as the professionals I've gathered to do presentations for my CLE (Career Life Education) classes. We have done career presentations and posters, a hero journey media viewing project, resumes, cover letters, interview questions, financial literacy and a family culture project. We also did some in-depth planning to prepare students for their Passion Project and Capstone course for next year and grade 12.

So far for presenters, we have had a partner of DeLoitte Company, who consults on the IT infrastructure of universities including UBC. We also welcomed an Environmental Funeral Director and Mortician who specializes in Green Burial and supports families through the process of loss. Today, we had a doctor of Chinese Medicine, Western herbal medicine, Acupuncturist and specialist in waste management and environmentalism come give presentations to our CLE classes.

Next week we have a Geoscientist and Digital environmental mapping expert present as well as a Visual Artist, muralist, sculptor, and stop-motion filmmaker come speak and do a workshop creating a group art piece on family cultures with students.

If all goes well and I have the opportunity to teach the next semester of CLE, I would like to bring in a veterinarian and homeopath, a landscape designer, a psychologist and college professor, an engineer, a medical doctor and a manager at Music BC, as well as bring in facilitators for a workshop on traditional roles/jobs in a Squamish community and how they have been impacted by colonization.

What a privilege to guide students in their learning for the practical pieces they will need to become fully engaged young adults.

From Mosie Nicholson

Please share a huge thank you for funding Yukon Dan to visit the Earth Science 11 and Geology 12 classes. The kids were totally engaged and so excited that they got to learn how to gold pan in class! A million thank you's!!

From Ryan Parker – Drama & Film & TV

Kitsilano Theatre Company has begun filming ‘Second Week’ the sequel to the 2008 Joshua Jackson (Alumi!) film ‘One Week’. Filming takes place between January and April 2-3 times a week including an 8 day filming trip from Feb 16th-23rd that is taking 16 students from Vancouver to Halifax on the train!

Several students have started mixing the soundtrack and are going to be having their work shared with Shawn Mendes, The Tragically Hip and Blue Rodeo to name a few! The film also includes over a dozen teachers acting in supporting roles and several professional actors. The film will premiere at Kitsilano in the First week of June and then onto film Festivals!

Junior Production auditions will take place February 6th and 7th in the Drama studio. Students in grades 8-10 are asked to prepare a 30 second monologue and the Junior production nights will take place March 5th-7th! I’ll send a copy of the poster to the PAC tomorrow for them to share!

Fine Arts Night – January 23, 2024 – Arts Department

Thank you for coming to Arts Night!

Black History Month Film Festival: February 12-14 during lunch in the theatre! Free entrance for all students.

From Zoe Higgs

“Cookie Bash” is really such a special day. I feel like a little kid when it comes around! The effort of PAC - and of all the families who bake up treats - is so so appreciated.

From Carol-Anne Mcmillan

I just wanted to alert everyone that the counsellors will be doing Course Planning sessions with their Grades on the following dates:

Jan 25th – 11s (McLean)

Jan 26th – 10s (Leslie)

Feb 5th – 9s (Pitman)

Feb 6th – 8s (DeYoung)

All Sessions will take place in the Theatre during FIT

Land-based Learning English Department

A few of us (myself, Britta Bacchus, Mark McLean) are planning on putting together a half-day field trip to Stanley Park to explore E. Pauline Johnson’s *Legends of Vancouver* stories, many of which are transcribed from conversations with Chief Joe Capilano). We’ll be looking to PAC for funding for the school buses as these are the most expensive aspect of any large-scale field trip. We’re not sure whether to focus on English 8 or 9. Both grades isn’t feasible.

Leo Club

With our annual Winter Holiday Candygram event, the Leo Club raised \$250 for Covenant House. Sales were down by 50% this year, and we’re not quite sure why, as there’s always been strong interest.

Q - What is CLE?

A - Career Life Education. Our school aims to have every student finish this graduation requirement in Grade 11.

5.3 Principal's Update - Benita Kwon

i. Program Planning for 2024-25

Counsellors have been presenting program planning information to current grades 8-11 students during grade assemblies in FIT. Presentations conclude February 6. 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 have until February 16 to enter course selections on MyEducation BC. Requests for changes after the course selection process cannot be guaranteed as space in classes is limited.

ii. Semester Turnaround Days

Semester Turnaround Days are Thursday, February 1 and Friday, February 2. 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.

iii. Provincial Government Announcement: Restrictions on cell phones in schools

On January 26, the provincial government announced measures to improve student safety online. This included information about restricting cell phones in schools to be put in place by the next school year. Currently, in the VSB, several measures are in place to guide appropriate use of cell phones and other devices. These include the [District Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Acceptable Use of Technology](#) administrative procedures. Staff will work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to ensure that any necessary changes are implemented ahead of September 2024. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Link to District Student Code of Conduct

https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/ap_350_district_student_code_of_conduct.693b6920650.pdf

Link to Acceptable Use of Technology

https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/ap_140_acceptable_use_of_technology.11f44c20547.pdf

iv. Ministry of Education Student Learning Survey

Staff, grade 10 and 12 students and their parents/caregivers will be invited to complete the Ministry of Education in February/March. Parents/Caregivers will be provided a link to complete the survey and students will be scheduled during the school day to complete the survey.

Q - On behalf of international parents unfamiliar with the system here, what if a student might not have all the graduation requirements in place by the end of Grade 12? Can they come back to finish? Can they attend graduation functions with their friends?

A - Students may be able to complete graduation requirements at summer school, or may be able to return to the high school (depending on their age). There is also an Adult Education site for finishing up. The ceremony in June is a "Leaving Ceremony" not a Graduation, and

students can participate with their peers in this and other grad activities. Please email your student's Guidance Counsellor for more clarification. (Please note that right now they are very busy with Semester Turnaround.)

5. Vice Chair's Update - Philip Coldrey

Looking ahead to next school year, we have two PAC Executive parents graduating and we need to fill the important roles of Secretary and Website Coordinator. Please contact kitspac @hotmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

7. Financial Report - Philip Colrey

The Fall 2023 distribution of PAC funds received from the BC Gaming Grant and parent donations were allocated as follows:

- 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 schoolcashionline.com (see end of minutes for instructions)

7. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) - Ishi Dinim

No update this month due to a family emergency.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

8.1 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.

Vancouver Community College (VCC) presentation on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7pm - 10 attended

BC Institute of Technology (BCIT) rescheduled to Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 7pm because of snow day.

Options Solutions scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6pm. "Canadian Post-Secondary Trends: What Can YOU Do?".

Melinda Giampietro, founder of Options Solutions Educational Consultants, hosts an open discussion about the state of post-secondary admission and the factors influencing the 2024 cycle. This webinar will focus on what we DO know and what we CAN do to help students prepare and strategize for the next few years. We will explore academic and extra-curricular requirements and how students can differentiate themselves in an authentic way. With her usual optimism and warmth, Melinda will share post-secondary data and offer practical strategies for families to find their way.

SkilledTrades BC date to be announced.

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.

8.2 The Cookie Bash - Sheila Kirkby

The Annual Cookie Bash Staff Appreciation event was a Success! Thank you to the dozens of families who brought in hundreds of cookies on Thursday, December 14, 2023 to help show our appreciation to the 120 fabulous, hard-working Kitsilano teachers, counsellors, support workers, office staff, janitorial staff and administrators.

Our next Staff Appreciation event will be in June 2024 when PAC hosts a potluck lunch for for all the staff. Watch for details at the end of May for how you can help. We are looking for someone to organize this event.

10.3 Arts Liaison

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

10.3 Athletics Liaison - Tina Pfeifer

Kitsilano Secondary has been having a great year. Highlights include:

- Nine Basketball teams running (Bantam, Juvenile, Junior, Senior Boys and Girls Teams)
- Grade 8 Girls Basketball team 3rd at West Vancouver Basketball Tournament
- Junior Girls Basketball Killarney Tournament Champions
- Juvenile Boys Basketball 2nd place at South Delta Tournament
- Senior Boys Basketball South Delta Tournament Champions
- Girls Ice Hockey has had a successful start to their season with 3 wins and 1 loss
- Boys Table Tennis has had a good start to their season
- Boys and Girls Wrestling has had great turnouts for practices and meets and will be going to Port Alberni for a meet this weekend
- Spring Sports will be starting soon with Girls Soccer, Grade 8/9 Boys Volleyball, Track and Field, Boys Rugby, Golf, Ultimate, Badminton, Softball, and Tennis being offered.

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

Q - Will there be a Prom for the Graduating Class?

A - There is a volunteer parent group planning an offsite, non-school-sanctioned Prom (different from the official school events including the Winter Formal & Leaving Ceremony). Ms. Kwon will connect the parents who are interested in Prom.

11. Adjournment

MOTION to Adjourn at 8:00 pm

Moved: Jay Hindle

Seconded: Tina Pfeifer

APPROVED

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at the school

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by S. Kirkby, Kits PAC Secretary

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

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.