

**Minutes of the
Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
In the School Theatre
Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

Called to order at 7:05 pm with 13 participants (including three guests).

PRESENT:

PAC Executive

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

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

Guests: Benita Kwon (School Principal), Ciara O’Riorden (Youth & Family Programs Facilitator, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House), Rachna Rajavel (Student Council President)

Guest Regrets: Carol-Anne McMillan (Teacher)

1. Welcome and Introductions- Philip Coldrey

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

The “Read to the End of the PAC Newsletter” prize draw had one entry this month. Meralon S. won a \$10 gift card for TeraV Burger, generously donated by the West Broadway Business Improvement Association. Be sure to read to the end of the May PAC Newsletter for another opportunity to win.

Thank you to everyone for coming tonight despite the Vancouver Canucks Hockey Game!

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION To approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Ishin Dinim

Seconded: John Chesko

APPROVED

3. Approval of the Minutes from Kits PAC Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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

Moved: Anna Friedlander

Seconded: Gaya Murthy

APPROVED

4. Guest Speaker: Ciara O’Riordan, Youth & Family Programs Facilitator, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House

Ciara introduced Kits House’s programs and mission, to create a sustainable, healthy and connected Westside community where everyone thrives. Kits House strives to provide inclusive spaces where we can learn from each other and grow together. There are diverse programs and services for all age groups, plus many opportunities to volunteer with children and seniors, literacy, food security and more.

The Youth Programs are now being reviewed and revitalised after the closures caused by Covid. Ciara’s upcoming work includes:

- Build connections with local groups and organizations
- Develop a youth advisory group, to complement the youth advisory groups at Kits Community Centre and the David Eby, MLA Constituency office
- A hub for local youth and family services
- A Family Pride event
- 50 year anniversary

Feel free to Youth and Family Program Staff at Kits House with program ideas:

Patricia Paz ext 128
Family Programs Coordinator
patriciap@kitshouse.org

Alicia Smith ext 321
Development Manager
alicias@kitshouse.org

Ciara O’Riordan
Youth and Family Program Facilitator
ciarao@kitshouse.org

2305 West 7th Avenue, at Vine
Vancouver, BC V6K 1Y4
kitshouse.org
604.736.3588
@kitshouse on Instagram
@KitsilanoNeighbourhooHouse on Facebook

A parent commented in support of the Family Price event coming up. Ciara provided background for those who hadn’t heard of the challenges last year when a Drag Storytime event attracted angry protesters.

5. School Updates

5.1 Student Council Update - Rachna Rajavel

Highlights since the last meeting include:

- Spirit Week March 11-15, including District Wide Pyjama Day on the Friday
- Grad v. Teachers Basketball Game March 14th
- Vaisakhi Samosa sale, April 12th
- Annual Springilano Celebration tomorrow, May 1st
- Kitsilano Culture Day, May 15th

Elections are coming up for next year's Student Council positions. Elections for the grade 8 positions will take place in the Fall.

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_ (note underline at the end)

5.2 Principal's Update - Benita Kwon

i. Ministry of Education Student Learning Survey

Grades 10 and 12 students are completing the Student Learning Survey in classes this week. Parents of grades 10 and 12 students are invited to complete the Ministry of Education Student Learning Survey by **Friday, May 3**.

[Time Sensitive] Survey Link: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm

ii. Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on MS Teams on Thursday, May 2 from 3:00 – 6:30 PM. The online booking system will close at noon on May 2. There will be an early dismissal at 2:00 PM to allow teachers to prepare for conferences.

iii. Flexible Plastics Collection Program Pilot

Kitsilano will be one of several schools in the district who will be piloting a flexible plastics collection program for the month of May. Students and families will be able to bring their flexible plastics from home to be included in the school's collection by Recycle BC.

· **Items accepted:** Residential flexible plastics like zipper-lock pouches and stand-up pouches, plastic bags, flexible packaging with a plastic seal, outer bags and overwrap, woven plastic bags, crinkly wrappers and bags (like chip bags and granola bar wrappers).

· **Items NOT accepted:** Commercial flexible plastics like pallet wrap, plastic tubes, plastic-lined paper or paper-lined plastic, plastic strapping, flexible/soft 6-pack rings, plastics labelled biodegradable, compostable, or oxo-degradable, and polyurethane foam.

Our school will receive \$2 for every kilogram collected.

For more information, please check: <https://recyclebc.ca/flexibleplastics/>

iv. Enrollment 2024-25

- Kitsilano's projected enrollment for 2024-25 is ~1659. September 2023 enrollment was 1649.
- Enrollment data helps to determine school organization and staffing.

v. Planning for 2024-25 School Year

To assist families in planning for the 2024-25 school year, the school calendar and fee schedules will be shared with our school community at the end of May.

vi. VSB Summer School 2024

VSB Summer School will offer the following in-person secondary programs:

- Secondary Review/Preview/Remedial/ELL Program: July 3 – 26
- Secondary Completion Program: July 3 – August 2

The 2024 Summer Learning Program Brochure to view [online](https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/2024-sl-program-brochure.ab18ec71539.pdf) now at <https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/2024-sl-program-brochure.ab18ec71539.pdf>

Registration begins May 1 at noon. For more information visit [VSB Summer School at https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning)

vii. District Cellphone Restriction Policy

The District is developing a district cellphone restriction policy that will be implemented in Schools starting September 2024. Policy will be included in schools' code of conducts.

There will be restrictions but not a ban. Blocking social media sites will be under discussion. Each school and each teacher has had their own rules. This will bring consistency across the city. There may be some growing pains.

Q - What is meant by "our school is Full"?

A - Our school currently has 1620 students. We expect 1659 in September.

Q - How many International Students are in the school?

A - This number is capped at 120.

Q - Is there an optimal time to request classes?

A - Grade 11 or 12 students need to reach out right now if they want to request a change for courses needed for post secondary. Grades 8-10 can ask, too, but the timetables are very tight.

The fee schedule and calendar for next year will be available by the end of May.

Q - Why aren't there more AP [Advanced Placement] classes?

A - Different schools offer different AP classes. Kits offers Psychology and History, but we have a lot of other electives like creative writing. While AP classes can give credit for post-secondary if the student does well they do not give a higher priority for applications.

5.3 Teacher Update - Benita Kwon for Carol-Anne MacMillan

i. From Sharon Fritz, Art Department - Art Exhibits were on display until April 19th near the counselling suite:

Art Studio 9/10 - For Black History Month we created a 'Zine' celebrating contemporary Black Artists. It's called BAM – Black Art Matters, each student created a page, now on display, free photocopy zines are available in art room 147.

French Art 8:

- Group drawings and individual bottle drawings inspired by Shantell Martin for Black History month
- Japanese Notan paper cuts exploring shape and positive/negative space
- Landscape paintings exploring colour and value to create depth.

ii. From Drama/Film & TV

- **Fine Arts Night:** May 30, 2024 - there's a "Renaissance Fair" theme being planned
- **"Game of Tiaras"** - all Grades theatre production: May 28, 29, 30 and 31
- **"Second Week"**, Senior Film Production. The first trailer will come out in May! Film premieres second week of June!

iii. From Mathilde Yang, Science, French Immersion:

"A great success for the Britannia Mine Museum Field trip with all our Science 8 in December and April! Thank you again, PAC, for helping out with funding! We hope to organize the field trip again next year as students say it is fantastic!"

iv. From Mira Cross, English Dept.

Photos were provided of a classroom visit by David J. Robinson, Master Carver. *"...this hands on learning experience for our students would not have been possible without the generous funding provided by both the Kits PAC for guest speakers, and the donation of grant funds from Professor Darren Warburton (UBC School of Kinesiology), David Robinson's Phd supervisor."*

Biography

David J. Robinson is an Algonquin sculptor and educator from Quebec's Timiskaming First Nation, now based in Vancouver, BC. He is also known as Nimki, his Algonquin name, meaning 'Thunder'.

Robinson is a UBC Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) graduate, certified teacher, UBC Experimental Medicine PhD candidate and former Indigenous Enhancement teacher for the Vancouver School Board. Robinson currently works for the Assembly of First Nations as a Senior Policy Analyst.

Robinsons' public art installations in Vancouver include sculptures at UBC, Robert Lee Alumni Building, Vancouver School Board Office, John Oliver Secondary Learning Commons, Lord Byng Secondary, and the Lelum Health Centre.

v. From Mr. Christopher Matisz

Grade 10 student, **Leo Teixeira**, is the **winner** of this year's province-wide WorkSafeBC Student Safety Video Contest! I had all my Career-Life Education students enter the contest as part of a unit on workplace safety. Leo wins a total of \$2000 cash, and Kitsilano Secondary wins \$2500—a win-win for both student and school! WorkSafe BC would like to visit our school in an official capacity to present the cheques and award certificates. Here is the link to Leo's video on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohPlxe9E9u0> I can attest he produced it from start to finish on his own, with hours of meticulous editing!

**Update: Leo's video went on to win the national 2024 Focus on Safety Youth Video Contest!*

vi. From Nimaya Fernando, Link Crew Teacher

Link Crew is running a Year-End Carnival for Grade 8s and 9s on **Tuesday June 4 after school**. The event will be running in the atrium, theatre, and outdoors (weather permitting) with games, activities and snacks organized by Link Crew. In addition to all kinds of fun, our various Clubs will also have booths as an opportunity to promote their club doings for the following school year, i.e., martial arts, dance, and music performances.

Q - Why doesn't our school have a Model UN Club or Science Fair?

A - There is a Model UN club which meets Mondays at lunch. Last year they organized two events at the school. Big events that involve travel can become very expensive. There are Science Fair options that individual students can register for.

Clubs are listed on the school website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/kitsilano/page/2656/clubs>

5. Financial Report - Philip Coldrey

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our March 2024 donation drive. We are now able to make a second round of allocations to support our students and teachers. The executive reviewed all the teacher requests, and the Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer also met with Ms. Kwon to go over them. Some requests were for more than we could afford at this time. Gaming funds have strict eligibility criteria.

Metalshop and Woodworking:

MOTION To allocate \$600 for two Industrial Locking Peg Boards and \$212 for Woodworking Tools. Total \$812.

Moved: Tina Pfeifer

Seconded: John Chesko

APPROVED

Physical Education & Athletics:

MOTION To allocate \$928.34 for a Vertical Challenger for the weight room.
Moved: Maureen Prentice
Seconded: Ishi Dinim
APPROVED

MOTION To allocate \$1000 towards expenses for the Provincial Track & Field Championships in Nanaimo.
Moved: Anna Friedlander
Seconded: John Chesko
APPROVED

Arts & Drama:

MOTION To allocate \$480 for Arts Night Supplies (Second Semester).
Moved: John Chesko
Seconded: Anna Friedlander
APPROVED

MOTION To allocate \$860.16 towards Filming Trip Rental Equipment
Moved: Tina Pfeifer
Seconded: Anna Friedlander
APPROVED

Student Services, Indigenous Education & Pride Club

MOTION To allocate \$340 towards the Grade 7 Welcome and \$200 for snacks for the All Nations Room. Total \$540.
Moved: Ishi Dinim
Seconded: Anna Friedlander
APPROVED

MOTION To allocate \$950 for the Pride Club Pronoun Pins Project.
Moved: Gaya Murthy
Seconded: Emilia Doro
APPROVED

Q - What is the All Nations Room?

A - Trent Gauthier, our Indigenous Education Worker, offers all students (not only First Nations) a safe space to gather and connect, hence All Nations.

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

DPAC, like many organizations, is struggling to find volunteers. DPAC has a stakeholder seat at the table for the Vancouver School Board committees, so if you would like to make a big impact supporting public schools, your help is needed.

DPAC uses Working Groups to help parents advocate for their students. See vancouverdpac.org for a list.

Everyone is invited to a free DPAC Parent Education event next week, with **The Other People**, <https://theotherpeople.ca/> a group of Vancouver community leaders representing a broad range of local cultural and religious groups, and anti-racism organizations, who will be speaking to our Vancouver parent community on the evening of May 7. The speakers – all of whom have experienced discrimination based on their backgrounds – use their stories to encourage audiences to recognize and overcome the barriers that prevent us from accepting and understanding one another. We hope you will join us at this important event!

Since its start in 2021, The Other People’s presentations have reached more than 5,500 students, faculty, administrators and others, and the group has received widespread praise.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 7, 2024.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. 90-minute presentation starting at 6:45 p.m.

WHERE: Prince of Wales Secondary Auditorium, 2250 Eddington Drive, Vancouver

The presentation is intended for adults. (Secondary-level students are welcome.)

Free childcare will be provided for elementary-age children. Email childminding@vancouverdpac.org to register for childcare.

This live event will not be streamed or recorded.

Discussion in response to parents question about the school board offering less academics, fewer mini schools and AP classes.

Q - There is a rumour there will not be Enriched English at Kits next year? Does that mean it will never be given again?

A - Not enough students requested the course to be able to hold it next year. It may be that students are taking English First Peoples as a grad requirement instead. Enriched English may be offered again if there is a teacher to teach it and enough students ask for it.

7. **Committee and Liaison Reports**

7.1 **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.

There are no presentations planned for the remainder of the year. Watch for an Education Planner BC presentation in the Fall.

7.2 Arts Liaison

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

Follow @kitsilanotheatre and @kitsilanosecondarymusic on Instagram

7.3 Athletics Liaison - Tina Pfeifer for Kerry Kenwood

Thank you to Kerry Kenwood for taking on the role of Athletics Liaison.

This season's sports include:

- Junior and Senior Co-ED Badminton
- 2 competitive golf teams
- Juvenile and Senior Girls Soccer
- Junior and Senior Boys Rugby
- Girls Softball
- Senior Co-Ed Tennis
- Senior Co-Ed Ultimate
- Bantam and Juvenile Boys Volleyball
- Over 100 athletes involved with Track and Field

We are hosting the Elementary School Badminton City Championships on Monday and Tuesday May 6th and 7th

The Athletic Banquet is set for Wednesday June 12th

Follow @kitsathletics on Instagram for updates and news

7.4 Grad Liaison - Sheila Kirkby

The Grad Ceremony will be held Tuesday, June 11 at 7pm at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre downtown. PAC contributes \$2500 towards decorations and helps arrange the catering. Thank you to Valia and Promita for volunteering to organize.

We would like to have one or more Grade 11 parents to shadow the organizers. This helps with a smooth transition to next year's plans. There is a walk-through at the venue on Monday, May 13th at 5pm.

Follow @kitsgrad24 on Instagram for updates and news

7.5 Pub Night

We hope to hold a Parent Social Pub Night in May. Watch for information.

8. Other Business

No Other Business.

9. Adjournment

MOTION to Adjourn at 8:22 pm

Moved: Ishin Dinim

Seconded: Tina Pfeifer

APPROVED

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 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-eneews/>

Follow Kits PAC on Instagram @kits_secondary_pac

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Ongoing Opportunities to support our students:

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.