

**West Vancouver District Parents Advisory Council
Ingelwood Learning Centre
Wednesday, October 7th 9:15-11:15 am**

DRAFT MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order:

DPAC business and Adoption of Agenda deferred to after comments from Rob Millard, WVTA

Welcome and Overview from West Vancouver Teachers Association, Rob Millard, President, WVTA:

Rob passed along a welcome from the teachers of West Vancouver. It has been a smooth start to the year and the WVTA is looking forward to working with DPAC as a partner to advocate for public education. Pleased about the additional \$900,000 that will be allocated to professional development related to curriculum implementation.

DPAC Business

Adoption of Agenda:

Terri Greene and Alys Shantz

Approval of June 3rd, 2015 minutes:

deferred to November 4th meeting

President's Report: Abbie Milavsky

Welcome to the first DPAC meeting of the year. DPAC meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:15 a.m. so please mark your calendars now. The monthly agenda format will be similar from meeting to meeting. Please email dpac@wvschools.ca if you have any questions or any suggestions for agenda items for future meetings. DPAC is here to support PACs and if we can be of any assistance, let us know. We work hard to keep the DPAC contact list up to date. If you have any changes to your PAC Executive during the year, please let DPAC know so the proper people are notified of upcoming meetings and events.

Thank you to Carolyn Broady for hosting the DPAC Welcome Lunch on September 30th. It was great to see such a good turnout from the PACs.

Upcoming events and meetings:

- Move More on the Shore – 6 week walking program at WV Community Centre (Mondays at 6:00 p.m.) - Flyer attached
- Tuesday October 20th, 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
- Vital Conversation meeting (West Vancouver Community Foundation) - Saturday, Oct. 24th 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.- Flyer attached (registration at delaine@westvanfoundation.com)
- Biennale Big Ideas Education Program –Blue Trees Education Event– Saturday Oct. 24th 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Simons Park Royal (south entrance parking lot across from Home Depot –E-mail attached

- Monday October 26th 6:30 p.m. – DPAC Treasurers Meeting (school board office)
- Tuesday October 27th 7 p.m. Beyond Measure film @ Kay Meek Centre
- Wednesday November 4th, 9:15 a.m. – DPAC General Meeting – Lynn Tomlinson, Direct of Education , Aboriginal Education Curriculum
- Wednesday December 2nd 9:15 a.m. – DPAC General Meeting – Chief Constable Len Goerke

Treasurer's Report: Tanya Mah

1. June balances - \$12,504.50 in General Account and \$1175.57 Gaming Account.
2. Last years speaker donated her time, which positively affects our balances.
3. Total Expenses \$2,530.10
4. Current balances \$10,539.19 in General Account and \$555.56 Gaming Account.

Committee Reports:

Parent Education: Abbie Milavsky

- 2015/16 Speaker – Yong Zhao (zhaolearning.com) Tuesday May 16th at the Kay Meek Centre. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.
- Looking for person to replace Rola as Chair.

Traffic and Safety Report - Michelle Frezell

- Focus this year will be on education
- This committee meets every two months
- Started the year with increased police presence this year to control traffic and speed at schools.
- Bike and Walking to school this week.
- www.carpool.com is an option to help with those who travel into the district
- Also referenced the www.wildcardprogram - District can provide assistance
- Eagle Harbour there are new traffic signs. Playground signage vs school hence meaning longer hours for reduced speed.
- Please let Michelle know if your school has concerns related to traffic and safety.
- Issue brought forth on bus leaving WVSS prior to 3p.m.

Comprehensive Health: Terrie Greene

- Meets monthly – provided overview of committee to look at all matters of health including mental health that affect youth.
- New curriculum on teen mental health follows Stan Kutcher’s model. Details can be seen on teenmentalhealth.org website
- PE-8 will now include physical and mental health. Professional development is being provided to PE teachers. Agenda for PE is taking on a broader focus (mental and physical health)
- North Shore School Health manual – contains information on Mental Health and Nutrition – view on-line at www.vch.ca (select Your health form the menu and click on school health to find link to manual).
- November 19th there will be a talk on mental health – details will be posted when they become available.
- Maureen Lee was mentioned as contact for speaker on Anxiety.
- Carol Langley, District contact for speakers

Human Resources: Victoria Naranjo

- Meets every 2 months
- Minutes can be found on the District website – Oct. 6th minutes attached

Constitution Committee: Tanya Mah and Terri Green

- Updating is ongoing

WVSD Board of Trustees Liaison Report

Board of Education Report: Carolyn Broady

- Welcome and thanks for attending DPAC and your service.
- Encourage you to invite your Liaison Trustee to you PAC meetings and to your school events.
- New Strategic Plan completed for the Board of Education. Copies of the 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan are available at the District Office.
- Objectives – Maintaining academic excellence; Focusing on Core foundational skills; Guiding implementation of the new curriculum; Expanding opportunities to meet the needs and interests of diverse learners; Promoting teacher networking and collaboration throughout the district; Continuing to develop effective transitions from pre-school through to post-secondary.
- Invitation to all to attend the public board meetings.

WVSD Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report: Chris Kennedy

- Overall enrollment is up by 60 students.
- International Students are down to 580 this year (deliberately). Challenges around finding home stays and having services for larger number of students.
- French immersion and ELL is up due to changing demographics.
- Schools that didn't have ELL in the schools that were further west; now are having increased populations.
- Saw the biggest enrollment increase at Hollyburn, Chartwell and WVSS.
- Audited financials is good. Have been able to add some teacher staff due to increase in enrollment.
- Biennale* is an event we would like to see support. Ties to environment awareness. (see *Big Ideas flyer referenced in President's report for more details)
- Aboriginal education is being integrated into the curriculum. Teaching about residential schools, trust and resolution issues. Lynn Tomlinson will talk about this next month.
- Branding is being looked at for our School District. SD45 is not meeting our identification needs. We have revitalized the logo. Provided a more seamless branding for internal, international and local communication. Also refreshed the website and email addresses. Transition being made from SD45 to West Vancouver Schools.
- Curriculum overview. We have been teaching 'big ideas' approach and linking curriculum to this approach. This has been happening especially in the elementary level. K- 9 curriculum is in draft this school year – teachers are invited to use but not required. Next year will be required. Grade 10 – 12 curriculum will be in draft for the next school year (2016/17) – the following year teachers will be required to use/teach it.
- There is a significant effort and resources put towards ensuring our teachers are trained to deliver the new curriculum. Provincial support is provided to ensure increased teacher in service hours happen over the next three years. How the hours are utilized is a local District decision.
- Addressed concern over resourcing towards textbooks. There has been no change to this resourcing. Curriculum does not address what resourcing is used.
- Addressed concern regarding increased enrollment students are having difficulty getting into classes. The schools have been adding staff and blocks of subjects (Secondary level). The challenge in getting courses is no greater than before. Some courses are in lower demand and some in higher and we can't always anticipate the students wanting to change courses; which impacts the ability to accommodate these changes in subject selection. Students should be communicating with their counsellors on course selection and any changes.
- High school enrolment: 950 Rockridge, 1250, Sentinal, 1350 WVSS
- Beyond Measure Film trailer was viewed. What should schools look like as we move beyond post standardized school model? This film will be shown Oct. 27th

at Kay Meek. \$15 is person cost. Tickets available on-line through Kay Meek. (The availability of The film Race to Nowhere, a predecessor to Beyond Measure, is being confirmed.)

- Confirmed Yong Zhao, Parent Ed – WVSC/DPAC speaker set for Tuesday, May 10th at the Kay Meek. Tickets sales to be announced.

How to Run an Effective PAC Meeting: Abbie Milavsky and Rola Pratel

- Visit BCCPAC – BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils website for useful information and resources. *Note the PAC 101 Manual is very helpful (bccpac.bc.ca)
- General points for PAC meetings:
 - Stay on time
 - Have standard agenda
 - Invite your School Trustee and address what the interests and concerns are for your school as each is unique
 - Invite you Principal to each of your meetings and ask him/her to do a regular update
 - Plan your time appropriately
 - Don't let single issue items hijack the agenda. Respectively “park” those items for further individual conversation
 - PAC meetings are not the place for parents to raise issues specific to their child. (Parents should be directed to classroom teacher and then principal if no resolution)
 - Ensure agenda provides opportunity for other items, questions and concerns
 - Honour your speakers by watching the room and see if parents or waning and wanting to move on.
 - if a topic is of particular interest with lots of questions, generate a speakers list so everyone is has a chance to ask their question and the meeting stays orderly.
- Send out the agenda one week in advance to all parents or on school bulletin
- PAC is a partnership with school administration. Always work with the principal and confirm best means for communication with the parent community (may be through class parents, e-bulletins, principal etc.)
- Communication: will provide more ideas at future meeting – keep website up to date, twitter, facebook.
- Have speakers that will encourage parents to come to PAC meetings – find out what is of most interest or topical at your school. Get ideas (or share your ideas) with other PACs). Conduct PAC business in first 30 minutes of meeting then present the speaker.
- Volunteers: The demographics at our schools are changing so we need to change the way we recruit and support our volunteers. Chartwell school provided an example of the volunteers needed. Recruit volunteers on first day, welcome tea, or whatever function your school holds and contact them

immediately. May use a Volunteer form (example from Chartwell school attached). Ensure there are class parents and they are utilized for recruiting volunteers and communication (if that is appropriate for your school). Ensure you are communicating with your Principal and you know from them what the communication guidelines are. Make sure you follow up with each and every person who has signed up as a volunteer. Translation is often required - work with your Principal to arrange and to determine what languages translation is required for.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next Meeting – Wednesday November 4th, 2015 at 9:15 a.m.