

**West Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council
Ingelwood Learning Centre
Wednesday, January 06, 2016**

DPAC Business

Adoption of Agenda: Michelle Frezell and Victoria Naranjo
Approval of December 2nd, 2015 minutes: Joanna Baxter and Andy Franks

President's Report: Abbie Milavsky

- Welcomed people back from Christmas break.
- Indicated Exec. Will review the scheduling of a January meeting for 2017; given the proximity to holiday break starting again in February may be better. Any feedback on that would be appreciated.
- Reminder of Joint School Principals/DPAC/PAC – Focus on Curriculum meeting to be held January 27, 2016, 9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Kay Meek Studio.
- Reminder of Yong Zhao upcoming presentation at Kay Meek on Tuesday, May 10th
- Reminder of the January 15th deadline for Youth Space Visioning Survey. Arleta Beckett will speak briefly today to let you know the background and importance of this survey and the need for participation.
- Circulated cards for all to provide ideas on topics you would like to see covered via speakers or topics of discussion at DPAC meetings in the future.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Tuesday, January 19th, 7p.m. Board of Education Meeting
- Friday, January 15th, deadline – Youth Space Visioning Survey – www.westvancouver.ca/westvancouverITE/
- Wednesday, January 27th, 9:15a.m. Joint School Principals/DPAC/PAC – Focus on curriculum – Kay Meek Studio
- Wednesday, February 3rd, 2016 9:15a.m. – DPAC General Meeting
- Tuesday, May 10th – Yong Zhao presentation at Kay Meek

Treasurer's Report: Abbie Milavsky for Tanya Mah

- January balances –\$10,397.30 in General Account and \$2,691.60 Gaming Account.

Committee Reports:

No new reports this meeting

WVSD Board of Education - Trustees Liaison Report: Carolyn Broady, Chair

- Carolyn attended a number of Christmas concerts and expressed appreciation to all staff and Principals for their efforts and the high quality of performances.
- Comments and support given for the quality of speaker, Yong Zhao.
- Updated on the Minister of Education, Mike Bernie's visit to the District in December. He was very impressed with the level of programming at WVSD.
- As the School District begins the 2016/17 budget cycle again; Carolyn expressed encouragement to all DPAC reps to participation in gathering comments from their schools and parents. And to encourage passing along comments and feedback for the budgeting process.

WVSD Superintendent's Report:

Chris Kennedy

- Encouraged the need and willingness of each PAC sending representatives to the upcoming Joint School Principals/DPAC/PAC meeting on January 27th. At least two parents from each school should ideally attend i.e. PAC Chair and DPAC Rep. and perhaps one other keenly interested parent.
- The curriculum event is to give you/parents/representatives the background on what is going on with the curriculum changes e.g. Big Ideas concept/application, what are the biggest changes in curriculum, what is shifting with reporting, what is needed by parents to understand the changes to the curriculum? Etc.
- Would like to see each school PAC have regular presentations to parents on the new curriculum and changes still to come. Many resources are available throughout the District for speakers e.g. Chris, Dave Eberwein, Lynn Tomlinson etc.
- Consistency in educating parents and PACs on the curriculum changes is very important hence DPAC reps are asked to help facilitate this i.e. DPAC members as the champions for being able to inform the parents in the District about the curriculum changes.
- Head teachers will be coming, Principals etc. will attend the Jan. 27th meeting.
- Hoping DPAC members will spread the word!
- Principals will be encouraged to engage the PACs in the budget process. Biggest area is in redistribution of funds e.g. learning resources (subjects or grade etc.) District will be getting teacher and Principal feedback but we also really want parent feedback to know that we are allocating resources most effectively. Individuals can also provide input into the budget process, it does not need to come directly from the PAC, DPAC or school.
- Board approval of the Budget is May. Therefore the best time for input is January and February. It is therefore important for PACs to get on this quickly.
- Individual requests/forms for budget allocation can be sent into the District; so there should never be disagreement in the information gathering phase. All suggestions are welcome and there is process for this.
- Enrollment: Jan. 15th High School enrollments kick in. Seeing some good increases in Kindergarten enrollment in the West end of the District.
- Reporting: priority KG, Gr 1 and 4 there are currently using different reports – have asked for feedback on this new report card. There will be a survey in the spring on this. Then we will be moving up to 5, 6 and 7. If you have specific feedback on the reporting then flow that through your Principals.

- Academies: We are up to 10 academies in our High Schools. Concept – one District three High Schools is working well. See District website for full listing. New Academies were listed in Dec. DPAC minutes.
- Depending upon the type of Academy, location is at various schools or facilities in the District. Each Academy has it's own cost (breakeven for the District). Cost for transportation is included with some academies and with others, parents are responsible.
- A couple of new Ignite programs for 6 and 7 will be coming – promotion occurs through information nights, and teachers (grade 6 and 7 parents invited/emailed directly).
- Request came from the meeting participants to Chris to provide more information on the Ignite programs to earlier grades for advance planning. Ignite programs (and all academies) are user pay. They are after school once per week usually from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. They are usually taught by high school teachers.
- Most popular Academies are Soccer and basketball. They are break even programs. Most all kids who apply get in. Ignite program the Entrepreneur program is most popular.
- Federal anti-spam legislation is affecting how some schools are able to communicate with their parent groups, especially regarding fundraisers. Chris Kennedy will follow up with those schools (West Bay, PJ and Cedardale) to come up with some solutions. PACs that have their web content and emails to class parents etc. go through the school Principal and/or School websites do not have this concern as they already follow the antispam legislation procedures..
- Question regarding our participation in the FSAs. Response: FSAs are fading out and within the 12 months something new will come in. Downside is that FSAs is often used to compare schools. The real value is when we look at the results for each child who doesn't meet learning expectation. When we see a student who is not meeting baselines, those children's cases are reviewed with teachers to see what can be done, what we need to learn about supporting this child and if there are learnings that will benefit others. Grade 4 and grad 7 assessments are strictly skill based. This is valuable information on whether your kid can read or write.

West Vancouver Memorial Library/West Vancouver Schools Partnerships and Programs
Shannon Ozirny, Head of Youth Services

- Full presentation attached.
- Provided an overview of partnership with West Van Schools and the parts of the Strategic Plans that may impact parents.
- Library staff go to all welcome to KG events, participate in Ready, Set Learn and Strong Start – focus is on getting kids ready to enter school.
- Provided list of reading programs e.g. Summer reading Club and Reading Link Challenge etc.
- Interested and willing to provide support to the Teacher Librarians as requested.
- Teen programs was also reviewed e.g. Booktopia and skill building with stories.
- One of the big question the library is looking at - Can we go deeper to improve the learning experience for each child? – resulted in Every Child gets a Public Library Card. – this expands access to a greater range and source/medium of

reading materials and data bases. This gives everyone more consistency in access to reading and research materials.

- New Strategic Plan for the Library. 4 key areas: 21st century learning (Library being part of the learning network to support child learning in the community) , Highlighted the technology kits – to help support learning around how computers work. – these will be available by Spring Break.
- Summer Reading Club – looking at extending this and expanding it – trend is to expand from silent reading only to looking at other ways to engage kids e.g. digital program or on-line reporting – engaging and coordinating with libraries and facilities on the North Shore.
- Interest based and self-directed program – want to move in the direction of skill improvement and self-direction e.g. raspberry pie program is a good example of this. A full range of participants attend and the library becomes the facilitator vs teacher.
- Research to Remember pilot program – focus is to remember soldiers and to build research skills. Working with teachers in the District. Also partnering with the Legion. Will look at grade 11 and 12 students to work on this each November. Secondary school will be hearing about this. Professional research has been hired as part of the grant to set up the program as researching veteran history is difficult to access.
- Wvmlyouth.tumblr.com this links you to the WV Library list of apps that are of good quality.
- Shannon is available to come to PAC meetings or you can hold a PAC meeting at the library and include a tour e.g. engage reluctance readers on e-books – can cover a variety of topics
- At age 14 students can sign for their own Library card.
- Suggestions to do outreach with the secondary schools.
- From 10 a.m. – 3p.m. the library is often quiet so encourage kids who have spares etc. to come and utilize the space.

Shaping the future of Youth Space and Resources

- Arleta Beckett,

Manager Community Development Youth and Families, District of WV

- The District of WV is doing an assessment to develop a land use strategy and looking at what the Youth Space needs will be.
- Have had a parent focus event, a youth focus group and a stakeholders focus group – purpose to identify what they want to see, how they want to access services and what barriers exist.
- There are three online surveys available now (youth, parent guardian and stakeholders' surveys) on the West Van Website.
- Part of this is driven by the Ambleside Youth Centre being very old and is very challenging to access (may look at another location).
- Please encourage your kids to complete the survey as well.
- Feedback from youth includes adaptability and entertainment is a real gap for kids and public transportation is another concern.
- Link for the survey. www.westvancouver.ca/westvancouverITE – Deadline is Jan 15th

Other Business/questions/comments:

- Kay Meek is running a making music program (ages 13 – 19) over Spring Break – see their website for details.
- Recommendation to attend the play SEEDs which is coming the Kay Meek. The story of an Saskatchewan farmer and their battle with Monsanto - very well done – great for students to see. Recommended to grades 9 and up.

Meeting adjourned 11:10 a.m.

DRAFT