WVSS PAC Executive Meeting 1

Date: Thursday, 20th September

Time: 8.30 am

Attendees: Abbie Milavsky, Morag Burke, Lisa Black, Bian Donville, Hoon Choi, Corey Zylstra, Rob Zylstra, Jennifer Franks, May Wang, Leslie MacGregor, Steve Rauh

1. **Meeting dates** - general and executive: Morag, Abbie, Lisa & Steve to look at school calendar and work out tentative dates for the year. Draft first dates are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exec & General Meetings WVSS PAC** | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Event** | **Day** | **Date** | **Am/PM** | **Speaker/Theme** |
| Welcome Coffee Morning | Thursday | 13-Sep-19 | 8.30am |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Exec Meeting 1 | Thursday | 20-Sep-18 | 8.30am |  |
| **General Meeting 1** | **Tuesday** | **16-Oct-18** | **7.00pm** | **Dr. Mark Lysyshyn from VCH** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Sub Committees |  | October | tbc | Newcomers/Fundraising |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Exec Meeting 2 | Tuesday | 13-Nov-18 | 8.30am |  |
| **General Meeting 2** | **Tuesday** | **27-Nov-18** | **7.00pm** | **Principal & Superintendent of West Vancouver Schools - State of the Union** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Welcome Coffee Morning | Wednesday | 16-Jan-19 | 8.30am |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Exec Meeting 3 | Monday | 04-Feb-19 | 8.30am |  |
| DPAC Speaker Event |  | February | pm |  |
| **General Meeting 3** | **Tuesday** | **12-Mar-19** | **7.00pm** | **tbc** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Welcome Coffee Morning | Monday | 08-Apr-19 | 8.30am |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Exec Meeting 4 | Tuesday | 16-Apr-18 | 8.30am |  |
| **General Meeting 4** | **Wednesday** | **29-May-19** | **7.00pm** | **tbc** |

1. **Treasurer's report:**
   1. Bian confirmed fundraising letter has been approved by the district and will be added to schools cash online. Fundraising for Library Media upgrade. See letter attached. This funding request is in addition to the $25 per student PAC fee request and should be available to go out by end of September. What we spend funds on will be highlighted to parents in the newsletter when the request for PAC fees goes out – we are hoping to build up the number of contributions considerably this year.
   2. Budget – Bian is preparing the budget to be presented at the general meeting on 16th September 2018 for approval. She would like input to see what else should be included or adjusted for this year.
   3. There was a spending request over and above the budgeted amount for the Principals fund for last year and approval was requested to pay that sum in total - approved by the Executive
   4. Bian will attend the District Treasurers meeting

**3. General meeting topics:**

Lisa has a list of topics gathered from parents at the coffee morning: including school security, mental health, device use and effects, marijuana legalisation and vapping. We are looking for speakers to cover these topics. Lisa to reach out to Vancouver Coastal Health for Octobers meeting. Novembers meeting will be a state of the union meeting hosted by Steve Rauh and Chris Kenny. 4 meetings will be held throughout the year plus a DPAC speaker in February.  
  
**4. Questions from Chinese Community**:

May has set up a WeChat group for the WVSS parent community. This helped with letting parents know about the coffee morning as well as leading to questions thereafter for the PAC and school. Some questions do not relate to PAC put were discussed with Mr Rauh at the Executive meeting. Some of the questions were discussed and will be addressed at the General Meeting as well. Thought is to include response in the minutes which can be translated.

Questions included:

Below are the questions collected from Chinese Parents Community via Wechat.  If possible, can we have a discussion during the PAC meeting ?

Parents questions:

* How to prevent too much screen time ? Any suggestion from the school side ? – Rob will post resources on the website. Steve covered the schools policy on use of mobile phones and the sessions held for teachers to provide guidance in setting use in their classrooms. Mr Rauh will include some information on the school policy in the Principals address at the General meeting.
* The assignment of coloring for Grade 8 is meaningless. – not discussed
* Please encourage the international students to engaging more on school events, clubs, especially the school sports team. – there is a lot of opportunities for students to get involved. This lead to a discussion on whether the daily announcements at school could be emailed to parents if they opt in to have the information sent. Steve will look into this as it would be helpful for all parents to encourage their children to participate.
* As the public school with the most students in West Van, why is it so hard to obtain good teaching staff? Facing the resignation of excellent teachers, what are the solutions from the school to limit the risk ? - Staffing was addressed in the Principals report
* The international students encounter difficulties on course selection due to the language barriers.  Can the teachers in the center of international students provide more support accordingly ? – not discussed
* Facing the Marijuana legalization, how to guide the students making correct choices? – Our guest speaker at our first General Meeting is **Dr. Mark Lysyshyn from Vancouver Coastal Health.** Please attend this event on the 16th September to look at this topic and other topics like vapping which impacts teenagers health and wellbeing.
* What are the causes for WVSS’ the slipping in school ranking? Any solution ? Dose the decline on parenting donation reflect the dropping of ranking ? – There was a broad discussion around this topic and the need to not only look at Fraser Institute when assessing schools but to come visit the school and look at the broad range of opportunities and diversity of the school. Mr Rauh will try put together other relevant statistics including calibre of graduates, wonderful quality of teaching staff and facilities and opportunities for students. Suggestion for parents to visit the school and the website to see what the school has to offer and how programs are delivered**. Parents involvement and donation to the school can always only benefit the school and our childrens education (Authors note😊)**

**5. Principal's Report:**

Topics covered – Stability of school and little timetable disruptions this year. 88 teachers on staff (140 with additional staff and custodians). West Vancouver schools still feeling the change and loss of teachers who had opportunities to work closer to home. Currently interviewing and hoping to offer spots to teachers for 3 vacant spots). Discussion on schools mobile/device use by students in classrooms.

**6. Website - parent tab updates**

Rob has updated Website with new executive. Rob to make some changes to member at large. Morag to confirm if Solmaz will still be part of the newcomers committee. Rob to add on resources with regards to controlling device use.  
  
**7. Other business**

Coffee mornings? – to be held after each break – first one was well attended as well as the coffee before meet the teacher night. On the days that coffee mornings are held PAC will provide coffee for teachers as well in the staff room as they normally provide their own tea and coffee.

DPAC All-Candidates Meeting – Luncheon on 26th September and meeting on October 10th. Hoon will feedback information.