

**West Vancouver DPAC General Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

School Attendance:

All West Vancouver parents and guardians are invited to General DPAC meetings. Please try to ensure that at least one representative from your school attends these meetings.

Representatives present from the following schools:

Westcot	Pauline Johnson	Cypress Park
Hollyburn	WVSS	West Bay
Irwin Park	Rockridge	Ridgeview
Caulfeild	Chartwell	Gleneagles
Sentinel	Bowen Island	Bowen Island

Also present: Carolyn Broady - Chair, Board of Education; Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

33 participants attended in total.

Regrets: Cedardale, Lions Bay

Welcome and Call to Order: 9:16 am

Adoption of Agenda: Motion that the Agenda be approved; carried.

Amendment/Approval of Minutes: Motion that the October 7, 2020 General Meeting minutes be approved; carried

We would like to recognize that we are gathered together on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation and want to thank our friends and colleagues in the Nation who are working with us to guide our understanding of the history of this land and its people. We respect and honor the Elders past, present and future as we bring this knowledge to the students of our community.

Chair's Report: Kelly Richter

Resources & Special Meetings

DPAC hosted the annual Treasurer's Meeting on October 19, and the Web Training Workshop yesterday. Both events were held on Zoom and were very well attended. In both cases, we held open discussions on topics PAC were interested in learning more about – everything from fundraising during COVID to best practices for hosting online meetings, to developing communications policies to help PAC teams navigate some of the questions that are unique to our current environment.

The DPAC is happy to host an online meeting that will help with finding resources, exchanging ideas, or additional training for PACs. Participants asked to submit meeting ideas through chat or send an email to dpac@wvschools.ca.

Slack

A few people have asked about joining Slack – and how to find the various channels that are available.

- How to find the various channels – click on “Channels +” to see a drop-down list of the channels available to join. Note – new channels have been added for COVID related information & outdoor classroom fundraising based on demand
- Invitation at the bottom of all of the DPAC email newsletters, if you are having difficulty accessing Slack please send an email to dpac@wvschools.ca

- Open to all PAC executive members or PAC volunteers
- Real time information and updates

Upcoming Events

WVSD Board Meeting

November 17, 5pm online if you would like to attend, please email Amanda Barr for the link:
abarr@wvschools.ca

Treasurer's Report – Kelly Kerklaan

General Chequing Account

Balance Forward- 30 Sept 2020 \$8,406.71

- Expenses of \$1750.00 (Speaker's Spotlight Dr Shimi Kang)
- Current Balance as at October 30th (statement) \$6,481.71
- (Pending: Honorarium: \$250.00 not yet deposited by NV Schools for cancelled Blanket Ceremony scheduled for May 2020)

Gaming Account

Balance Forward – 30 Sept 2020 \$194.43

- Deposits \$2500 (grant) and Interest of \$0.15
- Current Balance as at October 30th (statement) \$2,525.37
- (Pending: uncleared cheques \$169.16)

Committee Reports

Finance & Facilities – Kelly Richter

Meeting held October 20th; minutes are posted on the WVS website.

Julia Leiterman, WVS Secretary Treasurer reviewed the Federal and Provincial Funding for COVID-19; PPT will be sent with minutes.

- \$502,456 from the province's "Safe Return to School Fund", distributed to districts based on student population or FTE. This amount was received in September.
 - This is a targeted fund that must be used for specific expenditures in prescribed amounts.
 - 6% PPE
 - 4% Technology
 - 12% Cleaning Supplies
 - 22% Hand Hygiene
 - 56% Daytime Custodial Staff to increase cleaning frequency
- \$2,448,576 from the federal "Safe Return to School Fund", which is a special purpose fund and also based on student population (FTE). This is distributed to school districts in two payments, 50% received in September and the remaining 50% is expected in December.
 - Four expenditure categories, and the District can choose the amount to spend in each category.
 - 67% Learning Resources & Technology (includes TTP, Indigenous Ed, TTOC, EA)
 - 18% Health & Safety
 - 15% Additional Transportation needs

Director of Facilities presented outline of the summer projects undertaken by facilities throughout the District.

School Traffic Advisory

Still seeking a representative to fill this role. Commitment is 4 meetings annually and attending DPAC meetings to report to our group. We are seeking a parent who can represent the interests of all of the schools in the district. If you are interested or know of a parent who would be ideal for this role, please let us know at dpac@wvschools.ca.

Parent Education – Kelly Richter

Tech, COVID & Kids online event with Dr. Shimi Kang took place October 21, 7:00 pm

Over 200 people participated in the event, and a private link to the recording was emailed to everyone who registered last week. We also received permission from Speakers Spotlight and Dr. Kang to send the private link out to PAC Chairs, to be given to parents specifically asking for it. We are not able to publish the link widely or post on social media – but it can be sent to individuals. The recording will be available until November 20th.

Board of Trustees Report – Carolyn Broady:

Traffic & Safety – Reiterated that we are still in search of a DPAC Rep to join the Traffic & Safety Committee. Carolyn emphasized that Traffic & Safety is a great committee to join. Meetings are only 1 hour in length, every other month and involves a rep from each of these local groups: ICBC, West Van Police Department, rep from schools, District of West Vancouver Engineering. If you are interested please email dpac@wvschools.ca for more information.

Sheila Donahue, one of our Trustee Reps passed on (via Carolyn) that the Safe Travel to School Mini Grants are going to continue this year. The applications will be sent out via DPAC. If you have any questions, you can contact Trish Buckley at the Board office. These mini grants are a great way to receive funds to put to good use to encourage traffic safety at your school.

Inaugural Board Meeting – Trustees are halfway through our term of 4 years and so we will be switching our school liaison assignments. New school trustee assignments will be sent out through DPAC; please be sure to invite your new trustee to one of your virtual PAC meetings.

Provincially:

- BCSTA council met and are working around environmental issues and programs regarding anti-racism. There is a push to engage the Ministry around these topics early in the New Year.
- Lots of work being done provincially around COVID-19 – all school boards have been surveyed and results will be reported to BCSTA board.
- Key COVID issues being examined:
 - Impact on youth and staff mental health
 - Food Security – advocating for universal food program
 - Conductivity – given the circumstances and more need for virtual connection, we need strong internet signals for students province-wide.

Virtual Q&A – Chris Kennedy (WV superintendent), Mark Pearmain (North Van Superintendent) with VCH's Dr. Harding – both Carolyn Broady and Chris Kennedy emphasized that a lot of our health related questions, specifically around the pandemic were addressed in great detail with Dr. Harding from VCH on October 28 during a Q&A with Chris Kennedy and Mark Pearmain. Link to the Q&A: [video here](#)

Superintendent's Report – Chris Kennedy

- Enrolment 2020-21 and 2021-22
 - Local Enrolment – down 10% in Kindergarten enrolment for next year
 - International Enrolment – on track for next year. BC is a popular destination, so we expect our international numbers to be good next year.
- Temporary Transition Program
 - Next Return to School Date (current survey)
 - Feedback on First Term (survey next week)
 - Working with parents on post-December options
 - Comparisons Between Districts
 - Budget commitments
 - Bottom line with TTP is that it is going well however it is supposed to be temporary. We do not offer full year long online programs, however if families are in search of that as an option, we will help them
 - We have guaranteed a spot in our schools for all TTP students so that as they transition back to in school learning, they are guaranteed a place
- Health Protocols
 - Video with Dr. Harding (link above)
 - Masks are not mandatory in our schools. The video with Dr Harding addresses this issue and is highly informative.
 - Our health protocols come from VCH and are based on best thinking today but may change given the change in circumstances
 - Although masks are optional, we have purchased thousands of disposable masks so that if a student or staff forget theirs and want to wear one, there will be a supply at each school
- Provincial and Federal Funding
 - With COVID funding support, the provincial and federal governments invested funds to support schools this fall
 - In West Vancouver, we received almost 3 million dollars which the expenditures outlined in detail in this presentation [here](#)
 - Staffing - we added 13 teachers, 2 EAs, additional supervisors for our elementary schools, a youth worker to support students away for extended periods of time as well as other staff to support our in-class as well as our TTP
 - Technology – with the increase in digital learning, we invested in improved cabling in our schools and have budgeted funds to upgrade up to 6 schools this year
 - Transportation – we added additional bus routes to support our high school students from Bowen Island.
 - Health and safety - We invested to ensure healthy classrooms including air ventilation improvements and purchased masks and face shields
- Anti-Racism Education
 - Follow-up to Anthony McLean and Opening Day
 - Schools have had a major focus of their professional development specifically pertaining to anti-racism and we will continue to focus on this topic
 - Looking towards a January DPAC follow-up with more information to come once we formulate plans around this and possibly a virtual parent education event
- Other Key Initiatives
 - Work with Squamish Nation – we continue to solidify our relationship and work with the Squamish Nation closely to achieve this

- Secondary Student Feedback on Quarter System – early feedback indicates that this is working out well for students and is receiving positive feedback from both students and teachers. It is a learning curve for teachers but that is to be expected. Overall, it is successful
- Looking ahead to the next 12-24 months
 - Harness Innovation – how do we take the positive and make the program better
 - Reimagine accountability – through FSA's and testing during a time of virtual learning
 - Remembering the Power of the Physical World -schools are taking their learning outdoors more often and finding it successful as kids are getting enjoyment from being outdoors
 - Support the Most Vulnerable – kids that are at risk are more at risk during this pandemic, so we are looking at how best to support them during this challenging time
 - Reinforcing Capacity – finding ways how to do this
 - Building System Resilience
 - Preparing Resources – we can prepare for being more resilient by ensuring we have our digital resources
- Next Month
 - Update on TTP – waiting to see survey results and who is coming back. We have reserved spots for every single person.
 - Detailed reporting on 2020-21 enrolment – more information to follow
 - Diane Nelson and e-sports
- Question: Parents feeling stress about possibility of children losing their spots in their school/class if not returning from TTP:
 - Chris: Three steps taking place in the coming weeks:
 - 1: Survey of TTP families on if they are planning to return at the November re-entry date
 - 2: Survey of TTP families on how the program is working
 - 3: Looking at options for after the Christmas break return date
 - Right now those spots are reserved for TTP kids within their school/classroom. Parents should not be feeling anxiety about this – asked to please trust the process.
 - Carolyn: Parents should be directing their questions about these issues to West Vancouver Schools staff and not to PACs or DPAC for answers. Please politely encourage parents to contact Chris Kennedy, Superintendent or the school principal for answers on educational issues and related information. PAC Chairs/DPAC Exec should not be feeling the pressure to answer these educational related questions.

Guest Speakers – Presentation – How Does the Pandemic Build Resilience?

Sandra-Lynn Shortall, Director of Instruction, Student Support Services

Maureen Lee, District Principal, Student Support Services

For many of us, especially young people, this is the first major adversity we have faced. Our schools have been focused on building community and emphasized trauma-informed practice which is all part of living our mental healthy framework.

- How does the pandemic impact mental health
- The focus is on what we have been doing in the district to make us stronger
- First – Maureen acknowledged such gratitude to be here and share with us all
- Mental Health Framework – at West Van Schools we aspire to foster resiliency and social-emotional well-being

- Although mental health awareness has been a focus in our district over the last decade, the pandemic brought forward the immediate need to continue focusing on mental health
- When the pandemic hit – we were planning vacations, weddings, grads and celebrations. Then we experienced grief and loss as we were hit with the pandemic as we could no longer carry out our plans
- Yes, we are safe and have food, but we experienced grief and loss and it's important to acknowledge this grief and loss so we can deal with it
- What happened to us is new but not normal. We are calling it the new normal and trying to make this normal, but it is not – we are not living in the same time
- On top of C-19 is social unrest – racism etc. which provides another layer of unrest and stress
- It is important as we go forward to understand the impact on everyone
- Traumatic stress is:
 - Exposure to danger – we did not know what to fear
 - Overwhelm of coping abilities (intense) – the uncertainty was overwhelming
 - Subjective – we all deal differently
 - Physiological and psychological effects
 - Flight Fight or Freeze – we fall into one of these categories
- Dr Bonnie Henry states that we need to go back to school – but do it safely. This will reduce the signs and symptoms of anxiety and brings us together. We deal better when we come together and face the adversity together. Our communities are what builds our strength.
- We need to avoid hiding – our body gets used to stress – this is the Exposure Therapy – if you deal with it directly your body habituates so you no longer have that fear
- At schools we teach kids that rather than avoiding, we give them ideas on how to be safe. Kids are very safe and aware and relaxed about protocol for being safe at school
- How School Helps - As Dr Bonnie Henry stated in August – There are many more things associated with our school communities that are incredibly important for child health and growth.
- Kids are happier when they are at school
- Personal Agency - at school we are teaching kids about personal agency
 - Keep a safe distance
 - Don't share your things
 - Clean your hands
 - Stay home if sick
 - Stay with your learning group
- Key message – The pandemic can bring us together - Care/ Comfort/ Connect (Care for one another, Comfort each other and Connect even if virtually with our loved ones). We are stronger together
- We have focused on our self regulation journey for the past decade
- We continue to learn how to do this
- It is important for us to think of the journey we have been on and as it has put us in a good place to deal with COVID
- Fear and Worry are normal emotions – we must learn how to deal with them
- Human behaviour is all about communicating
- We know everyone has been touched on every level this time
- There are many layers we are working through
- There are a range of responses to Trauma
 - Trauma Sensitive
 - Trauma Informed
 - Trauma Focused Treatment
- At school we focus on teaching kids in the Trauma Informed range
- The compassionate learning communities of Trauma Informed Practice are:

- Understanding – foundational, scientific knowledge; student’s specific contexts; educators’ needs
- Capacity – students’ abilities; reframing behaviour as coping; strength based
- Relationship – educator and staff wellness; reflective practice; acceptance and compassion
- Connection – family, community, culture; sharing of ideas and resources; mentoring
- Our self Regulation Journey – is all about Calm, Alert Learning; Behavior is communication; and Physical Literacy
- Physical literacy – we have been doing a lot of work in this area and now more than ever it is an essential component at school as kids need to be outside moving – it is very powerful. We are grateful that we have been doing this work as it has been advantageous and prepared us for this time
- Kids are happier outside
- Other things we are doing:
 - Outdoor and nature-based education (K-12)
 - Secondary Tuesday/ Thursday X Block
 - New WVSD Youth Outreach Worker
 - Additional EA Supports
 - Additional Technology Supports – making sure everyone has what they need to learn
 - Compassionate Learning Communities & Trauma Informed Practice (Professional Learning Focus – August, September, and October). We have invested time and human resources into learning
 - Community Partnerships and Ongoing Collaboration
 - SWIS & North Shore Multicultural Society
 - West Vancouver/ North Shore Family & Youth Hubs
 - Interagency Meetings (eg: VCH, WVPD, DWV)
 - These partnerships and others have been invaluable for our community
 - Play-based learning – putting a spotlight on “finding the joy” in a joyful, playful manner. We know our students needs this and so do our staff
 - Strong Start hybrid programming (in-person & virtual options)
 - Overall, we have a very robust offering at our schools
 - 0-5 age group – continue to be connected with hybrid programming (in person and virtual options)
- What parents can do:
 - Take care of yourself
 - Model calmness
 - Make the world small – no large gatherings
 - Concentrate on things you can control
 - Nurture relationships
 - Let Go
 - Your own self care will improve your capability to cope and we show by modeling to our kids
 - Sleep hygiene is also especially important during this stressful time
 - Resilience – how do we continue to nurture this
 - We need to come together as a community to nurture each other
- In conclusion
 - We are here together
 - We continue to be grateful for your partnership – how committed you the parents are to our schools
 - We are here for you!

Adjournment: 10:48 am