

**West Vancouver DPAC General Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, Dec 2, 2020**

School Attendance:

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

Representatives present from the following schools:

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

Also present: Trustee Nicole Brown, Vice Chair, WV School Board; Chris Kennedy, Superintendent
37 participants attended in total.

Regrets: Eagle Harbor, PJ, 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 November 2020 General Meeting minutes be approved; carried

Chair Opening: We would like to acknowledge that we are speaking to you today from the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people, including the territories of the Squamish Nation, on whose land we have the privilege to live, work and play

Chair's Report: Kelly Richter

At the November 17 School Board Meeting, Carolyn Broady was re-elected Board Chair, and Nicole Brown was re-elected Board Vice Chair. We would like to congratulate them both, and we look forward to continuing to work with them going forward. New School Trustee Liaison assignments have been sent out to all of the schools and PACs; we encourage you to invite your new Trustee to a PAC meeting this year. Carolyn is not able to join us today as she had a commitment with the BCTC and sends her regrets. We are happy to have Nicole Brown join us on behalf of the Trustees this morning.

BCCPAC Summit

The annual BCCPAC Summit for DPAC leaders took place November 20/21; Danielle and Kelly attended on behalf of our district. Key points from the presentations and discussions:

- Presentations on Indigenous Education by Jo Chrona of FNEESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee), including information on resources for parents and educators to learn more about indigenous history and culture
 - Recommendations: MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) at UBC, offered free a few times annually; "The Truth about Stories" – 2003 Thomas King Massey Lectures (available through CBC); "First Nations 101" book, and www.fnesc.ca
 - Importance of taking steps to start the process of reconciliation in our communities – one example is to include a territorial greeting at the start of gatherings and meetings, and we encourage PACs to include this in their meetings.
- Mental Health in Schools, Anti-Racism & Inclusive Education Parent Handbook, with Jennifer McCrea, Assistant Deputy Minister, MoE
- Presentations and resources will be circulated with the minutes

Intolerance Committee

DPAC has started a committee comprising of interested parents, the WVML, and Maureen Lee and Jada Harry from WVS to explore opportunities around parent education and engagement around anti-racism, intolerance and unconscious bias. If you are interested in getting involved with this initiative, please either let Kelly know at the end of our meeting today or send an email to dpac@wvschools.ca.

Upcoming Events

WVSD Board Meeting December 15, 5pm Online

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 November 30th (statement) \$2,544.79
- (Pending: Honorarium: \$250.00 not yet deposited by NV Schools for cancelled Blanket Ceremony scheduled for May 2020)

Gaming Account

Balance Forward – 30 Nov 2020 \$2500.80

- Deposits \$2500 (grant) and Interest of \$0.26

Committee Reports

Human Resources – Monica Scoles

1. Recruitment (Stephanie Mascoe)

Virtual Career Fairs

- This is a new way of connecting with potential applicants. Two weeks ago, HR participated with SFU, UVIC and UBC in our first virtual career fair focused on general recruitment. More education focused sessions to come. We didn't see quite the volume we normally do when we physically go to career fairs. We look forward to the UBC Career Fair in January.
- Normally, this time of the year is when we go to career fairs, but we have had to shift due to COVID and re-think how to attract potential teachers, EA, etc.
- Exempt Recruitment - We had a candidate for our IT Manager's leave of absence but due to personal circumstances he was unable to join WV schools. Tyler Soron returns in January. Until then his role is being covered internally.
- EA & TTOC Recruitment
- Specific recruitment videos have been produced targeting certain jobs and audiences and are made available on You Tube. We have also been producing them for other social media vehicles such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. These videos are aimed at attractions EA's and TTOC's.
- We have also sent them out to colleges to share with students, who could be potential candidates. We watched the video for Education Assistants at the HR committee meeting. In the video they interviewed current EA's in the District who spoke about what they love about working in the District - great video.

2. WorkSafeBC Rates

West Vancouver Schools has received a large reduction (36.8%) in its premium rate for 2021 for WorkSafeBC due to our low claims volume. West Vancouver School District's premium rate is better than the average as compared to other schools in the lower mainland. We continue to monitor all claims and ensure health and safety is paramount in our sites.

3. Flu Clinic Review

We had a very successful flu clinic with increased hours of access. Last year we administered 139 flu shots. We increased our order to 300 vaccines and administered 298 flu shots this season. This took place at WVSS at the South Campus and was offered all day so as to ensure proper health and safety protocol was in place.

4. Maternity / Parental BCTF Agreement (Stephanie Mascoe)

Changes to legislation in 2017 resulted in required changes to collective agreement language. The Parties reached agreement on how to handle these administrative changes. Employees will not be adversely affected. All handbooks have been updated to reflect the change in language.

5. BCTF Mentorship (Stephanie Mascoe)

- The provincial government has approved funding for the Mentorship program and so we received \$160,000.00 in funding with no obligation to spend this in 1 year. We have a lot of autonomy in coming up with a plan to improve this program.
- Mentorship program is well subscribed with new teachers. Liz Hill and WVTA President Renee Willock have created a unique plan to spend the \$160,000.00 received to support our mentorship program.
- We have 4 Teacher Mentors in our district - 3 are active teachers and 1 is a retired teacher. They are supported by principal Michelle LaBounty. Each of these mentors have a cohort of teachers. We currently have 26 teachers in this program. The #1 goal of this program is to ensure these new teachers in the Mentorship program feel supported to carry out their role so that they stay. The mentors spend about 4 hours for every new teacher they are working with for the year. This is a great program to help retain new teachers.

6. Federal Worker Support Legislation (Kim Martin)

In October 2020 the Federal government introduced new legislation called the Canada Response Benefits Act. This Act provides three (3) different benefits:

Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit

- Individuals receive \$500.00/week for up to 2 weeks for workers unable to work because they contracted COVID-19 or are required to self-isolate related to COVID-19
- Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit
 - Individuals receive \$500.00/week for up to 26 weeks for workers unable to work because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member who are sick or required to quarantine OR because schools, daycares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19
- Canada Recovery Benefit
- Individuals receive \$500/week for up to 26 weeks for people who have stopped working and are not eligible for Employment Insurance
- All benefits are accessible by applying through the Canada Revenue Agency.

Enhance West Van Committee, [Enhance West Van Website](#) – Kyra Williams Smiljanic

Enhance WV, board and committee that organizes scores of community programs and support services for West Vancouver.

Below is a sample of important programs/services supported through the pandemic:

- Food Security Program - Through funding received by Enhance West Van and the West Vancouver Foundation, Youth Services began a Food Security Program where youth and their families in need could receive grocery store gift cards to help support them during these unprecedented times.

- Online Circle Time Through funding received by Enhance West Van, Community Services staff created a Circle Time YouTube Channel and posted eighteen videos between April 1 – June 30 for parents to watch with their children. There was an average of 74 views per video.
- Virtual Fitness Through funding received by Enhance West Van, the Health and Fitness team offered 55 virtual Fitness classes in May through June on the District's Instagram page attracting 5055 views. Through funding received by Enhance West Van, the Youth Services and the Health and Fitness Team offered youth virtual fitness classes in May and June on the District's Youth Instagram page. Staff offered 5 classes per week for total of 36 classes and had 2038 views
- Youth Garden Project Through funding received by Enhance West Van, the Youth Services team purchased garden boxes and seeds to deliver to youth so they could grow their own garden at home during the summer months.
- Community Centre - accessibility for all program - eradicating barriers for differently abled individuals
- Shower Program for spring summer & fall at Ambleside Park
- Outdoor Marquis Tents for community services facilities
- Community Xmas Tree decorating
- Child minding, gymnastics, dance, piano minor gameplay for hockey, yoga, Pilates, Zumba, mom & baby circles, re-hab & pre-hab programs, seniors activities and health classes, employment programs, youth services, proud to be LGBTQ 2S + MORE

Upcoming Community Event delayed due to Pandemic:

Enhance West Van's Holiday Pancake Breakfast Event is held each Winter holiday season.

- An army of people reorganized this event with special precautions for the extra COVID restrictions, as a drive-thru a winter wonderland in the WV Community Centre Parking area.
- With stricter lockdown returning this November, our Holiday Pancake Drive Thru event has had to be postponed to a later date when we can once again have gatherings outside. The initial response to this drive from the community was so positive, it goes to show that people are really craving community connection right now. We thank you all for this support and the sense of community this response creates
- This event supports Meals for Youth & Families in the community who are struggling
- Just because the event has been canceled, does not mean that we won't be supporting these families over the holiday season.
- Can you help donate – email Chair Jodie: jweiderick@westvancouver.ca; tax receipts will be provided for donations above \$25
- EVENT TO BE RESCHEDULED in the new year when restrictions have lifted

Board of Trustees Report – Trustee Nicole Brown

The WVS Board has sent letters of congratulation our two elected provincial MLAs. Our board will be meeting with them in the new year.

- Returning from Sea to Sky-West Vancouver is Jordan Sturdy
- Newly elected from West Vancouver-Capilano is Karen Kirkpatrick.
- Last week the Board met with Mayor and Council as we do a number of times every year to discuss local issues.
- School Trustees across BC attended their bi-annual provincial conference “Fall Academy” on November 27/28. On the Saturday, Trustees were introduced via video to the New Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside.
 - She is a new MLA from New Westminster with a background in labour relations in the public health sector. Minister Whiteside had only 48 hours into the job prior to her appearance so didn't field any questions from the floor, but it was an opportunity to say hello, let everyone know a bit about her background and her enthusiasm for taking on this critical portfolio.
- The School Trustees Conference featured expert presentations that included a focus on several topical subjects.

- A very lively presentation from futurist Jesse Hirsh on flipped classrooms. Not losing the joy and passion and human connections in these digital times. He is hilarious. Just moved to a farm after years in urban Toronto. Follow him on twitter #jessehirsch.
- Irvine Carvery –YMCA Director for Halifax and President of the Africville Genealogy Society gave a compelling history of Black Canadians and the effort in Nova Scotia to identify and close the gaps on student achievement for students with African heritage.
- Keith Godin - Assistant Deputy Minister of Education presented on Enhancing Student Learning – working with co-governance partners, the value of FSA's, building meaningful Strategic Plans and the goal of all of our students becoming educated citizens.
- Final highlights included in depth presentations from two leading Youth Mental Health Professionals focused on the importance of Youth Mental Health Literacy, and Dr. Reka Gustafson, BC's Vice President of Public Health and Wellness and Deputy Provincial Health Officer.
 - Dr. Gustafson spoke to the realities of being in month 9 of a pandemic. She fielded a dozen+ trustee questions and gave honest and clear answers over 40+ minutes. Below is a recap some of her responses:
 - After 9 months, we NOW know that the pandemic response last spring involving school closures or limitation of face-to-face instruction that was used as an early intervention tool was not the best strategy. The current Safety Plans that have been put in place for the fall term have helped to make an easily transmitted infection a much more poorly transmitted one.
 - She and Dr. Henry meet with Provincial Regional Health Authorities (including our VCH Liaison Dr. Harding) multiple times each week and review the data and current literature.
 - Her opinion is that today, youth more likely to catch Covid from home or in the community. They are safest at school right now. She does not recommend an extended Winter Break. The ultimate decision will rest with political authorities. But her professional opinion is that...
 1. Children by and large do not have more severe illness – milder symptoms
 2. Do not transmit more easily
 3. Schools are not drivers of transmission
 4. Adult to adult more likely to transmit than students to adults

Further...Dr. Gustafson has not seen any evidence that more rigor to existing safety plans is necessary (e.g., Reduction of Class Density or Mask Mandates beyond what is currently in place). Class Cohort restrictions were developed to ensure that if there was a large exposure, there was a limited # of people to do contact tracing on (which is a cornerstone of the Safety Strategy). What the Health Authorities have learned is that typically handfuls of people (students/staff) – not 30-60-120 are impacted. That is not how this virus is transmitting.

- While masks are required in certain high traffic areas of our schools (or by a substitute teacher who is new to the environment) the data supports that as long as you are interacting with a consistent group of people who are practicing some of the high level of protections (stay home when sick, wash hands...). Masks are regarded as a very low level of protection.
- Wearing a mask will always be permitted in classrooms but requiring it is a NO. Health Authority does not believe it will add substantially to protections.
- Reminder that Safety Plan goal has never been about zero cases (not possible in a pandemic). but the risk in school setting is lower than other public settings because you don't have unknown people having close interactions with each other in a way you aren't aware of or cannot track (such as a shopping mall).
- Dr. Gustafson has also had important points around "Crisis Communication" in times of a pandemic.
- Consistency of messaging is key. Follow the health protocols of the province. Different rules from class-to-class or school-to-school means mixed messages. Leads to more anxiety.
- Good practices, practiced consistently, is the best option. Listen to your public health leaders. School safety plans are working well. Consistency of executing/implementing them should continue to be the goal. They are working.

- Dr. Gustafson recognizes the realities of how the pandemic is affecting children. Not just in BC and Canada but across the world. The importance of recognizing the impact on children's educational, social, physical and emotional challenges in this period is real.
- She emphasized that she wanted to work closely with the education sector as to what changes we would like to see about change of restrictions (where possible) to allow for a better delivery of our mandate/purpose – educating children.

Superintendent's Report – Chris Kennedy

(Link shared with minutes in email)

Enrollment 2021

- English as first language down to 60%
- This changes how we connect

Local enrollment

- Last year we were at an all-time high, though those numbers are down this year due to Covid
- local enrollment this year: top sector is WV at 81%
- 2018 had grown up to 86.3% 2020, 2% decline in youth population in WV but enrollment in WV goes up still (from private)
- 1000 a month goes to families that take on International students, seniors used to be a big party to this, but this is super challenged during Covid

International students

- increases in every grade, each year, up until this year

Current Applications 2020-21 vs 2021-22

- ahead in enrollment this year
- new applicants count
- lottery takes place and another lottery opens up.
- NV families go on both NV and WV French immersion wait / lottery lists
- Indigenous Students: 135 - doubled in 5 years
- more Squamish Nation attends than in past - whereas the NV has traditionally been the neighborhood
- enhancement education agreement with The Nation
- January Board Meeting - presentation on Indigenous Ed

Responses to Questions submitted by PACs in advance of meeting:

- Hot lunch - has heard it's the best ever as Vendors take on more responsibilities - less parents are required and less fuss. Don't want to go back to old systems!
- TTP Funding? - 60 students returned to school in November, TTP numbers are smaller now. But the program is still required. How is this funded? 100% through Fed funding,
 - WV District has held their same spots for them in the school, these spots with *provincial FTE* funding... this means the spot is paid for twice.
 - Large % of TTP cost is staff
- Secondary vs. elementary sport - ask your principal, but remember elementary sports are driven by teacher volunteers. Teachers are understandably more burnt out and laden this year.
- Band vs. Choir - band is curricular - part of mandate, Choir is EXTRA curricular except in High School (teachers volunteer to take on choir in elementary; see elementary sport comment above)
- MERV 13 Filters have arrived and will be installed by the end of the Christmas break. Installation required shut down of HVAC system so needs to be done when schools are not operating (overnight and weekends)
- Who can declare a school closure? Health authority must close a school - 2 schools w/ outbreaks were declared by Health Auth. - 3 things: schools closed, everyone in building isolates for 14 day, everyone Covid test (150 staff, counselor, janitor, hot lunch, student, and visitor). This is the reason why sites require data collection for visitors – to assist with contact tracing if needed.
- Masks - parents are encouraging mask wearing, many students are wearing them but if not mandated by Health Authority they are not required in school.

Patience, Kindness and Calm: this year there has been more stress for teachers and school staff than ever before. If there's any way to help show thanks, kindness, and support to our teachers who many

have been working since July it would be appreciated. It's been a challenging Fall and teachers and staff are showing unprecedented efforts.

Open Q & A

How many families in TTP? - 260 students right now, it carries on to spring break

Chris Kennedy also noted in advance of the Esports presentation:

In *The Province* there was an article featuring Diane Nelson: she had this whole other life as the former owner of the Vancouver Griffins Hockey team! Diane has spent a lifetime as a champion for sport but also women in sport. This article reinforces that she has been 15-20 years ahead of her time. A reminder how talented, skilled, and decorated Diane is (and many of our Education staff are).

Guest Speaker: Esports: WVS's Quest to Enrich the Student Experience

Welcome Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction, WVS

Katina Pupilkas, Education Strategist, Dell Technologies

Jacob Martin, Marketing Manager, Esports Canucks & Entertainment representing The Vancouver Titans

Jeff Huang, Math & Science Teacher, Sentinel Secondary & Esports Club Sponsor Teacher

Diane set up all of the presenter's slides into one presentation, which will be shared with the minutes.

What is E sports? Why is it legitimate and experts weigh in?

What are the opportunities along the way for our students? and as they graduate and join the workforce

Katina Pupilkas *Dell technologies Education Strategist, over 26 years in k-12, an administrator and central leader provincially and across North America, on cutting edge of what is going on for E-sports*

- Strategist who gets to travel coast to coast and remarks on the value and deep importance of the positive recognition of human passion and addresses a large grp of children who dedicate significant time and skill in the gaming world, powerful
- Scholarships and tutors in E-sports are already active in US, whereas in Canada it is not like that yet
 - Students are driving the programs forward eg. Western University in Ontario, a group of students set up a team on League of Legends, became #5 in North America, and competed in Las Vegas for multimillion dollar purse and won 2nd place! Yet Western University administration had no idea
- Gaming has been historically self-taught, learning critical skills: leadership, communication collaboration, critical thinking, playbook of strategies, analysing data, previous plays and stats being formed
- 99% of industry is now developing around E sports
- Shocked to see the number of roles students can participate in and find careers within Esports
- Katina has been working with Diane for a few months and is very impressed by WVS's plan and roll out for Esports program; this is new for Canada
- Diane & Katina will remain in contact as program develops. Equity is always a goal, i.e.: more girls, accessibility to play. Girl Power and mentorship is being highlighted in the program development.

Jacob Martin - *Marketing manager for esports and Canucks Entertainment, Specialist in Human Consumer Behavior and Organization Studies; Coordinator for Hockey Canada, and MSc in UK for Business and Innovation!*

- Vancouver Titans, owned by Canucks & Enthusiast Gaming (and Toronto Esports Co.)
- 4 pillars: want to build a competitive team with successful culture, community building like Vancouver Canucks, Addressing Good health, Teamwork
- League of Legends, Fortnite, CSGO, Hearthstone, FIFA 21, lots of big games

- Overwatch: team game (trust, communication, timing, strategy work), 6v6, diverse character cartoonish anime style, fun and wide appeal. First game to really delve into universal games and international acclaim.
- First season – purse for finals between \$1-2 million
- Second season held in the stadium the 76er and Philly Flyers play in, with a \$ 2.25 million purse
- This year – live presentation on hold with Covid.
- Esports viewership will be second to NFL in the US in 2021; Gen Z viewership of Esports increasing as viewing of other live sports is decreasing
- Fans are diverse, audience appeal is broad, mainly Gen Z and Millennials – “cord cutters”, coming from higher-than-average disposable income families
- Massive growth – gaming in youth. Anecdote: 20 years ago, coaching minor hockey maybe less than ½ of players gamed; now every kid does.
- Three major goals for Vancouver Titans:
 - To be like the Vancouver Canucks, engage and give back to local community, grass roots programming embedded in Vancouver
 - Hosting epic events, watch parties, finals
 - Inspire next generation of E-sports players & pros, develop interest in jobs within the sector
- Partnership with WV Schools:
 - Develop strategies, seminars, networking
 - Secondary school championship – “Vancouver Cup”
 - Esports career seminars
 - Internships

Jeff Huang *Math, Science and Coding Teacher, and now Coach for Sentinels Esports Club*

- Goal to pursue passion and competition in students that have historically been left out
- Allows students to come together and feel validated: its ok to be good at gaming - can be encouraged, supported, and guided to success, health, and impact
- opportunity to strategize, connect and grow social, executive and life skills
- Jeff / Teachers can teach and moderate these clubs, language, positivity, constructive and developing well rounded skills and culture
- Club has just started at Sentinel
- Students always want him to play with them - he claims like older athletes, he no longer has the same dexterity anymore, but the relationship building is instant
- Allows students to meet more kids, expand social network and leadership roles
- Vice Principal in NV is trying to create a North Shore League for League of Legends, Sentinel submitted a team
- Jeff has coached Basketball and PE and he feels the parallels are key: how to try out, how to create guidelines, rules, fairness in play, sportsmanship, collaboration, review on play, learning and growing, theory and strategy, 6-8 schools now in North Van + Sentinel participating
- BC School Sports (BCSS) - setting up Esports League with goal to bring schools together
 - 34 schools across lower mainland participating, including Rockridge. Game: League of Legends
 - inter-school competitions
- Teachers notice ability to tap into student passion and foster skill building opportunities. Create community for mentorship and advice; transferable life skills, how to review and improve communication. Teamwork, Strategy, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking. Kids learn how to lose but take notes and learn. Kids feel far more connected to school, education, and other students with this common passion
- \$50 for the gaming licence - Vancouver Titans are happy to donate & distribute to deserving groups ~ sign up through Diane or Jeff.
- Natalie Yu – Sentinel Student (in presentation video) -
 - a lot of her friends played computer games - to her was completely new but she tried in order to hang out with friends
 - felt an immediate attraction because she was already competitive as an athlete.
 - She likes that to do well; it takes a lot of skill, learning constantly, meeting new people

Timing for League roll-out? - trying to be sensitive to it being a challenging year and teachers having so much on their plate already. Setting up these gaming clubs are outside teacher's daily timetable

- Looking at next year as it is a new learning curve and new area. There is still some controversy around it and needs some education to explain what it is truly all about to parents & students.
- There is a program called girls who game club across North America (getting women in STEM conversation and addressing equality in a fun gaming environment. using Minecraft, picking a global issue working it thru, and getting into a bit of gaming at gr 6/7 level, Ceri Wilson exploring this opportunity with Katina for a few weeks in Feb-April but just in the planning phase presently.

Diane wrapped the presentations up & thanked our speakers with a shout out to all Principals and teachers that have been amazingly supportive in moving the concept forward.

Question Period

Violent? - no

Better to play on PC or Playstation? ~ Overwatch is best on PC but compatible on both

Recommended games in gr 6/7 - Jeff watches rating religiously, suggests Minecraft,

When are competitions? First all-girls Esports competition in January in Minecraft

Grade 8 is young, but kids in high school are seeking more exciting games; can you recommend games for this age group? Overwatch, League of Legends*, Rocket League, Among Us are recommended for a healthy culture and age appropriate for high school under 18.

Adjournment: 10:58 am