

**West Vancouver DPAC General Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

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:

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

Also present: Carolyn Broady - Chair, Board of Education; Chris Kennedy, Superintendent
31 participants attended in total.

Regrets: Eagle Harbour, Cedardale, Westcot, Hollyburn, Irwin Park, Lions Bay

Welcome and Call to Order: 9:16 am

Adoption of Agenda: First - Lisa Fairburn; Second - Amy Usher, Approved

Amendment/Approval of Minutes: First - Tanya Mah; Second – Kyra Williams Smiljanic, Approved

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 honour the Elders past, present and future as we bring this knowledge to the students of our community.

Chair’s Report: Kelly Richter

Trustee Liaison Meeting: In January we hosted the annual Trustee Liaison meeting, in lieu of a regular General Meeting. We had over 70 attendees, comprised of PAC leaders, Principals, school district staff and trustees, and heard presentations on the work that our elementary and secondary schools are doing around inclusion and diversity. There were many opportunities for breakout discussions and more meaningful conversations around the topics.

DPAC Inclusion & Diversity Committee: Met with Alden Habacon, a leading diversity and inclusion strategist to open up our speaker series this year. We are hoping to be able to secure a date in March for this event. The WVML is finalizing a reading challenge and online book resource page for their website that will correspond to the topics covered through the speaker series, and will provide recommendations for books for parents to read with their kids; books for children, youth and adults. We are very excited for the opportunity to work on this program with this great community partner, who you will be hearing from a little bit later this morning.

School District Budget Process: WVS is seeking input from schools and partner groups in the budget planning process; information was sent out to all PACs in the last enews. All PACs and interested individuals in our school community are invited to complete and submit a budget feedback form by Tuesday March 2nd. The information form was provided in the enews and is also available on Slack and the wvs website, and can be found [here](#).

DPAC Letter to WVS Board: In response to the growing voice of parents asking for enhanced mask protocols in schools, the DPAC Executive team have written a letter to the Board of Education, requesting that they advocate to the PHO and VCH for changes to the mask protocol in schools, specifically that students and staff in Grades 6-12 be required to wear masks both within classrooms and common areas of the school. The letter was copied to all PAC Chairs and was distributed by email yesterday. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

Gaming Grant: Reminder, we have had a request to share ideas on how to spend gaming grant funds this year at the post-meeting discussion. Please plan to stick around and share your thoughts!

Upcoming Events

Rockridge PAC presents "Student Stress & Anxiety During the Pandemic."

February 4th, 7:00 pm

Registration link – in last week's enews or contact Tanya Mah, RR PAC Chair

WVSD Board Meeting

February 16, 5pm Online

March DPAC General Meeting

March 3, 9:25 am Online

Speakers: Ian Kennedy & Liz Hill – Indigenous Education in WVS - Update

Treasurer's Report – Kelly Kerklaan

General Chequing Account - Balance Forward- 31 January 2021 \$ 6,144-23

Gaming Account - Balance Forward – 31 January 2021 \$2 26-48

- Our revised budget was approved at a DPAC special meeting on January 4, 2021. At this meeting, parent education income was reduced to \$1,000 and certain budgeted expenses were reallocated to parent education expenses.
- Our activity for the month of January 2021 consists of 43 cents of interest income and \$168.74 of Zoom license fees which we are reimbursing Kelly Richter for in two-month increments.

Committee Reports

Choice Consultative – Kelly Kerklaan

- 2 courses were submitted and approved for next year:
 - Organic Chemistry at Sentinel
 - History of Sports at WVS

Human Resources – Monica Scoles.

No meeting this month

Enhance West Van – Kyra Williams Smiljanic

Many exciting classes are being offered for SPRING at your local Community centres and throughout the neighborhood, creatively adapted for safety and upholding COVID-19 restrictions. Registration starts tomorrow for many spring sessions: <https://westvancouverrec.ca/general-information/program-registration>

- A wonderful new hockey program has been launched for kids with Autism, and some funding is provided so that the fees do cover the hockey gear. <https://www.wvmha.ca/autism/>
- A new Neighbor Walk & Talk is also being launched: Bi-Weekly (every other Monday at 10 and 11am) Neighborhood Monday Walks, at various start points in WV <https://westvancouverrec.ca/spring-summer/adults-19-years/social-programs>
- Extra funding is supporting some fun activities over Family Day Weekend as well - see flyer attached to this email.

Check out the [Leisure Guide](#) for ALL the great things to do to get out and connect and learn and play in West Van!

School Traffic Advisory – Kelly Richter

Attended January meeting:

- Reminder that school traffic concerns or issues should be directed to Principals; they are the ones to contact WVPD. Concerns can also be directed to the DPAC rep.
- WVD Engineering – Upcoming watermain projects around Rockridge and Caulfeild Schools may impact traffic; advance communications will be sent to Principals for distribution to parents. Also planning on speed humps along Mathers, and speed hump and bicycle lane work on Westmount this year.
- Current speed hot spot identified in the district: Mathers in front of WVSS
- Reminder – School Mini Grants still available; application information is on Slack and was sent by email last week. No schools have yet applied this year.
- Renee Bouchier (Cypress Park) has agreed to be our parent representative at the School Traffic Advisory Roundtable.

Board of Trustees Report – Carolyn Broady

- Encourage PAC & parent participation in the budget input process; being a COVID year, the budget planning is challenging and no increase in budget amount is expected. The focus will remain on health and safety for the next year but please submit your suggestions to help focus the budget going forward.
- Trustees, Admin and DLT are also working with Alden Habacon on anti-racism. There is a lot of learning and we are excited to have the opportunity to undertake work on this topic. Comment – sad that planned work around blanket exercise, Indigenous education DPAC was working on is on hold during Covid; powerful presentations Squamish Nation developed for recent PD Day, suggested speakers for DPAC Inclusion & Diversity Committee.
- Thank you to the DPAC Exec for letter to the board regarding the masking mandate. We have been working with and advocating to the PHO, VCH, CDC and Ministry of Education on these issues on an ongoing basis. Response from the Board will be sent after the anticipated release of revised health and safety school protocols later this week.
 - One main question being asked on social media is regarding Boards of Education going beyond PHO orders to mandate masks in schools. This is not something Boards are looking to do; beyond PHO or CDC, would be liable if something happened to a child. Solicitor General has provided guidelines for all industry to follow Provincial Health mandates around Covid guidelines; to deviate from same is more complicated than it appears. The board follows the science and the opinions of the PHO, we are not experts in health care. Encourages the wearing of masks, which we do see in the community and especially within our high school settings.
 - Not sure how much will change for elementary unless something dramatic changes, or we learn more about Covid and transmission.
- The board continues to work tirelessly and in the best interest of our community and kids.

Superintendent's Report – Chris Kennedy

[Presentation link](#)

Enrolment

- Total applications received between October 15th and January 22nd was 743, an increase of 143 from last year.
- Out of district applications between the same time frame was 199, an increase of 33 from last year.
- Some schools are full; no out of district applications are being accepted for West Bay or the waiting list for Cedardale. Pauline Johnson still has a few openings for Kindergarten, planning for 3 kindergarten classes next year.
- Encourage parents looking at other schools, independent schools to look at West Vancouver district.

Budget Planning

- 2021-2022 budget feedback is ongoing and an opportunity for input from parents.
- The biggest unknown for the 2021-2022 year is the “bounce back” for international students. Approx. 400 students registered for next year.
- There is a potential delay of the 2021-2022 budget to June due to the timing of the provincial budget.

Secondary Program for 2020-21

- The plan for the fall is to return to full time, in person instruction for all students K-12.
- Secondary schools – current plan to start on the quarter system in the fall and then scale up to a version up from that if possible.
- 2020/21 Secondary schedule reviewed and discussed
- Secondary Student, Staff and Parent surveys distributed February 1st.
- Highlights of the focus groups on secondary school quarter system from students, parents and teachers was the following:
 - Top 5 Likes – ranked
 1. Improved focus
 2. Less homework and more manageable workload
 3. Work is more efficient and organised
 4. Improved quality of learning

- 5. Improved interactions and relationships with teachers
- Top 3 dislikes – ranked
 1. Less engagement (repetitive instructional strategies and long classes)
 2. Fast paced/rushed/intense
 3. Lack of breaks and long classes
- Feedback was diverse and varied
- Overall positive feeling
- Quarter systems is working
- Google Classroom is beneficial for organisation and communication
- Hybrid is more challenging than face to face
- X Block has been well received.
- With the X block, allows for tutorials, academies and provides a lot of flexibility.
- West Vancouver had the most in person instruction than any other district in the lower mainland.

Temporary Transition Program

- Next return date is February 8th, just doing a survey right now.
- 250 students or 3-4% of school district is currently in TTP program
- There will also be return date on March 29th, expecting a large number returning. For those hoping for extension, working with those parents to come up with a thoughtful program to support those students to the end of this school year.
- Announcement coming on post-spring break by February 19th
- Awareness that some students have not been in school (face to face learning) for roughly a year now; planning for transition back to school this fall.
- Currently 1 cohort of high school students and an amount of 250 elementary school students in the TTP program.
- COVID-19 outreach youth workers have been an extra layer of support and is a conduit between the student and teacher for students who have been on self-isolation.
- We have had 64 referrals to the youth working so far.
- Minimal concerns from parents during isolation, main comment being that connections between student and teacher are strong.

7 things that will stick after COVID

- Nationalised conversation of education
- Essential use of communication tools
- High Schools are forever changed
- Health and Education are permanent partners
- Digitization
- Equity – ensuring everyone has access to learning tools
- Learning outside

Guest Speaker: Shannon Ozirny – Head of Youth Services - West Vancouver Memorial Library

Starting February 15th, the library will be open 7 days a week and will also be open on family day from 10am – 5:30pm

- The big changes in the library now are
 - There is no seating or study space
 - There are no in person programs
 - There is browsing
 - Pick up holds
 - In Person help/reference
 - Phone/Chat and email help
 - Public computers (90 minute sessions)

- The most important link on our website is <https://westvanlibrary.ca/kids-teens/supporting-west-vancouver-students-educators/>
- Please also subscribe to our monthly e-news letter here: <https://westvanlibrary.ca/?s=newsletter>
- There is also a special newsletter for principals and school librarians. If you would access to this as well, please email Shannon.
- Also download the Libby app from your app store
- All west Vancouver students can get a library card.
- WVS/WVML Partnership highlights to June 2021
 - DPAC Inclusion Committee partner
 - SEY2K (Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition Partner)
 - Virtual Booktopia
 - Virtual Reading Link Challenge for Gr4 & 5 students
 - Work experience students
 - Teen Volunteer Program
- A few examples of virtual programs we are running over the next few weeks.
 - Instagram Storytime (Live Tues-Fri @ 10am, recording available on IGTV)
 - Feb3: Extended Reality: Make your own zoo (Ages 9-12)
 - Feb 4: Art Gallery Challenge (Ages 9-12)
 - Feb 6: Code a Flappy Bird Game (ages 7-10)
 - Feb 10: Extended Reality: Explore the Deep Sea (Ages 9-12)
 - Feb 12: Code a Candy Heart with Python (Ages 9-12)
 - Refer also to our events calendar at: <https://westvanlibrary.ca/events-programs>
- New things to borrow.
 - The Wonderbook – there are 75 units in the library.
 - Explorer backpacks
 - Technology Kits
 - Sphero robots
 - Instruments
- New Online resource is CreativeBug and is a great alternative to YouTube. Refer to the online resources: <https://westvanlibrary.ca/research-learn/databases-online-resources/>
- Do you need a PAC Speaker – we can present on:
 - Motivation striving and developing readers
 - English Language Learning resources for families
 - Best new releases on certain topics or for a certain grade
 - The literacy benefits of comics, audiobooks, and other formats
 - Introducing to parents and upper elementary families to research databases
 - How families can save money and time with a library card
- Find your child's next great read:
 - Ask a librarian in-person or by email on youth@westvanlibrary.ca
 - Let your child choose their own books
 - Don't count out non fiction
 - Don't count out audiobooks
 - Don't count out comics

The best way to get in touch is at youth@westvanlibrary.ca or call 604 925 7408
 You can also contact Shannon directly on sozirny@westvanlibrary.ca

Adjournment: 10:33 am

There was an open discussion afterwards on how to spend gaming grant funds:

Suggestions were made as follows:

1. Playground equipment

2. Google expedition kits
3. Snacks for earthquake kits
4. Self-regulation tools
5. Extra-curricular activities
6. Virtual guests and virtual art classes
7. Virtual field trips