

**West Vancouver DPAC General Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 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:

Bowen Island	Caulfeild	Cedardale
Chartwell	Cypress Park	Gleneagles
Pauline Johnson	Ridgeview	Rockridge
West Vancouver Secondary	West Bay	Westcot
Sentinal		

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

Absent: Hollyburn, Irwin Park, Eagle Harbour, Lions Bay

Welcome and Call to Order: 9:15 am

Adoption of Agenda: First - Kyra; Second - Renee, Approved

Amendment/Approval of Minutes: First – Amy, Second – Jane, 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

DPAC Inclusion & Diversity Committee:

- Our first event in our community engagement series took place March 30th and featured Alden Habacon, one of Canada's leading inclusion strategists. We had between 90-100 people in attendance, and there were many thought provoking questions asked. The DPAC made a profit of \$989.20 from this event, which will help us to continue bringing these events to our community.
- A second event featuring Indian Residential and Day School survivor Stewart Gonzales has been finalized for April 27th. Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sem-pulyans-residential-school-story-healing-journey-tickets-148513220039>
- We are working in partnership with the West Vancouver Memorial Library, they have set up a reading hub for children, youth and adults and have developed a family reading challenge featuring books on inclusion and diversity. We recommend that you take a look; the link will be in the minutes and also in our event posters. <https://westvanlibrary.ca/west-vancouver-schools-inclusion-resources-hub/>

West Vancouver Foundation - Neighbourhood Small Grants

Last year many parents from WV school district applied for Neighbourhood Small Grants of up to \$500 to help foster connection and belonging in our communities. Applications for this year are open now, deadline for applications is April 20. Information available at www.westvanfoundation.ca

BCCPAC Parent Education Conference

The BCCPAC annual parent education conference is taking place online this year, Friday May 28 and Saturday May 29, and the theme is "Empowerment through Knowledge and Sharing". Conference fees are very low for this event, and there is an early bird rate of \$35 per member available until May 3rd. There is a great lineup of speakers including Dr. Gordon Neufeld, & Jennifer Whiteside, the Minister of Education. Registration: <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/conferences1/conference/register-conf>

Succession & AGM

- At next DPAC meeting on May 5th, we will be opening nominations for next year's DPAC Executive; our election will take place at our AGM and final meeting of the year on June 2nd. Tanya Mah has volunteered to be our elections officer this year.
- If any of you are interested in learning more about what we do on the DPAC, or think you might like to join this team, please touch base with Tanya, me or any of our executive team. We are in a situation where many of our team are nearing our term limits in the coming year, and we have a few parents graduating out of our schools, so we are eagerly welcoming fresh faces onto our team!

Open Discussion Reminder

Just a reminder that we will be holding our open PAC discussion directly following the meeting; please plan to stick around to discuss topics your PACs might be interested in.

Treasurer's Report – Kelly Kerklaan

General Chequing Account - Balance Forward- 31 March 2021 \$5,75.49

Gaming Account - Balance Forward – 31 March 2021 \$2,527.30

- The only activity during March was a small amount of interest earned on the gaming account and two months' worth of Zoom webinar expenses.
- The WVDPAC Inclusion and Diversity Committee is hosting another event on Tuesday April 27th and to fund this event, we would like to put forward a budget update for approval. The cost of the event will be funded by reallocating costs that we no longer expect to incur and to increase parent education costs by the total amount of these decreases.
- The updated budget proposes to increase parent education costs by \$800 from \$5,500 to \$6,300 and to decrease the budgeted costs for the June AGM from \$500 to zero and to decrease BCCPAC conference by \$200 from \$450 to \$250 and to decrease stationery and admin fees by \$100 from \$150 to \$50.
- The motion for the budget amendment was proposed and adopted.

Community Gaming Grants

Revised and updated DPAC/PAC Guidelines for 2021-22 school year have now been released. For the benefit of members, BCCPAC has partnered with Gaming branch staff to host a live 90 minute session to share the information and answer any and all Gaming funds related questions by PACS and DPACs. The session will be held **Thursday April 8 at 7pm** and it will cover a program overview, revisions to the DPAC/PAC Guidelines and the Capital Project grant, advice and examples of eligible uses of PAC funding, commonly asked questions, and will include a Q&A period.

Committee Reports

Finance & Facilities – Kelly Richter

- WV Place for Sport renamed the Harry Jerome oval; the fundraising committee is very active right now. Hoping for either a federal infrastructure grant or a large donor to complete fundraising requirements.
- 2021/22 Budget approach & estimates were reviewed:
 - Provincial budget delays, ministries were staggered this year and MoE expected mid-March which delays timing.

- Covid impact is expected to carry on into the fall term; currently assuming that there will be no additional federal or provincial covid funding next year, however there still will be some Covid expenses as current protocols are expected to be in place until December 31, 2021.
- Budget consultation feedback reviewed – there were 10 submissions and all of them have been posted online: <http://westvancouver.schools.ca/about-wvs/finance-facilities-committee-meetings-minutes>
- Key asks included improved technology infrastructure, physical literacy
- Request that the annual WVS school playground grant be amended to include outdoor learning spaces; Julia Leiterman is already looking into this option.

Calendar Committee – Kyra Williams Smiljanic

- The 2023/24 school calendar has been drafted and is under review. The next meeting is April 14, where the committee will be seeking first stage approval.

Enhance West Van – Kyra Williams Smiljanic

- Nothing to report this month. The next meeting is April 8

Board of Trustees Report – Carolyn Broady

Budget input

- The budget won't be passed until June as the provincial government has delayed the budget presentations.
- Thank to you everyone who submitted feedback for next year's budget; focus was on how to enhance schools into the fall.
- Capital spending – West Bay Elementary has received the grant for a new building envelope.

BCSTA

- The AGM is next week over a 4-day period; topics to be covered include.
 - Climate Change
 - Capital spending and infrastructure
 - Special needs students

Mask Mandate

- With the escalating COVID numbers, a decision was made in conjunction with MoE/PHO to introduce the requirement for Grade 4-12 to wear masks in school. In addition, mask wearing is encouraged for all grades.
- Kids are safer in school with the health and safety protocols in place.
- The goal is to keep schools open. Noted that the decision to close schools is not the mandate of the school board, it is a PHO decision.

Superintendent's Report – Chris Kennedy

Enrollment

- Numbers are looking good going into the fall. Now is the time to register as staffing decisions for next year are being made now.
- International student numbers are not finalized but expect to be around 330 students. Recent Covid case numbers in Canada are negatively impacting numbers, finding many are choosing the US over Canada. Not seeing the bounce back in international enrollment that was hoped for (330 instead of anticipated 400). Finding many are choosing the US over Canada.

Temporary Transition Program (TTP)

- Many students in the TTP program returned to school after spring break; there are still 200 students in the program. We hope to have more transition back over the term ahead and then start the fall as full-time students.

Masks

- Health protocol changes – masking and some additional changes required for choir going forward, rigorous activities during PE are now to be held outside.

High School Program for 2021/22

- Planning for a quarter system, but the hope is to be on a semester system, with 4 courses per semester.
- Overall feedback is that students have done well in the current system.
- Student, parent & staff survey results will be presented to the Board this month. Overall satisfaction, lots of polarized comments. Flexibility of X Block deemed to be very good.

Year End Events

- The baseline is last year, but we are in a better situation due to the cohort system which allows for more options for students to gather within their cohort.
- Parent and community grad celebrations must be virtual; governed by PHO orders. There can be no assembly at this stage.
- Hot lunch style food for graduation day lunch OK.
- District meeting with elementary school admin teams tomorrow to discuss grade 7 grad options; send ideas to principals today for inclusion in the discussion. Options and policies will be circulated to schools.
- Any unsanctioned events that are noncompliant with PHO orders are not allowed. They reflect badly on our school district and community.

Guest Speakers: Sean Nosek – Associate Superintendent

“Education in the Age of Misinformation”

- Information is the bread and butter for schools, and this is where students would come for information. This has shifted dramatically over the years.
- Information can now be found everywhere and how do we discern between all the different information sources to cover all beliefs.
- E.g.: Digital animation student created a video depicting an eagle grabbing a toddler. This was reported in the media as an actual story, but video created to go viral – which it did within 24 hours.
- This and many other examples give rise to FAKE NEWS
- The digital literacy framework is defined by the Ministry of Education as “the interest, attitude and ability of individuals to appropriately use digital technology and communication tools to access, manage, integrate, analyze and evaluate information, construct new knowledge, create and communicate with others”.
- Covers 6 characteristics, which are:
 - Research and Information Literacy:
 - Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making:
 - Creativity and Innovation:
 - Digital Citizenship:
 - Communication and Collaboration:
 - Technology Operations and Concepts:
- Cari Wilson, is the Elementary Innovation and Technology Lead Teacher in the district, has been able to access almost all Grade 4-7 classes virtually for lessons in digital citizenships. This has allowed the district to deliver information in a uniform and standardized approach.
- Tools used to evaluate information sources are:
 - The T.R.A.A.P test
 - Timeliness
 - Relevance
 - Authority
 - Accuracy

- Purpose/Point of View
- The C.R.A.A.P test
 - ~~Timeliness~~ Currency
 - Relevance
 - Authority
 - Accuracy
 - Purpose/Point of View
- Lateral reading tools – to get the full picture, verify what you are reading as you are reading it
- West Vancouver Schools has a virtual learning commons with databases that are verified and available to all students.
- Other resources include – MediaSmarts – Canada’s Centre for Digital & Media Literacy
- Managing time online by discussing what is being done, creating a schedule, asking why is this being done and seeing what is being done (access).
- Recommend: no access to laptops, phones etc. after bedtime – devices should be removed from bedrooms at night and charged elsewhere in the home.
- The digital dimension is another space and parents can still ask the same questions:
 - What are you doing?
 - Where are you going?
 - Who are you with?
- “The Paradox of our Time”
 - It is a great evil that slowly diminishes our humanity.
 - Its way to bring the world closer together and help solve some of our greatest challenges.

Questions:

1. How to check what apps are appropriate.
 - a. By being mindful of what information is being asked more especially in free apps
2. Can we introduce more critical thinking at elementary age?
 - a. Yes there is flexibility within the curriculum to do this but also we should utilize Cari Wilson as a standard resource, incorporating younger grades.
3. Are you available to speak at PAC meetings?
 - a. Yes I am, please reach out through principals.

Adjournment: 10:44 am

There was an open discussion afterwards on ideas for multicultural evenings/events:

Suggestions were made as follows (following covid-safe protocols):

1. Writing a cookbook for your community
2. online Cooking classes were hosted for multicultural cuisines.
3. more ideas will be listed on slack.

DPAC Succession:

Every position is open, we are actively looking for new members to join the DPAC Executive team.