

**West Vancouver DPAC General Meeting and Annual General Meeting  
In Person – Inglewood Learning Centre and Virtual via Zoom  
June 7, 2023**

**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	Eagle Harbour	Gleneagles	Hollyburn
Inglewood	Irwin Park	Pauline Johnson	Ridgeview
Rockridge	Sentinel	West Bay	Westcot
WVSS			

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

**Welcome and Call to Order - Maria Bird & Tanja Imhoff**

**Adoption of Meeting Agenda:**

Motion to approve the meeting agenda.

First: Marisa Yang

Second: Anya Yashkina

So moved.

**Adoption of May 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to approve the May General Meeting minutes.

First: Anya Yashkina

Second: Cathy from Sentinel

So moved.

Chair's Report and Treasurer's Reports will be provided during the AGM, and we do not have committee reports this month. Any committees that have met during the past month have minutes available on the WVS website if anyone is interested.

**Treasurer's Annual Financial Report - Nessa van Bergen– 9.20 am**

- The gaming grant fund is at \$550 to be used by September 28 of 2023 in order to ensure that we use up all of our gaming grant within the required one year deadline for DPACs.
- As of May 31, 2023 we have just over \$7,000 in our bank accounts with an adjusted cash balance of \$7,826.27 in our operating account and an adjusted cash balance of \$621.11 in the gaming account.

- There has been no changes to the gaming account.
- A number of checks are still to be cleared.

**Chair of the West Vancouver School Board for the School Board Trustee's report – Carolyn Broady**

The board has started their strategic plans. The work plan has come to Chris and his team. It will be launched in September. It has not changed very much and first and foremost for West Vancouver student success and academic excellence will continue to be considered. The other big news is that budget is balanced and passed as of last night. Trying to keep the budget cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. Julia Leiterman spoke about our financial dependence on international enrollment. But due to housing challenges, we have to revisit and make changes to secure alternatives.

The graduation ceremony was a thrilling to watch, with the sight of all participants all dressed up on the stage, marking a significant milestone since the challenging days of COVID.

At SFU, the district sports day was successful. This is always one of the best events of our school year with so many staff and kids participating.

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> will be the luncheon for DPAC and the Board of Education. Please save the day! Enjoy the Summer!

**Superintendent of the West Vancouver School District - Chris Kennedy**

Meeting with the mayor, council and MLA's to discuss the following themes:

- West Van Place for sport is sitting in a private discussion with Mayor and Council to see what decision they will make.
- Changes to early education and child care for 0 to 5 years: We are trying to work around spaces with Mayor and Council and to work with provincial government to try and train for early education. How to offer these credit courses for college credits is a topic of discussion.
- Ongoing housing challenges: our school district is full but we continue to fill with students from outside of the district. However, fewer families can afford to live in this community. In order to create a robust school system and a robust community, we need to create access to housing. We need to continue to have full schools. Young families attract young families. Whatever advocacy as parents you can provide around this topic is important to us.
- Principal and Vice Principal moves: The big goal is 5-7 years of continuity because it takes time to get the work done and if principals cycle through every few years, the work doesn't get done. But our goal is to have sustained leadership to build continuity.
- Postings closed yesterday for elementary principals and secondary vice principals. DPAC is involved in short-listing; they will get to prioritize the candidates along with union rep's.
- Positions right now are vacant for principal at West Bay and Vice Principal at WVSS. It's reassuring to get emails from parents asking that their principals stay. The process will be finalized soon. We are shuffling now.
- Invitation for Opening Day: Thursday before Labour Day, which is Aug 31. Please come to the Kay Meek for a presentation. The presentation will set the tone for the year. We will highlight what great things are happening in the schools. It's a staff pro-D Day and teachers will be there. Chris is the opening day speaker. He will talk about the impact AI will have on our schools. Also he will give context to the EDI work and how it marries with AI. How does this fit with the core competencies of numeracy and literacy? Chris will more cohesively share the roadmap on how West Van will continue to be a top school district in the country. Piece of this presentation will be replicated at DPAC throughout the year.

- Of 7,000 students, 1,500 are not West Van addresses in exclusion of International. Most are from North Vancouver. This is mostly for the special programs, such as fencing where it attracts students from farther addresses. Each year, we lose 200 of west van students to private schools.

## **Adjourning the business portion of the General meeting Opening the Annual General Meeting**

Motion to Adopt 2023 AMG Agenda  
Marisa Yang(first) and Anya Yashkina (second)  
So moved.

Motion to adopt the June 2, 2021 Annual General Meeting minutes, which are posted on our website and were circulated by email this past week.

First: Marisa Yang  
Second: Danielle Katerberg  
So moved.

## **DPAC Co-Chair's Annual Report – Tanja Imhoff and Maria Bird**

Thank you to all in supporting both Maria and I as new DPAC chairs this year. It has been great to watch as life has returned to normal and thankfully Covid has not been the main topic on everyone's mind. School events and activities have returned and we see the impact that sports, field trips, graduation celebrations and special events have had on our kids and parents. There is a new energy amongst PAC's as we all work together to try and rebuild our school communities. Our focus has been on building strong PAC's and supporting them in this new era.

Our pre and post meeting discussions, have given PAC leaders a chance to network, share ideas, and ask questions of one another. Robust discussions and sharing of ideas is happening on the various DPAC WhatsApp channels.

General meeting topics and special presentations this year have included:

- Treasurer's Meeting & discussion session
- Communication and website training
- A "new and revised" Trustee Liaison Meeting featuring discussions around three key areas: the uniqueness of our individual schools, budget priorities and strategic planning advice.
- Presentations at our General Meetings
- DPAC 101 with Kyra Smiljanic
- Mental Health and Open Parachute
- (TPRS) Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling with Michelle Metcalfe
- Physical Literacy with Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction Amber Pascual & Erin Crawford, WVS District Physical Literacy Mentors
- Digital Citizenship with Sean Nosek and Cari Wilson
- Student Reporting with Ian Kennedy
- Human rights in Iran with Nikta Razavi and Dani Renouf

We had two Parent Education planning sessions this year, in October and May that included members of the district learning team, school administrators and PAC representatives to identify

key areas of parent education, What has worked successfully at our schools, what topics we'd like to see and how we can better Coordinate parent Ed across the district.

In January we held the first of 4 blanket exercises with Stephani Maki (Coquitlam District Principal of Indigenous Education) Brad Baker (Associate Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Ministry of Education and Child Care) Thank you to Ian Kennedy for facilitating this.

In April, we hosted Hayley Watson from Open Parachute, who presented skills on how to build mental health resilience in our children. It was a well-attended in person event at Kay Meek. Thank you to Liz Hill and Chris Kennedy for helping us facilitate the event and

DPAC's robust Equity Inclusion and Diversity Committee has spent the year making goals and plans for this committee. Thank you to Nikta Razavi and the committee for their hard work and creating a survey that was sent out to all West Van parents polling them on topics of interest.

We acknowledge Carolyn Broady, our School Board Chair, for her leadership and guidance throughout this year, not to mention the hours of advocacy on behalf of students both in our district and our province. We congratulate Carolyn on her recent re-election as President of the BC School Trustees Association.

We would also like to thank Superintendent Kennedy for listening and actioning all the big and small issues we brought to him.

We also recognize all the PAC Executive teams, for being parent leaders and for sharing both your struggles and successes so that we could all learn together and not reinvent the wheel.

Last but not least, we would like to thank this year's DPAC Executive team – a dedicated and hard working group that provided constant insight and advice over this year. Thank you to Past Chair Kelly Richter for her mentorship, Treasurer Nessa van Bergen, Traffic & Safety representative Jatinder Sidhu and Members at Large Marisa Yang, Ling He and Tonia Liao

And to Anya Yashkina and Past Chair Danielle Katerberg who are stepping down we thank you for your time and energy and the support you brought to this group.

Before we close, just a few reminders:

- As new PAC executives are being elected either at the end of this year or the start of next, please be sure to send in your new executive contact information so that we can ensure that we are able to communicate about events and updates to all of the PAC teams. Just email [dpac@wvschools.ca](mailto:dpac@wvschools.ca).

### **Proposed 2023-2024 Budget - Nessa**

Going over the Draft Budget

- The first column shows the revised budget for the current 2022-2023 school.
- The second column shows the actual amounts for the current year up to May 31, 2023.
- The third column shows the year-to-date amounts for the current 2022-2023 school year.

- The final column on the right shows the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year.
- We are expecting to receive the same amount of gaming grant income of \$2,500 next year and have already submitted our gaming grant application for 2023-2024.
- We have budgeted a similar amount of parent education income and interest income to this year.
- We have also budgeted the same amount for luncheon and meeting costs which are budgeted at \$3,000.
- We have also budgeted \$350 for stationery and admin costs to also cover the Zoom license.
- We have kept all of our other expenses the same as the current year's budget.
- The total budget is showing a deficit of \$4,245 next year, however, we have over \$7,826 in our two bank accounts to fund this.

Call for a motion to approve the Preliminary 2022-2023 Budget, and ask eligible voting members to indicate you are in favour by a show of hands, or if you are online please participate through the poll.

Majority is attained and, so moved. Thank you.

### **Election of Officers & Directors to 2023/2024 DPAC Executive – Elections Officer, Kelly Kerklaan**

Kelly Kerklan introduces herself as Elections Officer, and then reviews the rules for the election:

- A quorum for voting at the AGM is the members present, so therefore there is a quorum
- Each school is allowed to have 2 votes, as long as they have 2 representatives in attendance, either online or in person
- Any DPAC Executive holding dual roles – for example holding a position on their school PAC executive as well as the DPAC votes as DPAC executive and has only one vote
- Decisions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members present (50% plus 1).
- In the case of a tie vote, the Chairperson will cast the deciding vote.
- Members must vote personally on all matters; voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
- The executive officers shall be elected by the members present at the AGM.

A call for nominations for the Executive positions was made 30 days before of the AGM at the May General Meeting; as per the WVD PAC Constitution and Bylaws.

Only one person was nominated for each position, therefore I am pleased to introduce the following Executive, who are elected by acclamation:

Co-Chair	Tanja Imhoff
Co-Chair	Maria Bird
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Nessa van Bergen
Director	Marisa Yang
Director	Aneela
Director	Ling He
Director	Tonia Liao
Director	Nikta Razavi
Director	Jatinder Sidhu – Traffic & Safety
Past Chair	Kelly Richter

This officially closes the election portion of the AGM. Congratulations to the new executive and thank you for serving on West Vancouver DPAC for the 2023-24 school year.

## **AGM Adjourned**

### **Presentation – Overview of Career Education in WVS**

The presentation provided an overview of the Career Education Program at West Vancouver's secondary schools. It focused on the "Career Life Connections Capstone," which allows Grade 12 students to explore their interests and create a path that culminates in a personal project. The presentation included teachers and students sharing their experiences and successes. They discussed the importance of preparing students for university applications, choosing backup plans, and dealing with setbacks. The Capstone project was highlighted as a valuable opportunity for students to reflect, focus, and develop skills. Students shared their personal stories, such as overcoming failure, pursuing entrepreneurship, and restoring a car. The Q&A session addressed options for students who don't choose university and emphasized the importance of exploring different pathways. The presentation concluded at 10:45 am.

Welcome Ian Kennedy, Director of Instruction, together with teachers:

Bianca Ferrajohn – Rockridge Teacher

Stew Baker – WVSS teacher

Stefan Huskilson – Sentinel Teacher

Elizabeth Donville – WVSS student

Katelyn Jewell – Rockridge Grade 12

Tavyn Pauer - Sentinel Grade 12

What is the goal of Gr 12 Capstone? To create a path that starts in grade 8 and is refined in grade 11; in grade 12 it comes to conclusion.

A number of activities help students design the path they want to pursue while receiving support in the following areas:

- University deadlines
- How to write applications
- How to get the marks they need
- How to release marks to universities
- Access to transcripts

At Rockridge, the Capstone project is done within IB and it looks a little different. It is tied into the MYP project. A portfolio platform called blueprint will be the space to house all evidence of growing. They choose one of the 7 themes our ministry provides them with.

Lizzy Donville, a Grade 12 student at WVSS, shared a personal story of facing failure and setbacks. Despite starting Grade 11 with a strong understanding of the importance of

grades, Lizzy struggled in physics and chemistry, failing tests and quizzes. With her overall grade at 55%, a single exam determined whether she would fail the class or not. Overwhelmed by the pressure, Lizzy even cried during the exam. Although her physics teacher ultimately passed her at 55%, she couldn't help but feel inferior compared to her friends scoring 90%. Despite the challenges, Lizzy remained hopeful about getting into UBC, but in early May, she received an acceptance from SFU, which served as her safety net. The rejection from UBC felt devastating, but Lizzy eventually reflected on the experience, realizing that it happened for a reason. She acknowledged the immense pressure that students face, including the fear of rejection and comparison to others' achievements. Lizzy found solace in the Capstone project, which helped her focus and understand that everyone goes through similar challenges in high school, where there is constant noise and numerous distractions.

Katelyn Jewell, a Grade 12 student at Rockridge, shared her journey of selecting a passion and skill that represented her entire secondary school experience. In Grade 9, she developed an interest in entrepreneurship, which coincided with the challenging transition to the quarter system due to COVID. Katelyn acquired market research skills through the MYP (Middle Years Programme) and, together with her team, established a business that won a competition, earning them \$2,000 and mentorship hours. This project, called PillPals, inspired Katelyn to pursue BioMedical Engineering at UBC, as it beautifully merged her high school experiences and guided her towards her desired field of study.

Taven Pauer, a Grade 12 student at Sentinel, shared his passion for restoring a 1979 Corvette that had been sitting idle since 1984. Despite his parents' initial discouragement, Taven assured them of his capabilities. With no prior knowledge of cars, he relied on online resources to teach himself the necessary skills, such as electrical and mechanical work. Taven emphasized the importance of fearlessly taking on projects, as he invested his own money into the restoration. His love for cars expanded, leading him to purchase more vehicles and develop a particular fondness for classic cars. Although he is pursuing a business degree at SFU, Taven plans to continue pursuing his passion for car restoration alongside his academic journey.

Q&A Period  
Presentation ended

### **SWIS Workers**

Tanja introducing the two SWIS workers, Bonny Wong and Niloufar Farahani

Niloufar Farahani: Our job is to help newcomer families send their kids to school – a bridge between families and schools.

Our contacts are under “Resources” on the school district website.

Swis office is located in the basement at Hollyburn Elementary.

Majority of our newcomer families are either Farsi speaking or Chinese speaking. More and more incoming families are Ukrainian, Korean and Japanese speakers. In those cases, we will get a hold of our other colleagues to help. We encourage families to join school PAC's. But families don't feel confident.

Tanja Imhoff: PACs should have an ELL coffee and welcome early in the year. It is a good idea for PACs to go to these meetings and talk to the parents about what PAC does and whether they like to attend or participate.

Tanja Imhoff: Thank you all for joining us today – we hope you will all stay for a luncheon catered by Nessa and Bon Vivant Catering.

Maria Bird thanks Nessa for catering the lunch.

Tanja Imhoff thanks Presto Catering for donating the dishes and utensils.

**General Meeting Adjournment: 10.55 am**