



**West Vancouver DPAC General Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

Present: Chris Kennedy, Nicole Brown, DPAC Exec members, representatives of the following schools: Bowen Island, Caulfeild, Eagle Harbour, Cedardale, Pauline Johnson, Gleneagles, Hollyburn, Irwin Park, Ridgeview, West Bay, Westcot, Rockridge, WVSS, Sentinel, Inglewood.

[Welcome & call to order](#)

[Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes](#) - *Marisa*

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda.

First: Kathy

Second: Marisa

So moved.

Adoption of Minutes

Motion to approve the November 2022 meeting minutes.

First: Rianne

Second: Tonia

So moved.

[Chair's Report](#) – *Tanja*

DPAC EXECUTIVE

We are still looking for a Secretary to join the DPAC Executive. Please email dpac@wvschools.ca if interested.

Parent ED

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parent Ed Meeting on November 23 rd . This seems to be a topic of interest and people are still reaching out interested in joining. It was a group that consisted of elementary and high school parents, principals and the district learning team. We identified a few key areas. Parent Ed happens:

In the classroom

At PAC meetings

School

DPAC Meetings

DPAC/District-

Equity Diversity Inclusion Committee

- A list of parent ed resources like district specialists and guest speakers
- Identified need to coordinate parent ed

- Parent Ed can be used as a fundraiser for PAC's

WHATsAPP

Just a reminder to join each of the channels in the what'sapp group not just the main one. There have been some good questions and discussions coming up. Please join if you haven't already and make sure to join each channel so you can follow some great discussions happening.

DPAC REP's

We know how valuable your time is and to make your lives a little bit easier, we will be providing some key take away points that you can report back to your PAC's which will be sent along with the DPAC minutes.

School Liaison Meeting

For those planning ahead you may have noticed that the traditional January Trustee Liaison meeting is not on the calendar. Stay tuned for a new formatted version in February/March. More details to come. For those of you who are new the school trustee liaison meeting is an opportunity for school trustees, district staff, principals and 2 parents per school to meet and hear presentations and have discussions on a variety of topics related to education in West Vancouver.

PAC Resources

We are looking at compiling a PAC resource list of items that could be loaned or rented to other PAC's. Ex. Bingo set, Lunar New Year decorations, Grade décor. Please email anything that you would be willing to share.

DPAC Tip of the Month - *Maria*

I hope you've all had a chance to review your bylaws and update websites. Hint hint...

This month's we are going with a theme of DPAC Governance and Communication.

To some this will be review and others it may be helpful to understand the levels of parent stakeholders in public education. We, the *District PAC (DPAC)* is the official representative body of parents/guardians of children in a school district. The School Act provides DPACs the power to advise the board of education respecting any matter relating to education within the district including educational policy. The DPAC is comprised of elected parent representatives from district PACs and serves as an umbrella organization for local PACs.

DPACs can:

-Assist parents in PACs in every school

-Assist member PACs and parents in obtaining information and communicating with district personnel

-Help parents navigate the school system locally

*-Advocate for greater parental involvement in the education system
-Support & encourage PACs and parents in accessing the school system at all levels by providing regular forums for the exchange of ideas and information to ensure that public education serves the best interests of all students*

DPACs communicate directly with their PAC parent community gathering and discussing issues of importance regarding their district (such as Strategic Planning, District Budget, Long Range Facilities Plan etc.) in order to adequately advise those that influence their district decisions. We do this in partnership with our Trustees and Superintendent at our General Meetings.

Just like PACs, DPACs can only communicate with their local PACs and school parents once individual parents and PAC executives have provided their contact information or opted in to receive information. Any parent can opt in to receive info from the DPAC.

BCCPAC

BCCPAC is the provincial voice of parents on K-12 public education and related issues and the directly support DPAC and PAC members and individual parents. They promote, support and advance meaningful parent participation throughout the public education system in order to advocate for the success of all students. Through their membership, they promote leadership, communication, cooperation, and representation in British Columbia at the school, school district and provincial level. BCCPAC advocates for systemic changes at the provincial table.

The take away is for this month is we are here to support all PACs in West Vancouver. Questions, advice, issues, are only an email or a call away. We have a vast amount of experience in this room and a we are an exemplary example of a District who works in collaboration together on all levels to be solution orientated.

Treasurer's Report - Nessa

Introduce Nessa van Bergen – put up report on overhead.

Reimbursed Marisa's cheque

Interest increased to \$2.38 per month

Committee Reports

Traffic and Safety – Jatinder Sidhu

School traffic map – Jatinder worked with Rockridge to produce a better map for school traffic. The map is to support the main message – do not drive though school premises because it is unsafe.

School site surveys - In the last one or two months all schools in our district were visited by the municipal traffic engineers to do the site survey and inquire about the traffic and safety issues. At a recent WV Traffic Advisory Table meeting, Cindy Liu,

WV transportation engineer summarized site surveys at WV schools and offered some short-term and long-term solutions.

Short term:

- Improve signage visibility by updating signs, fresh paint, removing vegetation

Longer term:

- Redesign of the layout for drive in and out
- Create adequate side walks
- Add Rapid Flashing Beacon signs that were requested by some schools

While the municipality wants to address all of the expressed concerns, they need to prioritize. Some bigger concerns that require more money can take months to address.

Traffic safety video contest in Sentinel – The main message is that it's not cool to drive to school.

Some parents in the audience suggested introducing the following incentives: punishing drivers by increased parking rates or rewarding for car pooling.

Equity Diversity and Inclusion – Jatinder Sidhu

There was one or two EDI committee meetings in the last month. There seems to be an overlap between EDI and Parent Ed Committees. There is a potential for collaboration. EDI committee has been reviewing its original goals and whether the committee is working towards accomplishing them, as well as discussing the scope of ideas EDI should include. All parents are welcome to join the committee.

Board of Education Trustee's Report – Nicole Brown

BC School Trustees' Association – Fall Academy

- Trustees attend two BC-wide gatherings a year that support professional development and provide a forum for BCSTA business. One event is hosted in the fall and the second is the Annual General Meeting in the spring. Last week, all your SD45 Trustees attended the Fall Academy.
- A number of orientation sessions targeted newly elected Trustees which represent 40% of the group.
- Topics included: a review of Financial Reporting, "Bargaining 101" by the BC Public Employers Association, Framework for Enhanced Student Learning, Indigenous Education, Inclusivity in our Schools and more.

Bargaining Update

- The BCTF voted to ratify a new 3-year agreement at the end of last month.
- West Vancouver Municipal Employees Association has been working at the local table with a focus on supporting Education Assistants. Negotiations have resulted in positive outcome for both employers and employees to support these critical workers. There are some formal stages in the process to complete, but this is a good news story. Please note that other districts across BC are still engaged in challenging local CUPE negotiations.

Remembrance Day – LEGION POPPY CONTEST

- A number of Senior Colour Poster entries are being showcased at ILC from the Sentinel AP 12 Fine Art Class. Amazing work. The Royal Canadian Legion conducts an annual National Contest running for 50+ years of which Nicole Brown has been an adjudicator in the Branch #60 for a decade. There are various categories students can submit entries for including posters (colour and b/w), poems, essays and video for youth K-12. Students in private, public or homeschools are invited to participate. Winners from our area move on to a Zone final for BC/Yukon and then those winners move on to the Nationals in Ottawa. There are financial prizes for students, plaques commemorating their achievement and National Winners are all displayed in Parliament.

Superintendent's Report – Chris Kennedy

New Ministry Requirements

- New indigenous course – WVSD has developed a new English course with indigenous focus. It's new content and new learning experience for students.
- Secondary school timetables – huge changes in recent years due to COVID restrictions. The district is trying to figure out the best timetable to meet student needs now: how many courses students should take at the same time (structure, choice)
- Student enrollment
 - o Local students – next week is last week for registration. WVSD promotes our schools via media to increase enrollment. PACs are asked to continue advocating for public education and our district.
 - o International student enrollment –Comparing to pre-COVID years, the enrolment is lower because WVSD lost 500 beds that could accommodate international students. Some previous host families decided not to host international students any more due to various reasons. International students do not only bring income, but they are also great for our school district diversity, great for our local businesses. While the district uses mass and social media to recruit host families, usually word of mouth works the best. PACs are encouraged to promote the idea of hosting international students. Some parents at the meeting suggested to invite host families/international students to PAC meetings.
- Parent Ed – annual meeting/networking on a bigger scale would be great. PACs and School Administrators should advertise their Parent Ed speakers/events across the district. Parents would benefit from a greater number and diversity of topics. Parent Ed sessions can help grow parent engagement in the community.
- Networking Blanket Exercise – will take place at January 4th meeting, led by Indigenous Education leaders, limit of 45 people (2 per school max, Kay Meek theater location, need to bring blanket, comfortable clothes).
 - o Ian Kennedy provided an explanation of the Blanket Exercise – emotional reflecting experience on shared history and common growth and future. PACs may want to do this/similar exercises with their

school parents. Such initiatives benefit local communities and society in general on reconciling.

Q & A

How many indigenous students do we have? - 124 indigenous students in the district.

We need more representation of Indigenous parents on PAC and DPAC execs. – Ian Kennedy suggested reaching out to principals to discuss how to involve indigenous families.

Eagle Harbour shared their story of hosting a drum initiative in their school.

Upcoming Events - Maria

Events are all listed on the DPAC webpage which is updated regularly

DPAC General Meeting - Jan 4 (Blanket Exercise)

School Liaison Meeting – February, stay tuned for more information on that

New Year DPAC Social TBD

Guest Speaker #1– Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) Michelle Metcalfe and Ioana Barran

It is our pleasure to have Michelle Metcalfe present on Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). TPRS is a powerful and engaging second language acquisition methodology that uses highly interactive, contextualized, personalized and compelling stories to develop authentic language acquisition.

Guest Speaker #2 – Inglewood Corrine Kinnon,

- 27 students with designation
- Individualized approach to student learning
- Students stay as long/short as then need/want
- Flexible timetable and structuring
- Intake can take as quick as 1 week
- Lots of collaboration with community organization

Adjourn meeting