

Rockridge Secondary School PAC Meeting

**Virtual – Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

PAC Executive:

PAC Chair: Tanya Mah

Vice Chair: Helen Hall

Past Chair: Tanya Petraszko

Treasurer: Barb Mitchell

Secretary: Debra Hadden

Online Communications: Tatiana Krapotkina

DPAC Representative: Amy Usher

Member at Large: Diana Steele

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Call to Order: 2:05pm

The Chairperson, Tanya Mah, welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the Agenda of the Meeting and the Minutes of the previous meeting held on June 15, 2020.

Amendment/Approval of June 15, 2020 Minutes: Motion by Tanya Mah: Minutes Approved (Helen Hall / Diana Steele)

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Tanya Mah: Agenda Approved (Helen Hall / Diana Steele)

1. PAC Exec Executive Introduction:

PAC Chair, Tanya Mah, led the meeting, and PAC Members introduced themselves. PAC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. There will be five meetings this year: October, November, January, February, April and May (which will be our AGM also). We will try to hold the meetings in the late afternoon or early evening so you can listen or watch as you make dinner or drive home from work. Agendas and zoom links will be emailed and posted on the website the week prior. We will try to email and post the minutes and newsletters on the website within a week or two.

Recognizing that we will need to connect in different ways due to the pandemic, the PAC is open to ideas about how we can continue to build community. Perhaps a virtual coffee or outdoor meeting? Please forward ideas to **PAC e-mail: ropac@wvschools.ca**
PAC is still looking to fill the Parent to Parent (P2P) Coordinator position. Please email the above PAC email if you are interested.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Barb Mitchell reviewed the PAC budget.

Highlights include \$18,940 in gaming account which can be used for certain kinds of activities.

\$60,000 is required for the fundraising to build the outdoor classroom – more information will soon be distributed regarding the fundraising drive.

For copies or questions regarding the PAC budget, please contact Barb at the PAC email.

3. Outdoor Classroom:

Member at Large, Diana Steele, reviewed the outdoor classroom plans. The PAC has already received \$1,875 in donations, a good start for the \$60,000 required. There are various levels of sponsorship available. Donors who donate \$250 and above will receive recognition on a plaque, being custom made by Northwest Landscape and Stone Supply. Tax receipts will be generated automatically through School Cash Online for online donations. If paying by cheque, donors must request a donation form be emailed to them by PAC (email ropac@wvschools.ca) to be submitted with the cheque to the office. West Vancouver Schools will issue tax receipts within approximately one month.

Donation “buttons” will soon be available on the Parent “Home” page and Parent “Fundraiser” page with clear instructions how to donate.

Mr. Henning (Rockridge) and Mr. Cormier (WVSS) have some students volunteering in prepping the site for construction. A Rockridge alumni who owns a construction company has offered labour for a reduced rate:

[Matkaluk Construction Ltd.](#)

See flyer (appended attachment) with more information on the outdoor classroom and how you can help with fundraising efforts.

4. DPAC Report:

DPAC Representative, Amy Usher, reviewed the main points discussed at the DPAC meeting, which occurs the first Wednesday of every month (this month on October 7th at 9:30 am). Here is a summary of the main take aways:

- Parent Education Zoom meeting will take place on Oct 21, 7-830 pm
Dr. Shimi Kang
Topic: Tech, Covid and Kids based on her new book (link will be available for those parents who could not attend).
- DPAC needs a traffic and safety rep.
- Health & Safety protocols have been implemented for stricter disinfection rules as a result of Covid-19. Five new casual custodial staff have been hired, new disinfection procedures have been implemented, ventilation systems have been refreshed and new filters (MERV13) changed 3 times/year (HVAC), and new procedures such as opening of all windows in the morning to increase air flow have also been implemented.
- \$500,000 in provincial funding, and \$2.4M in federal funding has been granted to implement Covid-19 protocols, and ensure the schools are as safe as they can be.

Laptops are also being made available for students that need them for remote online learning.

- At the beginning of Q2, on November 18, the school cafeteria will be open and operate within Covid-19 protocols.
- District and school reporting of COVID-19 cases in schools is directed by Vancouver Coastal Health. Due to strict freedom of information and privacy legislation, VCH is the lead in communication with families.

5. Online Communications:

Tatiana Krapotkina, provided an update on PAC Executive Online digital initiatives – A Facebook site has been set up: <https://www.facebook.com/RockridgeSecondaryPAC/> as well as an Instagram page. There also exists a P2P Facebook page.

The parent section of the Rockridge website has also been updated:

<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/rockridge-secondary/parents/>

Last year's meetings archived, new meeting dates noted, new PAC Executive listed, newsletters added, as well as new sections added.

Feedback and suggestions for what you would like to see published on social media is welcomed.

6. Scholarships:

Vice Chair: Helen Hall provided an update on scholarships available at Rockridge.

Last year, there were 92 scholarships given out at Rockridge - 62 were from government or community donors, 9 from the school, and 23 funded through the Scholarship Fund - usually \$250 or \$500. The Scholarship Fund is made up of the yearly donations of parents and the interest earned from a Trust Fund set up before 2010. With interest rates at historical lows and the optional donations going on School Cash Online, the PAC is running short of money to fund the number of scholarships we would like to provide each year. The PAC, along with Ms. Duncan, will need to consider to what extent we wish to fund this worthy cause. We will continue to work with the School District and will update in the new year.

7. Principal's Report:

Principal, Judy Duncan presented an informative update. Below is summary of the highlights from her presentation:

- Orange Shirt Day was Sept. 30, 2020
- Parent Information Sessions took place (Sept 29th for Grade 8, 10's / October 13th for Grade 12's, and Meet the Teacher Night, Sept. 30th)
- Clubs & Sports have commenced in limited capacity
- Award Ceremonies took place the week of Oct. 19-22 (based on last year's achievements)
- There will be a Remembrance Day (virtual) Service on Nov. 10
- Students had an opportunity to vote on Oct. 20
- Rockridge has a refurbished computer lab
- Fundraising has begun for a new Outdoor Classroom

- Professional Development Days (Sept. 25th: Anti-racism and other teacher led sessions / Oct. 23: Teachers make individual professional development choices)
- Students in Rockridge Leadership conducted session: What does it mean to be a Rockridge Raven?
- Covid-19 Update:
 - Two positive cases thus far in our Rockridge community
 - VCH alerts school/district
 - VCH asks school for contact information
 - VCH conducts an investigation
 - When did exposure occur?
 - Who was at risk?
 - VCH determines: Who may need to self-isolate? Who needs to monitor symptoms?
 - Messaging from school is based on guidance from VCH
 - Privacy concerns dictate protocol
- What's Different this year?:
 - Staggered starts – 8:15am and 8:30am
 - Staggered breaks / set locations
 - Lunch locations
 - Greeting students each morning
 - (Reminders: Mask? Sanitize hands?)
 - Students wearing masks in common areas, on buses, outside
 - Cafeteria services on hold until Q2

Positives:

Only two courses to focus upon
 Less time-management and organizational concerns
 Teachers know their students well and visa-versa

Challenges:

Where courses land in timetable – imbalance of work loads
 Grade 12 courses
 Length of classes

Graduation Literacy Assessment (GLA)

November 2nd – 6th for all Grade 11 students
 January 25th – 29th for all Grade 10 students
 June 14th – 23rd any students needing to write or wishing to re-write

Graduation Numeracy Assessment (GNA)

January 28th, 29th rewrites for Gr. 11 and 12 students
 April 12th – 16th for all Grade 10 students
 April 15th, 16th rewrites for Gr. 11 and 12 students
 June 14th – 23rd any students needing to write or wishing to re-write

- Midterm reports were published Oct. 20
- To support World End Polio Day, Rockridge Interact Club in partnership with The Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise will be selling pumpkins for a \$5 donation which will immunize one child against polio - **Friday October 23rd 1-5 pm outside @ Rockridge**

8. Report from West Vancouver School Board:

West Vancouver School Board Trustee, Shelagh Donahue, reviewed the role of individual trustees and the board. These roles don't change with COVID, but the interregnum period (caretaker government due to the election) and the second wave of Covid-19, has impacted some of their work. Here is a summary of her presentation:

- Trustees are elected like politicians at the same time as the mayor and council.
- All West Van trustees have a responsibility to all communities in the district regardless of where they live.
- The West Vancouver School Board is a corporate board governed by the BC School Act which sets out eligibility, powers, and duties. Being a corporate board means that no individual trustee has the authority to act unilaterally.
- The Board has a specific obligation to the Ministry to approve a balanced budget and failure to do so can result in the entire board being fired.
- The Board is responsible for governance of the school district in general and hiring the Superintendent. The Board sets the strategic plan, approves the budget, programs, and academics, and open and close schools. The Board are members of BCSTA (BC School Trustees Association,) and act as advocates for public education at the local, provincial, and sometimes federal level depending on the issue, but prohibited by the School Act from acting directly on behalf of individuals or specific groups of students, parents, or staff.
- The Board has created a strong strategic plan that is posted on the website. The current plan runs from 2019 -2022 and the guiding values are excellence, inclusiveness, accountability, authenticity, innovation, community engagement, and happiness.
- School boards have one employee, the Superintendent, who is hired directly by the board. Everyone else works for the school district. Superintendent Chris Kennedy's role is much the same as a CEO and he is responsible for all operations.
- Communication sent to the board becomes part of their official correspondence and can be found on the website. Depending on the issue, they will discuss as a board and possibly look to the Superintendent for resolution. Because they are a corporate board, the chair responds on behalf of the board.

- West Van has a tradition of electing trustees not aligned with political parties and they maintain autonomy by not campaigning for candidates in provincial or federal elections.
- Shelagh Donahue, Nicole Brown, and Board Chair Carolyn Broady, are also active regionally and provincially. Chair Broady is on the BCSTA executive and part of the team that interacts with the Ministry on a regular basis. Trustee Brown and Donahue are part of the BCSTA Metro executive. Chair Broady has also been appointed to our national association executive committee.
- Although the unique circumstances imposed by COVID and interregnum have resulted in some practices and resources being suspended or dictated by various authorities, the board has a strong relationship with DPAC and that is where they look for parent engagement. DPAC is the voice of the parent community and all schools are represented there. The Board Chair and Superintendent attend these meetings and that is the most powerful place to bring forward issues within school communities that have district-wide applications. Additionally, our monthly board meetings are open to the public and contain two question and comment periods where parents can ask questions and make comments directly to the board. We encourage members of the school community to attend and participate in both of these forums. At present, attendance is virtual and board meetings require registration through a link in the invitation or by emailing abarr@wvschools.ca.

9. Adjournment: 3:30pm

PAC Chair, Tanya Mah adjourned the meeting. The next Zoom PAC meeting is set for Tuesday, November 17th, time TBA.

Follow the Rockridge PAC:


Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RockridgeSecondaryPAC/>

Instagram: (@rockridgepac) <https://www.instagram.com/rockridgepac/>

Rockridge website: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/rockridge-secondary/parents/>

Attachment: Outdoor Classroom Flyer

ROCKRIDGE PAC



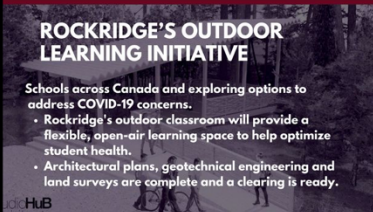
LET'S GET OUR STUDENTS OUTSIDE

YOU CAN HELP build Rockridge's Outdoor Classroom

ROCKRIDGE'S OUTDOOR LEARNING INITIATIVE

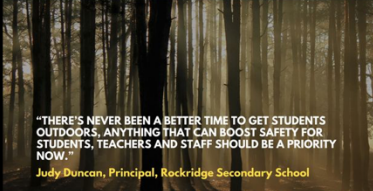
Schools across Canada and exploring options to address COVID-19 concerns.

- Rockridge's outdoor classroom will provide a flexible, open-air learning space to help optimize student health.
- Architectural plans, geotechnical engineering and land surveys are complete and a clearing is ready.



BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS


- Recent reports show the risk of transmitting COVID-19 is much lower outside
- Reduces stress and anxiety, while boosting focus, motivation and inspiration
- Extends existing learning spaces
- Provides opportunities for hands-on learning
- Shelters students from rain
- Offers additional meeting spaces, equipped with seats
- Wheelchair accessible



"THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO GET STUDENTS OUTDOORS. ANYTHING THAT CAN BOOST SAFETY FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND STAFF SHOULD BE A PRIORITY NOW."


Judy Duncan, Principal, Rockridge Secondary School

ROCKRIDGE PAC




PLAN AND ACTION

LET'S GET THE CONSTRUCTION STARTED: FUNDRAISING NEED \$60,000



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM RENDERING



PROGRESS TO DATE

- \$17,700 spent on architectural plans, engineering, geotechnical engineering and land surveys.
- Trees cleared and land prepared.

NEXT STEPS

- Fundraise in Rockridge and in the community
- Mr. Henning, Mr. Cormier and a team of students in the carpentry program will participate in the construction



DONATE TODAY!

FUNDRAISING NEED is \$60,000
Please donate today so we can build an outdoor classroom for our students ASAP.

- Donations can be made on School Cash Online or Cheque.*
- Donations of 20\$ and above are tax deductible
- Donations of more than 250\$ will receive recognition on a plaque

SIMPLE STEPS TO DONATE VIA SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

- 1 LOGIN TO SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**
<https://westvancouver.schoolcashonline.com/Home/SignIn>
- 2 CLICK MAKE A DONATION**

It will not be shown in your list of items and will not be attached to a student. You need to click at the right top button "Make a Donation"
- 3 CHOOSE THE AMOUNT**

Choose from selection of the amounts
- 4 SELECT A FUND DESTINATION**

From the list select "Rockridge PAC Outdoor Classroom"
- 5 ADD TO CART AND CHECKOUT**

DONOR RECOGNITION:

- SILVER \$250+
- GOLD \$500+
- PLATINUM \$1000+
- DIAMOND \$5000+



ROCKRIDGE PAC
Parent Advisory Council