



**PAC GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2021**

**Rockridge Secondary School PAC Meeting
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 9:00 am**

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:

9:05am

The Chairperson, Tanya Mah, welcomed everyone to the first general meeting of the New Year and recognized that we are gathered together on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation.

Amendment/Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Helen Hall and Barb Mitchell: Agenda Approved.

Approval of November 17, 2020 Minutes posted on the PAC website and emailed to Rockridge email list - Motion by Helen Hall and Barb Mitchell: Minutes Approved.

Chair's Report: Tanya Mah

9:10am

1. Parent Education

February 4, 2021: The PAC will be hosting a parent education session on the topic of "*Student Stress and Anxiety during the Pandemic.*" Featuring speakers, Maureen Manning and Jennifer Radcliffe. Registration link will be emailed in e-bulletin, posted on social media sites, and can be found on the parent pages of the Rockridge website.

Maureen Manning is a registered clinical counselor who has worked for over 15 years with families in private practice and in family service agencies. She has also worked in hospice, palliative care, and worked for four years at a youth clinic.

Jennifer Radcliffe is one of our illustrious counselors at Rockridge. She is also a registered clinical counselor and has a masters' degree in Counselling Psychology with more than 20 years of experience working with youth.

2. Wish List

Every year, money is budgeted towards the Wish List. The staff are asked to provide the PAC via Ms. Duncan a “wish list” of needed and wanted items. Treasurer Barb Mitchell will be going over this year’s wish list in more detail; but the majority of items (totaling approximately \$8K) on the list will be funded, which will go towards enhancing students’ education.

3. Staff Appreciation

The PAC held a Staff Appreciation Day in December just before the break. In previous years, parents signed up to bring something for the staff to share, pot-luck style. Since it was not feasible this year, the PAC partnered with one of the Hot Lunch Approved Caterers to bring individual meals for the staff to either heat and eat at school, or take home and reheat. We would like to acknowledge the extraordinary job that everyone at Rockridge is doing to provide a “normal” but safe school experience this year.

4. Social Media

Parents are invited to sign up or follow the Facebook and Instagram pages we have set up. Tatiana Krapotkina regularly posts PAC information, reminders, and updates, to stay up to date on school activities from a parent perspective.

5. Outdoor Classroom

\$44,575 has been raised to date, which is 74% of our \$60,000 total. We are so grateful to everyone who has donated. We have had almost 100 families donate, including alumni families who have “graduated” and no longer have children attending Rockridge and also families who will be coming next year!

6. Upcoming Events

The next PAC meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16th, at 7pm.

The February DPAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3rd by Zoom.

The next West Vancouver Board of Education meeting will be Tuesday, January 19th at 5pm.

Special guests will be Judy Duncan and Bianca Ferrajohn! If you would like to join in please email abarr@wvschools.ca and Amanda will email a link to join.

Treasurer’s Report – Barb Mitchell

Barb Mitchell presented a Motion to reallocate up to \$15,500 for the outdoor classroom. Motion was passed by Tanya Petraszko and Helen Hall. Barb reviewed the budget; noting that the majority of the wish list items will be funded. The funds re-allocated are from those originally allocated to school uniforms and field trips, which won’t be used this year due to COVID, which totals about \$11,000. A new line item was added into the budget for outdoor enhancements, totaling \$4,500.

Committee and Project Reports

9:25 am

DPAC Reports – December and January

December Report – Amy Usher

Intolerance Committee: DPAC has started a committee comprising of interested parents and teachers to explore opportunities around parent education and engagement around anti-racism, intolerance and unconscious bias. If you are interested in getting involved with this initiative, please send an email to dpac@wvschools.ca.

The annual BCCPAC Summit for DPAC leaders took place November 20/21; Danielle and Kelly attended on behalf of our district. Key points from the presentations and discussions are below

- Presentations on Indigenous Education by Jo Chrona of FNESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee), including information on resources for parents and educators to learn more about indigenous history and culture.
 - Recommendations: MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) at UBC, offered free a few times annually; “The Truth about Stories” – 2003 Thomas King Massey Lectures (available through CBC); “First Nations 101” book, and www.fnesc.ca
 - Importance of taking steps to start the process of reconciliation in our communities – one example is to include a territorial greeting at the start of gatherings and meetings, and we encourage PACs to include this in their meetings.
- Flu Clinic has been well received. Last year, they administered 139 shots. This year, over 300 were administered.

School Trustees Conference:

- Dr. Gustafson, BC’s VP of Public Health and Wellness, spoke to the realities of being in month nine of a pandemic. She fielded a dozen+ trustee questions and gave honest and clear answers in over 40+ minutes. Here is a recap some of her responses:
 - After 9 months, we NOW know that the pandemic response last spring involving school closures or limitation of face-to-face instruction that was used as an early intervention tool was not the best strategy. The current Safety Plans that have been put in place for the fall term have helped to make an easily transmitted infection a much more poorly transmitted one.
 - She and Dr. Henry meet with Provincial Regional Health Authorities (including our VCH Liaison Dr. Harding) multiple times each week and review the data and current literature.
 - Her opinion is that today, youth are more likely to catch COVID from home or in the community. They are safest at school right now.
- **But her professional opinion is that...**
 - Children by and large do not have more severe illness – milder symptoms
 - Do not transmit more easily
 - Schools are not drivers of transmission
 - Adult to adult more likely to transmit than students to adults
 - Further...Dr. Gustafson has not seen any evidence that more rigor to existing safety plans is necessary (e.g., Reduction of Class Density or Mask Mandates beyond what is currently in place). Class Cohort restrictions were developed to ensure that if there was a large exposure, there was a limited # of people to do contact tracing on (which is a cornerstone of the Safety Strategy). What the Health Authorities have learned is that typically handfuls of people (students/staff) – not 30-60-120 - are impacted. That is not how this virus is transmitting.
 - While masks are required in certain high traffic areas of our schools (or by a substitute teacher who is new to the environment) the data supports that as long as you are interacting with a consistent group of people who are practicing some of the high level of protections (staying home when sick, washing hands). Masks are regarded as a very low level of protection.
 - Wearing a mask will always be permitted in classrooms but requiring it is not. Health Authority does not believe it will add substantially to protections.
 - Reminder that Safety Plan goal has never been about zero cases (not possible in a pandemic) but the risk in school setting is lower than other public settings because you

don't have unknown people having close interactions with each other in a way you aren't aware of or cannot track (such as a shopping).

DPAC Liaison Meeting Wednesday, January 6th – Helen Hall

Meeting focused on SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity), indigenous education and anti-racism. Representatives from School Trustees, administration, PACs, and DPAC zoomed in to listen to presentations from elementary and secondary schools to share what each is doing in their schools to focus on these topics. It was a very informative meeting with nearly 70 attendees.

Principal's Report

9:35 am

Judy Duncan

Ms. Duncan gave a very informative update. The link to her presentation can be found in Additional Resources.

Guest Speaker

9:55 am

Bianca Ferrajohn, Post Secondary Advisor, Rockridge Secondary
Building Connections – Careers 8-12 Curriculum Delivery

The link to her presentation is in Additional Resources.

New Business

10:24 am

None presented.

Meeting Adjourned

10:25 am

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Next PAC Meeting: Tuesday, February 16th, 7pm
- Next Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, January 19th, 5pm (register: abarr@wvschools.ca)
- Next DPAC Meeting, Wednesday, February 3rd, 9:15am