



**PAC Meeting**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**6:00 pm**

**Location:**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Attending from Rockridge Admin:**

Trevor Kolkea: Rockridge Secondary Principal

**Attending from PAC Executive:**

Kelly Richter: PAC Chair

Heather Thompson: PAC Co-Chair

Kelly Kerklaan: Vice Chair

Teresa Corey: Treasurer

Lisa Mingo: Secretary

Denise Nosella: Communications

Julie Stewart: Past Chair

Sophie Ukani: Member at Large

Emilie Irelan: Member at Large

Srabana Dasgupta: Member at Large

**Attending from Rockridge Parent Community:**

Danielle Katerberg

Claudia Zuniga

Tanja Imhoff

Yeeun

Robin

Mariana Creel

**Welcome & Call to Order**

**6:05 pm**

Kelly Richter (PAC Chair) opened the meeting with a welcome and a land acknowledgment as follows:

*“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.”*

**Introductions** – Attendees around the table introduced themselves.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion by Kelly Richter to approve the meeting agenda.

Second: Teresa Corey

All in favour, yes - motion so moved.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Motion by Kelly Richter to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes.

Second: Denise Nosella

All in favour, yes - motion so moved.

### **Guest Speaker: Ian Kennedy, Director of Instruction**

**6:11 pm**

Ian facilitated an interactive discussion on the benefits of exercise and learning at school, enhancing the sense of belonging and positive long term mental and overall health outcomes. He shared ideas on how we can all support our kids in getting enough exercise.

[View Ian Kennedy's slide deck](#)

### **Supporting Physical Activity**

- Health, wellness, physical activity – a lot is common knowledge
- What are the benefits of exercise
  - Improves circulation, concentration
  - Enhances memory, releases endorphins and dopamine, going for a walk can help you to think more clearly
  - Boosts mood & ‘feel good’ hormones
  - Increases energy levels, enhances problem solving, improves sleep
  - Improves mental health, and reduces symptoms of anxiety (which has a significant impact on how students do at school)
  - Exercise increases your brain’s plasticity, enhances ability to change and adapt
- Some students are not getting enough exercise
- What can we do to support our kids being active
  - Question raised re. how to circumvent girls dropping out of sport as they get older? Response was related to having appropriate role models, ensuring a mix of men and women as coaches in these different spaces, and having conversations with girls on what they are interested in

- Question regarding the Strength & Power course which seems to cater more to boys, how can we get girls interested in joining?
- Comment made about creating more opportunities for non-competitive sport e.g. via Clubs that could encourage people to be more physically active (yoga club for instance)
- Question asked about whether there were any obstacles to having the gym open on the weekend? The main barrier is that a staff member is needed.
- Comment from parent that there is a distinction between competitive sports and recreational sports, value placed on both
  - Many ways to skin this cat
  - Going to the gym is a good example of something that is sustainable throughout one's lifetime
  - Important to honour all these different types of athletes, not sure the messaging around there is clear
  - Important thing is finding what interests you, finding your passion
- Comment from parent that it can be challenging for neuro-diverse children who may have difficulty participating in gym class or joining a sport teams, the focus should rightly be on physical literacy overall – e.g. hopping on one foot
- Comment from parent that we should be encouraging kids to walk to school, even by dropping them off somewhere close to school so they can walk (which is also helpful for traffic)

## PAC Business

### Chair's Report (Kelly R)

6:50 pm

The focus of today's PAC business is the proposed improvement to the outdoor basketball court (kudos to Kelly K on making this happen!), and the related budget adjustments and fundraising efforts necessary to make this happen. It was great to have Ian with us to help us better understand the link between physical activity and overall wellbeing. The PAC team feels that this project will help to enhance the student's basketball experience at Rockridge, and potentially encourage more kids to participate.

### Treasurer's Report (Kelly K)

6:52 pm

#### **Outdoor Basketball Court Upgrade**

Good lead in from Ian, not just for the basketball team, lots of kids use the space and it would be nice to improve it for them.

#### **Our Vision**

Investing in upgrading our outdoor basketball court is a step toward fostering student and community engagement, promoting active lifestyles, and providing a safe space for recreation. An upgraded court would not only serve as a hub for physical activity but also as a space for social interaction where our students can learn valuable life skills like teamwork and discipline, and where teenagers find a positive outlet for their energy.

## **Background**

Many of our Rockridge families have seen the numerous benefits of the upgrade to the Gleneagles Ch'axay Elementary school outdoor basketball court that was completed in June 2022 and July 2023, and would love to see the same upgrades at Rockridge.

The outdoor basketball court at Rockridge is a very popular area for students to gather and play basketball at lunch and after school. The current court is uneven which causes water pooling and the surface also has several cracks. The resurfacing of the court would take care of these issues as well as brighten up the space and make it more aesthetically pleasing. The new backboards and breakaway rims would improve the players' experience.

We would use the same two vendors that were used at Gleneagles as it was a positive experience. We have met with a representative from Tomko Sports System to get a quote for the resurfacing of the basketball court and painting lines and the school logo at centre court. The Rockridge Athletics department is currently in the process of rebranding its athletics logo and this court upgrade will be a great way to help introduce the new logo to the students and families at Rockridge. The outdoor basketball court is in a highly visible area at Rockridge because parents drive by the court as they drop off/pick up their kids at school. We would use Viking Alexander to install the new backboards and breakaway rims on the two main posts.

Kelly showed before and after photos of the Gleneagles court and then presented the cost estimate for the basketball court work. [BUDGET INFO](#)

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$46,000. We found out yesterday that we were successful in our grant application for the West Van School District playground grant and received \$5,000 of cash towards the project as well as \$5,000 worth of Facilities labour time. We are also applying for a grant from the West Vancouver Foundation which we received for the Gleneagles outdoor project and we will find out in April if our grant application is successful. The rest of the funding will come from our gaming and operating accounts. We are hoping to fundraise about \$10,000 to \$15,000 to help fund this project.

## **Project time frame**

The resurfacing and painting of the court will happen in the summer months as it needs to be dry to do the resurfacing and the supplier prefers to do this work when school is not in session. The work is expected to take about a week to complete. All work is therefore expected to be completed in July/August 2024.

## **Presentation of PAC financials**

Kelly presented the financial report on current position. At January 15, 2024 we have \$128k in our various bank accounts.

Since our last PAC meeting we have finalized our profit from the gala in November where we raised over \$12k. We have also paid for the Safe Teen Workshop of \$3k, and a presentation to the students by Gwynne Dwyer (a historian) and paid architect fees of \$3k towards the outdoor classroom. We also had some smaller expenses towards the grade 7 parent info night and the cookies for staff appreciation in December.

## **Proposed changes to the budget**

The proposed changes to the budget were highlighted in blue on the financial statements that were presented by Kelly. [BUDGET INFO](#)

We are proposing to increase the line item “Gym, field, court and grounds upgrades” by \$46k (from \$13k to \$59k) to reflect the cost of the project.

To fund the basketball court, we are proposing to change the donations/cheque drive/grants line from \$500 to \$20,500. This revised figure reflects the grants that we hope to receive as well as the fundraising campaign that we plan to launch.

The fundraising events and fundraisers line has been increased from \$4k to \$12k to reflect the actual profit from the gala in November.

The miscellaneous income line has been increased from \$250 to \$5,250 to reflect a conservative estimate of the refund we expect to receive from Shade Sail now that the Outdoor classroom project has been revamped and no longer includes a sail.

## **Motion**

Motion made by Kelly R that the Rockridge PAC proceeds with the outdoor basketball court upgrade plan as outlined by Kelly Kerklaan, contracting with Tomko Sports Systems and Viking Alexander, and that the proposed amendments to the PAC Annual Budget for the 2023/24 school year to accommodate the outdoor basketball court upgrade, be approved.

No questions or comments pertaining to this motion.

Second: Julie Stewart

All in favour, 11 voted yes – majority vote, so motion passed.

## **Outdoor Space Update (Heather)**

**7:05 pm**

In late November, Kennedy Construction submitted the revised plans to the District of West Vancouver. It typically takes 4-6 weeks to get these through the process, but with holidays it is taking longer. Kennedy expects that the drawings will be approved in the next couple of weeks.

Once that happens, we can move forward with the construction. Once construction commences, Trevor confirmed that the next step will be to initiate the process for naming the new space.

We have also communicated with Shade Sails and are waiting to hear back to confirm exactly how much they are planning to provide as a refund.

**Fundraising Events – Teresa C**

- June 13th (Thursday) – 2nd Annual Rockridge Golf Gathering will be a Scottish Theme. Kim Southerst is deep into her vision board for the “Gleneagles Highlands Golf Gathering”, so start looking for some tartan and working on your foursome.
- We missed out on Oktoberfest this year, so we are planning ahead for a back-to-school Oktoberfest gathering next year, likely on the patio at The Orchard at the end of September 2024.
- The “Not So Silent Night” was such a success, raising over \$12,000 for PAC that we decided to lock a date in for next year. Saturday November 23rd is reserved at the same venue, i.e. Gleneagles Clubhouse.

**Staff Appreciation – Sophie U**

- Holiday Cookie Extravaganza was a huge success, over 110 dozen baked treats donated by parents.
- Rockridge staff were over the moon with gratitude, many commenting on the number and variety of goodies and noted the personal touches of love by each baker and the effort put in by parents.
- Special thank you to all bakers and the set-up and clean-up crew, valet crew and student helpers, and the school staff that had a hand in the event.
- Truly grateful for all the support, thank you so much from the organizing committee.

**Rockridge P2P (Kelly R)**

- Successful welcome event for grade 7 parents – Kim Taylor, Kim Whittall and Teresa (thanks to you) were the PAC reps at the front door, they were prepared for at least 200 people and ran out of cookies! Very well attended, with 18 new families joining the P2P WhatsApp group.
- P2P Pub Night at The Orchard set for Wednesday January 31st at 7:00 pm – “Wing Wednesday.”
- First coffee meet was last Friday morning at The Bakehouse in Dundarave. 12-15 parents came out, great to meet so many wonderful people and picked up some good tips & info, especially for those new to the school

**DPAC Report – Kelly Richter**

- January meeting – annual Trustee Liaison presentation, Trevor Kolkea and Kelly were there representing Rockridge – [access to presentation slide deck](#).
- Series of three presentations and breakout discussions; topics included AI and digital tools being used in classrooms, technology and home/school connections and digital citizenship.
- PDF of the presentations will be sent along with the minutes and added to the PAC website for parent information.

**Principal's Report & Presentation (Trevor Kolkea)**

7:10 pm

[View Principal Kolkea's slides](#)

What's new at the beginning of 2024

- Focus currently on three sports (ski/snowboard team, basketball wrestling)
- Mr. Zambon trying to increase weights in the weight room
- Grade 7 to 8 info night / welcome to Rockridge, great turnout despite the weather, great to have parents of Rockridge students there
- Mr Trask getting nominated for Prime Minister Award of Teaching Excellence, application submitted and now we wait
- Ravens logo basketball has arrived
- Staff changes – Mrs Smith moving to Vancouver school board, Mr. Taguchi's retirement, Miss Emily Grey will be replacing him (from Carson Graham) & has taught photography and media arts
- Learning highlights
  - GLA assessments end of January
  - Parent teacher conferences – Jan 24<sup>th</sup>
  - PD Day – Jan 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Course info planning info (online) – Feb 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Personal project exhibition for grade 10s – Feb 8<sup>th</sup>
- Athletic logo update
  - Refresh and create a common logo for teams, gear and promotion
  - Primary colours will shift a little bit – Columbia blue and cardinal red
  - Working with graphic artist to develop digital assets
  - Consulting with athletics department and students
  - Logo reveal ahead of spring break
- My Blueprint
  - Introduced in grade 8 and increasingly used via careers up to grade 12, used across all secondary schools in West Van
  - Parents have commented that they wished they knew about this sooner
  - Comprehensive education and career / life planning program
  - Tool – put in information, different activities, starts to make a blueprint for your future, informing you about potential directions, getting to know you as a learner before you leave school
  - Homework – ask your student to log in and show it to you! (if new in grade 8, can ask Mr Campbell how student can log in)
  - Especially useful to build digital portfolio for Capstone
- ADST & Fine Arts Planning for 2024-25
  - Hard to say yes or no whether textiles will come back, will depend on student numbers, may be room to expand our wood design but will need to find the skillset to teach it
  - Fine arts - Drama, music and band, visual arts and film
  - ADST – design and innovation focus, staffing does drive decision making in this space

### New Business

7:25 pm

Julie asked the group whether parents would be interested in attending the virtual SD45 '*Parent as Education and Career Coaches*' session, and received a positive response. Subsequent to this meeting, this session has been confirmed for Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

### Adjourn

7:55 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.