



WEST BAY SCHOOL

Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes-2:00pm, June 17, 2020, Zoom Virtual Meeting

Tanja Imhoff	Roxana Pistol	Bill Auyang
Candice Montgomery	Chen Tan	Danielle Katerberg
Vanessa Gill	Isabella	Jenny Hulten Hippel
Joanna Zhang	Julie Blanchard	Kelly Chesko
Kim Gould	Mohamed Hussein	Nasim
Nicole	Peta Dirassar	Sara Mohamadkhani
Sharon Lee-Flynn	Srabana Dasgupta	Tamara Lawrence
Yin Yuan	Christina Argyros	Bernadette Smyth

1. Chair's Report- Tanja Imhoff

- a. **Staff Appreciation** – A big thanks to everyone who participated especially all the people who sent in emails, poems, videos. The staff really appreciated it. The teachers and staff got to enjoy some coffee and individually wrapped treats that Kim Gould arranged.
- b. **Kitchen** – Appliances has been ordered and will be delivered. The counter is going in and will be there by September. The kitchen will be restocked over the summer. It is also on budget so far, which is very good news.
- c. **Two new committee members**
 - i. **Vanessa Gill** – she will be our DPAC rep.
 - ii. **Christina Argyros** – will be returning as the treasurer, which she had done for two years previously

2. Principals Report- Kim Grimwood

- a. **Staff Appreciation** – It was a great surprise for them as they were not informed what was coming.
- b. **School restarting** – About 50% of the students are attending, around 100 students. We have one of the highest return rates and West Vancouver schools already have the highest return rate in BC.
- c. **Fall term** – We are planning for three different scenarios:
 - i. Keeping things the same, which is a blend of remote and in person learning. It will change based on guidance from the province. Feedback from grade sixes and sevens, both parents and kids that three hours once a week is not enough. So there might be a

delineation between elementary and secondary schools where the secondary school kids will be coming more frequently.

- ii. Elementary will all be back full time and high school will still be part time. Safety protocols such as frequent sanitizing and staggered recesses, lunches etc will be in place.
- iii. Same as before Covid occurred.

It seems that the second scenario will be most likely come fall. There will be at least two week's notice if we are going to move to a different phase. We are paying close attention to guidance from the provincial health office who in turn gives direction to the ministry of education. We have learned a lot these past three months with both remote and blended learning. So we are much better prepared for the upcoming fall term. We are also getting a lot of helpful feedback. Please continue to do so to superintendent Kennedy at chris@wbschools.ca. So far the feedback had been supportive as well as specifics for improvement. The biggest positive feedback was from older students who enjoyed the flexibility of being able to work when and how they want to. Some of the biggest challenges include the lack of structure from class to class and school to school across the district. There has also been insufficient feedback regarding the work students are submitting.

Staffing is consistent. Only Mrs. McGrath will be taking a maternity leave for next year as she is expecting her second child.

- d. **Band** – Grade sixes or sevens wanted for the band. If your child is interested please sign up. Enrollment is down and we do need a minimum number in order to run.
- e. **Summer Reading Club** – Please have your kids sign up for the library reading program. It's a great program and we would love to see a big turnout for West Bay.
- f. **Traffic – Candice Montgomery** – She would like to get some feedback regarding what people want done to make it safer for kids while the construction is finishing up. Things such as signs and speedbumps etc. This could be done over the summer months after school finishes next week. **Also**, Westmount ramp to the school on exit seven will be closed until Friday.

3. Treasurer's Report – Chen Tan

- a. First a special thank you to Chen for her hard work as she will be stepping down. It has not been an easy year as she has to do all the hot lunch refunds.
- b. **Chromebooks** – These were ordered in anticipation of the Gala, so they were ordered in advance because they were needed to replace the outdated MacBooks. The grade fours are currently using them. Normally these purchases needed to be voted on, but due to the current

circumstance it cannot be done, so that's why its being noted here. If there are concerns, please notify the PAC.

- c. **Budget** – A total of \$47,200 was refunded for hot lunch. About \$1,100 was donated to the PAC. There is about \$26,000 in credits that can be used towards future lunch orders. There is about \$195,000 in the bank which reflects the hot lunch refunds. We have about \$6-8,000 in a trust account.

We are doing a preliminary budget for next year. Since the Gala is postponed indefinitely, we may be looking for some smaller fundraising efforts throughout the year. There may also be cutbacks such as field trips, which probably wont happen until at least January or February.

4. DPAC Report-

- a. **Meetings will resume in the Fall** – They are scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month. We strongly encourage you to go. Chris Kennedy is looking for feedback from parents and staff.
- b. **Secretary** - They are currently looking someone to fill the position. Please let them know if you are interested.
- c. **Fostering the Resilience of Your Child June 23** - North Shore Restorative Justice Society will be hosting this virtual seminar. Please follow the link for more details: <https://www.nsrj.ca/events/fostering-resilience-for-your-child/2020-06-23>
- d. **Hot Lunch** – All refunds have gone out. Let us know if you haven't received it. Initially, there was no plans to start hot lunch until January, now that has been moved to mid-October. We will be working with each vendor to make sure all the sanitary protocols are in place. Ed and Selena will be taking over and they are still looking for a treasurer and coordinator. It will be very hard to get Hot Lunch going without a coordinator, so please let us know if you are interested.

5. **Critical Thinking Competency – Misty Patterson:** Initially thought to be only appropriate for middle grades, but we gradually discovered that by narrowing the scope, younger kids can develop critical thinking skills also. There are three main elements of critical thinking:

- a. Think outside the Box
- b. Try different things. Worked with grade threes to be innovators. To try many things and see what works and what didn't
- c. Persevere. Its really important to never give up

Problematized Note Taking – focused only on information that's relevant to yourself.

Observational Skills – show kids a photo and ask them what is happening in it. Pay close attention to the language and words they choose to describe what they saw. You are listening to their thinking strategy. So when you're listening to your child, you can tell what they think is going on, you're getting a sense of what

knowledge they're using to make that conclusion criteria for judgment. Listen for the word, because if they say this is what's happening, because they're telling you why they think that, and that's an opening for enhancing their judgment.

These skills transfer well to other areas such as de-escalating a playground conflict. When kids really think about what made them say what they said and really thought it through, maybe their interpretation of the other kid's intention could be wrong. Is there a different way of thinking about it? Is there a new way of understanding it? And what's interesting is that kids will start to use that language, instead of just telling them to be more thoughtful.

Another thing that was done was dissecting toys like the Google breaker lab or Tinker Lab. Kids were asked questions such as what is the toy made of? What are the parts that we see that comprise the toy and what are the purposes? So we started actually by looking on the outside of the toy and making a chart of all the parts that we saw and the purpose. The other piece that really helped the children was prompting them to think about if they had to replicate this, what they would do.

After repeating the routine over and over, we started to see growth in critical thinking. They were able to assess in a different way. However scientists are starting to notice that these skills came natural at birth. So what we are really doing is acknowledging and reinforcing them.

Assessment of Critical Thinking - Our big takeaways from our three years of work was around our assessment. We need to assess what matters and what matters needs to be assessed. And that's a bit of a shift from when we went to school. It's really easy to give a 10 out of 10 score on a list of spelling words. While spelling is important, what really matters for kids and for their education is much harder to assess and requires us as educators to really dig deep and know what it is we're asking of our students, and then figure out how to assess it so that we can help them grow. So its not assessment for the sake of giving a report. What we really are assessing is how we can help our kids move forward.

Questions/Comments?

Adjourn