



WEST BAY SCHOOL

Parent Advisory Council

West Bay PAC Meeting Minutes-9:15am, Dec 11, 2020, Zoom Virtual Meeting

Principal Kim Grimwood	Sophie Ukani	Sara Mohamadkhani
Nasim Vafai	Bill Auyang	Aiping Lu
Tanja Imhoff	Sara Relling	Danielle Katerberg
Srabana Dasgupta	Kim Gould	Lina
Roxana Pistol	Vanessa Gill	Dani Renouf
Candace Montgomery	Kelly Chesko	Christina Aryros
Hongchi Chen	Jack Liu	Tammy

Minutes of Nov PAC Meeting: Adopted by Vanessa Gill and Roxana Pistol
Agenda for Dec PAC Meeting: Adopted by Dani Renouf and Roxana Pistol

1. Guest Speaker- Todd Lund, District SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Lead

a. What is our common ground?

- i. Schools need to be safe, positive environments
- ii. Canada is comprised of diverse people, views, and being and all are celebrated
- iii. There is no room for discrimination in schools

b. What is SOGI?

- i. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- ii. everyone has a sexual orientation, and everyone has a gender identity
- iii. it is not a curriculum or plan or agenda - it is a way of talking about a group of people, that includes everyone in the conversation
- iv. nice to think of it as a thread in the classroom and teachers can include in every day lessons and descriptions

c. What does SOGI look like in the classroom?

- i. family diversity, including same sex families, use the terms “gay” and “lesbian” openly
- ii. gender identity and stereotypes – the way it is expressed
 1. children assign pink and blue to gender identity - talking to kids about this at their age level
- iii. intermediate level - representation in LGB people in history and human rights
 1. using picture books or books to talk about human rights around the world
- iv. sexuality is both physical and emotional

- v. we need to recognize systemic discrimination
- vi. also recognize the unique contributions of queer people (artistic, political, history)
- vii. gender identity ties in with the history of trans people and global rights
- viii. but gender identity is separate from sexuality

d. Final Thoughts

- i. Adrienne Rich quote: “When those who have the power to name and to socially construct reality choose not to see you or hear you... when someone with the authority of a teacher, say, describes the world and you are not in it, there is a moment of psychic disequilibrium, as if you looked in the mirror and saw nothing”
 - 1. parallels between SOGI and systemic discrimination
- ii. So we want to present a mirror in the classroom where every child sees a reflection of themselves
- iii. statistically, the queer population at risk - 4 times the risk of suicide so we want to represent them in the world and have them reflected in the classroom
- iv. as parents and primary caregivers and educators, we are most able to help contribute
- v. in 2002, a court case to Supreme Court about books in the classroom - powerful thought - parental views however important cannot overrule the mirror and diversity that the school system is trying to impart - schools have an imperative to teach tolerance and diversity
- vi. For more info: Website: SOGI123.org / tlund@wvschools.ca

2. Chair's Report

- a. lots of excitement and school spirit – lots of holiday sweaters and ornaments
- b. Very successful fundraiser - \$923 on Poinsettias and \$1702 for Purdy's. Big thanks to Kim Gould
- c. Hampers 23 families - Thank you to all the parents and Sara Relling for supporting the drive - hampers go out this and next week
- d. Sara and Kim are graduating this year - please consider volunteering for this next year and please reach out for hampers and the Purdy's and poinsettias - email Tanja, Sara or Kim
- e. Scholastic book fair a success

3. Principal's Report – Kim Grimwood

- a. A big thanks for all the support for the events and fundraisers
- b. trying to keep joy factor very high especially in view of lockdown by Dr. Henry
- c. will send out videos to highlight the school spirit - recorder concert, band playing through the halls, silly sweaters/hats, door decorating
- d. teachers have been planning a tic toc dance next week

- e. communicate student learning (report card) access via FreshGrade after 3pm (parent login)
- f. ELL, band, IEP in paper format in the sealed envelope - please take the time to read and review these teacher informed documents
- g. FSA assessments in January - Grade 4 and 7 - postponed from the fall - students will write these across the province - please look for information if child is in these grades - tracks data is how we are doing in education
- h. schools in BC are required to set an action plan and it is a three-year cycle - our goal had been centered around critical thinking, prior to this, written/oral communication; this year, new goal is 3 core competencies: personal and social responsibility (social and emotional skills)
- i. This year, we will be focused on social awareness and responsibility - building relationship, contribute to community, resolve problems, and value diversity
- j. survey for parents in January - please contribute your input to how school is doing and where there is room for growth
- k. COVID-19 - VCH did a special presentation for administrators; highlights from Dr. Alexander Choi presentation - information and data collection since outbreak started
- l. Findings: school is the safest place for kids, and kids who are COVID positive, 80% traced back to parents (parent to child transmission); exposure contact is primary driver; community engagement is the second driver of transmission; lack of spread from child to child and child to adult (children are 9% of cases in VCH, despite being 17% of the population).
- m. COVID in children is mild, hospitalization is rare
- n. during short time school was closed, increased violence in household, and mental health - impact of school closure is greater than getting COVID - school is a determinant of health and imperative to health
- o. 20-40 year olds are highest COVID cases - impacting senior citizen the most and children under 10 years are least impacted
- p. increase use of mask use in class - encouraged - non-medical masks are not as effective - still keep social distancing and hand washing
- q. Mrs Smyl is pregnant and expecting her 2nd child - maternity leave - new teacher will join us in the new year
- r. Ms Scott will be in the other grade 2 class

4. Treasurer's report

- a. \$189,352, literacy program and decoration expenditures
- b. \$5518 Gaming account
- c. \$8000 gaming grant, \$2500 spent on PE equipment
- d. Field trips are still on hold
- e. PAC reviewing and evaluation of budget for the future - what PACs have paid for in the past, and what we would pay for in the future. Should we be maintaining that much money in our bank account? Should be spending that's over the next few months.

- f. We're going to be discussing budget and if anybody else is interested in joining that conversation, please contact the PAC email directly to me and we can join you or get you to join in the conversation. So just stay tuned.

5. DPAC Report – Vanessa Gill

- a. virtual career and university fair at Rockridge - less busy than normal
- b. Jennifer Whiteside - new education minister
- c. Nicole Brown of the DPAC team brought up an interesting statistic: 70% mental health between 12 and 25 years - show up for in school and school counselors
- d. schools are not driving COVID, it is adult to adult transmission
- e. Chris Kennedy- 135 First Nations Students, the most in the District; TTP has been extended (260 students in the program); band are ok, but choir is not part of curriculum; air filters installed by end of break; minimal school closures (VCH decision, not school decision); enrolment 2021 for 80 in West Bay and last year, 2020, which was 40 (top enrolment)-highest ever for West Bay
- f. Diane Nelson - E-Sports is coming to WV and is very popular (spectator sport, 2024 Olympics in Paris); league for gaming - Rockridge and West Van High

6. Hot Lunch

- a. first session was this Wednesday and it was very smooth process
- b. Selena and Ed happy to receive feedback
- c. Chris Kennedy approved 3 days a week (Pending Kim's Approval for next term) - Kim would like to wait to expand because office staff are primarily responsible
- d. new vendor: Presto catering - positive comments from families
- e. we have a new hot lunch treasurer: Berry Lin

7. Committees

- a. Outdoor Space - Tanja met with parents, and they are doing some drawings with the kids' vision - conversion to sandbox within the next few weeks - quotes next, and present to District
- b. Fundraising - Anita and Tina and Yin are looking at events in the new year (Valentine's day theme box and fundraiser); Mom's Pantry

8. Traffic

- a. U-Turns by intermediate parents - please do not do this as this is very dangerous; messages received by Candace that two vehicles were parked in upper parking lot and blocking other cars in; take a picture and text to Candace so that this can be addressed to the proper authorities
- b. Next week, Candace will don a pink vest and monitor the situation
- c. Please be mindful of the space on Thompson Place - do not block driveways or cross walks
- d. Walk to School Week January 11
- e. Roseberry - Intermediate Parents - please do not park here as it is too tight and you cannot get out safely (Bylaws will issue tickets)

Questions/Comments?

1. Parent request to have VCH speak to parents so that there is an opportunity to dispel misinformation (ie. schools spread COVID, number crunching and misrepresentation of data, social media).
2. Comment that teaching online is more challenging than it seems for parents and staff and children/students.
3. Parents would like to know what contact tracing looks like. Language is confusion - self isolate vs self monitor - one to individuals may be different than the one to the whole school - VCH does not have a lag for contact tracing, parents are doing a good job of keeping kids at home and parents are diligent with this - testing takes a few days, and that the follow up from VCH is timely.

Parents, please do not organize play dates.

Adjourn