



# WEST BAY SCHOOL

## Parent Advisory Council

West Bay PAC Meeting Minutes-9:15am, Nov 13, 2020, Zoom Virtual Meeting

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Candice Montgomery	Dani Renouf	Danielle Katerberg
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Sophie Ukani	Vanessa Gill	Srabana Dasgupta
Sylvia Butterworth	Yin Yuan	Bihua
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Julie Jeffries	Tina Pu	Emily Lapkin
Lina Liu	Nasim Vafai	Peta Dirassar

Minutes of Oct PAC Meeting: Voted in by Danielle Katerberg and Kim Gould

Agenda for Nov PAC Meeting: Voted in by Candace Montgomery and Sophie Ukai

### 1. “Technology in the time of COVID-19” by Superintendent Chris Kennedy

- a. This is a very exhausting time for staff however it is also a time of innovation  
We are testing new ways of providing education over the next 12 months  
Reliable Internet Connectivity – every school and home has WiFi so that staff have access from work and home. Staff work is not confined to a physical location.
- b. Device plan for students: over 100 devices were purchased
- c. Phones: both our friend and our enemy, but in high school trying to rely on them less, as students are likely to bring a tablet now or a lap top etc.
- d. Social media: how to stay connected as a community
- e. Flexibility: technology has allowed us to increase flexibility in learning. Not all students are on devices at a time, while others work on paper so there is a diversity. No need for computer labs now, learning can be done from anywhere.
- f. Video: use of video is key in staying in the game of learning; this is a growing area and we see this across the province
- g. The challenges (5 obstacles):
  - i. No need for technology
  - ii. No money
  - iii. No hurry – “let’s wait for others first”
  - iv. No desire
  - v. No trust – “technology is bad”

- h.** These obstacles have become obsolete over the past 6 months. They have become successes and opportunities.
- i.** People prefer things that are easy to think about – can we just have a canned plan? Can't we just buy into the program?
- j.** Good teaching isn't that simple, it is complex and requires adaptation.
- k.** March onward – we learned what worked and what needed to improve; fall term has allowed for more reflection, so we are doing better now than in the spring
- l.** In the spring, driven by technology (emergency state) and we are shifting now into a better system in the fall (relevant, connected, unlimited opportunities for learning).
- m.** Create a new norm for teachers and students – we need technology to scale and sustain
- n.** Tools matter because tools impact the way we interact – use the tools well (FreshGrade, Google Classroom platform limitation – the fewer platforms used, the better) – easier for efficiency, easier for learning, easier for parents to help their children with work at home
- o.** Moving to one-to-one opportunities – independent learning in upper grades – caution with this, because we would like to focus on the community nature of school; we would like to focus on the school as a community rather than isolated learning (high school) – the emphasis of connection – preparing students for citizenship and work force
- p.** Trend in learning – connection with nature and the outdoor classroom – interesting combination of virtual connection as well as more connected to our world at the same time – opposite ends of the spectrum however can be connected
- q.** Equity – technology needs to be available to all students – access to everyone is possible (WiFi, devices) – serving the public education system to ensure all children have opportunities to learn
- r.** WiFi at home is an expectation as it accesses opportunities – technology can overcome barriers in access and learning for all
- s.** Students are publishing publicly as a result of technology, so good writing skills is more important than ever before
- t.** Social media needs to be taught – school responsibility
- u.** The power of networks – networks are essential (class mates, digital connections). Children today have access to a much larger network through digital space than ever before.
- v.** Next 12-24 months:
  - i.** Harness innovation – evidence-based curriculum
  - ii.** Re-imagine accountability - universities accept children based on novel measures of testing
  - iii.** Remember the power of the physical world – connect to nature, others
  - iv.** Support the most vulnerable

- v. Reinforcing capacity
- vi. Building system resilience – move from emergency to adaptability and innovation
- vii. Preparing digital resources – coding, apps, robotics
- w. Venn Diagram: Consistent, coherent, connected around digital technology
- x. Questions to consider: impacts of this technology on our system
- y. Celebrate Risk Taking: teachers to think creatively in using technology to teach (be the voice, not the echo) – shine a light on innovation  
Diffusion not replication to connect and build networks: ask how a new trend can support learning, rather than buying into it for the sake of curiosity
- z. Trends: own devices brought to work; District will own and store less; tension between formal and informal learning (how do we recognize this?); device use will increase and become cheaper.
- aa. Online learning is part of every course now; AI, visual and augmented reality, smart schools, biometrics to track attention, anxiety etc of students (as travel becomes less), gamification to promote learning

## 2. Chair's Report

- a. **DPAC Parent Ed- Dr. Shimi Kang “When stress comes home.”** (200 participants)
  - i. Available to parents through PAC – please email PAC Executive directly
- b. **Halloween** – classroom celebrations and a wonderful movie made by the children (thank you, Kim Gould)
- c. **Remembrance Day** – wonderful connections through stories
- d. **Holiday EVENTS**
  - i. Holiday Hampers for 24 families (previously 16) – Sara Relling to coordinate
  - ii. Sign Up Genius and requests for donations (teachers to take the lead and incorporate into the class room)
  - iii. virtual craft fair (Tanja to coordinate)
- e. **PAC NEWS**
  - i. social media and communication policy into bylaws due to challenges with some schools – looking at the PAC role as advocate rather than activist – safety, security and privacy
  - ii. social media to share information not opinions, and to inform parents accurately
  - iii. messenger app to communicate (text reminder for a schedule update eg. Pyjama day, early dismissal)
    - 1. 7 votes counted for this messenger app pursuit

## 3. Principal's Report – Kim Grimwood

Thank you to parents for their support to keep going forward into November.

- a. **Halloween** was a great day for the children, and hopefully this was communicated in the video.
- b. **Video learning conferences** done in a new way – the process worked very well and efficiently.
- c. **IB Evaluation** was completed which was a year-long process – dig into over 75 standards and practices – policies, mission, learning, reflection by the school
  - i. IB coordinator, Ms Espihanen, submitted document over 100 pages long to IB evaluators (videos, Fresh Grade) – 3 days of virtual evaluation (evaluators from Alberta and Ontario).
  - ii. Exit interview was last week – West Bay did an amazing job, culture, community, collaboration, and between teachers and students. Two recommendations: agenda in collaboration time; other recommendation is more a goal.
  - iii. Formal report in 2 months time.
- d. Remembrance Day video – children enjoyed with respectful tone.
- e. Mr Zilesky is going on parental leave as wife expecting first child – new teacher to replace Ms. Tibone, followed by Ms Katelyn Gibeau. (Grade 5)

#### 4. COVID Update

- a. **First confirmed case** yesterday, one letter to Division 6, one letter to whole school, VCH notified yesterday to send letter out the same day; exposure was two weeks ago, VCH was processing in a timely manner so no further information on the time lag was communicated.
- b. **No Play Dates** - We need to explain to kids that visiting a classmate at home is different from seeing them in school because of the strict sanitary protocols that cannot be ensured in someone's home. It also expands the bubble
- c. **Work as a community** - So we are asking everyone to please follow the protocols to keep everyone safe.
- d. **Social media** is wonderful, but need to be careful where you are getting the information.
- e. **Wear Masks** - in common areas. Teachers do not need to wear them inside their classrooms, but many choose to and encourage students to wear them too.

#### 5. Treasurer's report

- a. General account balance of Approx \$194,000, of that \$8,000 gaming
- b. We have the most amount of money in the district and need to look at ways to spend it to align with other PACs.
  - i. Deadline of grants for spending and specific on what type of project to spend it on (extension and diversity given)
- c. We are also looking into putting the money into GICS to generate some income.
- d. Also looking at payment platforms that make it easier to sell items during fundraising.

## 6. DPAC Report – Nov 4

- a. Chris Kennedy spoke about expenditures of COVID to purchase air filters and update old filter systems. They will be installed in December
- b. **Sandra Lynn and Maureen Lee, clinical counselor** – talked about how the pandemic builds resilience and the various stages on how that happens. There was discussion regarding so many events being cancelled and how it created stress. There is more focus on outdoor space and education. Also increased youth outreach workers in schools.
- c. **Temporary Transition Program or TTP** will be ending January – space saved for children who are coming back

## 7. Hot Lunch

- a. Launching first week of December with mandates in place.
- b. The vendors will place the lunches for each division together and put them outside the school. Guest based staff will come to collect them. There will be two vendors that we will be working with. Subway and a new vendor Presto Catering.
- c. Start Wednesday for December and January with roughly a seven to eight week term.

## 8. Committees

- a. **Outdoor space** – after some discussion and consideration we are going to focus on the slope area behind the primary wing and the area under the intermediate wing.
  - i. Ms Flett spearheaded the competition for students to design the spaces. There were 11 primary entries and 42 intermediate entries. Two winners were chosen from votes.
  - ii. Contractors will level and stabilize the ground, which is about \$29,000.
  - iii. Deck chairs will be ordered for the grade sevens in front of their portables. These can also be taken to other areas for use.
- b. **Grad Committee**
  - i. Families are offering services and products such as paddleboarding and ski lessons.
- c. **Poinsettias and Purdy's** – Its been setup as a holiday fundraiser. Deadline is on the 18<sup>th</sup> and pickup is Dec 4
- d. **West Bay Masks** – a set of black masks and should have a design ready in a few weeks
- e. **Oliver's Labels** – Similar to Mabel's labels

## 9. Traffic

Generally going well.

- a. **Dangerous U-turns** – There are still a lot of parents making u-turns immediately after pickup, sometimes on a crosswalk, driveway or sidewalk where it could be dangerous to other kids.
- b. **Upper Lot** – Some parents drive too fast to it.
- c. **Need more help** in the committee to help direct traffic

**d. \$300 Grant for a walk to school program** – Not really feasible with Covid, so the funds would be used for prizes to encourage kids to walk individually instead. More suggestions welcome.

**e. Speed Bumps** – There was a question about speed bumps and they are difficult to implement because there are lots of regulations around them

**Questions/Comments?**

**Adjourn**