

# KITSILANO SECONDARY SCHOOL 08/09

PAC MEETING MINUTES 02

21 October 2008

**PRESENT:**

- Alex Grant**, Principal; Karen Coflin, teacher; Gena Kolson, Librarian.
- Executive members:** James Burton, Jacqueline Stoeckler-Sihvonen, Cathy Goodban, Andrew Larigakis
- 21 PAC members** (see sign in sheet)

Minutes by Andrew Larigakis

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Staff Room - Kitsilano Secondary School

Item	Minutes	Action
1.01	Minutes of September 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2008 adopted	Info
2.01	<p><b>Principal's Report</b> by Alex Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-at the last staff Professional Development Day there was a presentation by SACY. As well, there was a "Capacity Café" in which some students answered questions about drug and alcohol abuse. Staff members broke off into groups of 12 plus student(s).</li> <li>-reasons cited by students for drug use at school included boredom and lack of anyone noticing or acknowledging them.</li> <li>-Principal noted that "Conversation is the anti-drug". Youths should be spoken to early, often and regularly about drugs and alcohol.</li> <li>-Gary Little and Lynn Green, two VSB Superintendents, led a session on "Assessment". This included looking at examples of student work and examining how one might assess it. Reviewing and improving Assessment is one of the objectives that has been targeted in the Kits 2008-2009 School Growth Plan.</li> <li>-Kits "I Walk to Breakfast" event was a big success and approximately 400 students participated.</li> <li>-as an item of interest, the Senior Boys soccer team today (21<sup>st</sup>) won the City championship.</li> <li>-school enrolment number is now officially 1514 students. Kits did receive additional staffing earlier on for the increased student numbers.</li> <li>-there has been a challenge in filling a part-time position in the Tech wing because the job is only part time.</li> <li>-this year Kits will have a total of eight student teachers from U.B.C and U.Vic. Positions for student teachers have been limited to eight.</li> </ul>	Info
3.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-students Collette and Jacqui presented information on the student led and organized "<b>Crossroads Conference</b>" to be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at U.B.C.</li> <li>-adults will facilitate discussion with high school students on the three themes, 1) Social Issues 2) Environment, 3) Economy.</li> <li>-the students have involvement from 51 adult trustees, two think tanks, and 18 Community Groups. Trustees include Larry Beasley, Bob Rennie, Phillip Owen and Libby Davies, among others.</li> <li>-the Keynote Speaker will be Peter Legge.</li> <li>-3/4 of Vancouver schools are involved including Public and Private schools.</li> <li>-600 students will attend. Students will firstly be invited to attend. The remaining tickets will be available to anyone a first-come first-serve basis.</li> <li>-the overall budget for the conference is \$7,400, which will mainly be for catering.</li> <li>-tickets will cost between \$10 and \$15.</li> <li>-part of the funding is coming from PACs and the students ask that we consider their request to the PAC for a contribution of \$200-300.</li> <li>-the PAC were very impressed by the ambition, organizational skills and effort</li> </ul>	Info

	<p>of the students.  -a response to their funding request was promised after the next PAC meeting.</p>	Action
3.01	<p><b>Teachers' Report</b> by Gena Kolson  -Gena requested that the PAC help disseminate information regarding the "Friends of the School Library" through the PAC e-news.  -parents are encouraged to become a "Friend". One can sign up as a Friend at any time in the Library or by returning a signed form. The group advocates on behalf of the Library. Becoming a Friend does not carry any obligations but enhances the Library's ability to lobby for more books, for instance.  -The Friends of the School Library will be presenting their first speaker on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be Daniel Law from U.B.C. who will talk on "Cyber-Bullying". Parents are encouraged to attend as this is a significant and growing problem.  -a boy was recently bullied in Halifax for wearing a pink t-shirt. On November 21<sup>st</sup> students at Kits will wear pink t-shirts with a silk-screened message to make a statement against bullying.  -two trips overseas were being proposed for students for this summer. One will be to Spain and will focus on Language and History. The second (<i>now no longer happening</i>) would have been to Nice and been an Art History tour. Students in Grades 8 to 11 who are judged to be sufficiently mature and responsible have the opportunity to go.  -Gena made an appeal on teachers' behalf to those parents with children in elementary school to withdraw their children from the Foundations Skills Assessment (FSA) tests which are used by the Ministry of Education to assess students skills in Grades 4 and 7.  -Gena stated that teachers, through the VSTA, have put their support behind the COPE / Vision slate of candidates for School Board Trustees.  -PAC members felt it was not appropriate for the PAC to support any particular political party or candidate.  -teachers appreciated the PAC's position but requested that the VSTA position be noted in the minutes for parents information.  -Kits has a Book Club for students. Our school is part of the "Book Huddle".</p>	Info
4.01	<p>-Gwyneth Edgecumbe put forward a motion that the Kits PAC host an <b>all-candidates meeting of potential School Board Trustees</b> in the school auditorium prior to the municipal elections. Mary Chipman seconded the motion. Motion passed by the PAC.  -Gwyneth will take on the role of primary coordinator for the proposed event.  -Jacqueline Stoeckler-Sihvonen will inform DPAC.</p>	Info  Gwyneth Jacqueline
5.01	<p><b>School Renewal-Seismic Upgrade</b> by James Burton  -James, Larry Benge and Jacqueline met with the Principal to review the Ministry Area Standards and their relationship the the existing building area at Kits.  -Jacqueline informed the PAC that there is a "new discussion" going on in the government about the size of schools.  -she noted, as well, that the question of "process" has been brought up at Committee Two of DPAC. Parents will now be more included. By the end of November, she said, we may have a "whole new process".  -Gwyneth commented that "Healthy Living" seems a "nebulous" and "loosey goosey" theme for the school.  -Thomas Winkler stated that parents should get together to brainstorm about what we want for the school rather than just react to proposals.  -Jacqueline thought that discussion has only been about what the school is now.</p>	Info
6.01	<p>-Cathy Goodban provided the <b>Treasurer's Update</b>. She stated that, as of today, there is \$3,915.00 in the KitsNOW fund.  -receipts have been submitted for the Grade 8 Barbeque for the sum of</p>	Info

	<p>\$492.00. The amount appears to be in line with other years. Cathy moves that we cover the amount. James seconds. Motion passes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the KitsNOW booth and handouts will be at the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences.</li> <li>-it was suggested that we also have a jar for cash donations. Claudia Krieger volunteered to man the jar at Parent-Teacher night.</li> <li>-Andrew Larigakis requested a clearer picture of how much money PAC has and might have, and how much was needed for what expenditures.</li> <li>-the PAC has yet to receive any Casino money. Alex stated that typically the amount is \$25-30,000. This money is for extra-curricular activities – for instance the Yearbook, Clubs, and Sports.</li> <li>-Ingrid Bjerkelund - not present - was apparently looking after the distribution of forms for the teachers' Wish List.</li> <li>-Alex stated that we should be replacing at least one of the computer labs each year at a cost of \$25-30,000. Because we have not had the funds, we currently need three new labs.</li> <li>-Charlie Kirkley recommended that, for fundraising purposes, we should establish a budget for the year, and have a list of items we wish to fund. With this information we will be in a more convincing position to go out and fundraise through the KitsNOW program.</li> </ul>	Claudia
7.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Jacqueline provided information regarding the <b>possible closure of schools during the Olympics</b>.</li> <li>-Jacqueline stated that, at the committee level, the VSB was not currently in favour of school closures.</li> <li>-many parents rely on schools to provide care for their children during the day.</li> <li>-it was stated that closing schools would only benefit "elite West-side parents".</li> <li>-the Vanoc transportation committee was looking at using school parking areas for parking during the Olympics.</li> <li>-Gwyneth put forward a motion that PAC do a survey of parents to determine who was in favour of school closure during the Olympics. Motion not passed.</li> </ul>	Info
8.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-it was confirmed that the <b>School Planning Committee</b> had not yet had its first meeting. Alex soon to set a time for the first meeting.</li> </ul>	Alex
9.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b>student social events</b> discussed.</li> <li>-there are currently no school dances planned.</li> <li>-Jacqueline felt that there was no positive way for students to socialize as a group outside of school time. Mary Chipman agreed.</li> <li>-suggested older and younger students could have separate events.</li> <li>-small communities have all-ages events.</li> <li>-ballroom dancing or square dancing suggested.</li> <li>-how about a Beatles cover band?</li> <li>-right-after-school event?</li> <li>-grade by grade?</li> <li>-kids don't have any role modeling for suitable behaviour at such events. A discussion of "grinding" ensued.</li> <li>-SACY should be involved.</li> <li>-Alex suggested students could come forward with their own proposals. However, he noted that in spite of extraordinary effort by the organizing committee, and the responsibility for their peers placed upon Grade 12 students, there were still "a whole series of problems" with unacceptable behaviour at last year's dance for Grade 12s.</li> <li>-students keep asking for and getting another chance, and there continue to be problems.</li> <li>-nevertheless, the door is not closed.</li> <li>-Alex feels this is a student issue and students need to organize it.</li> </ul> <p>- the "Jazz Café" is November 14<sup>th</sup>.</p>	Info

10.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-annual <b>Teacher Appreciation Cookie Bash</b> is upcoming.</li> <li>-Gwyneth says that Mary Laird has offered to organize it.</li> </ul>	Action
11.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-annual <b>Tree Lot Sale</b> to be held again this year.</li> <li>-Charlie will be involved in organization. There will be Santa Claus there on weekends and they will be collecting donations for the Food Bank.</li> <li>-the work is done by the sports teams and the proceeds go to sports activities.</li> </ul>	Info

End of Minutes to meeting of October 21st, 2008