



VICTORIA
CONFEDERATION
OF
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS
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VCPAC General Meeting
February 23, 2021 7:00 pm on Zoom

Present:

REPS:

Susan (Braefoot, Gordon Head), Allison Hyatt (Central), Elena Schultz (Doncaster), Lisa Gelling (Colquitz, Tillicum), Christine Sullivan (Esquimalt), Angela Carmichael (George Jay), Erika (Hillcrest), Jodi Whiteman (VCPAC / Lambrick), Marketa Lund (Lansdowne, Quadra), Dylan Gunning (Macaulay), Lisa Gunderson (Mt. Doug), Dayna Beuthin (Northridge), Leah (Reynolds), Kristil Hammer (VCPAC/ South Park), Nicole Nyvall (Spectrum), Jennifer Childs (Vic West), Colleen O'Brien (View Royal),

NON-VOTING: Christine Payne, Kim Currie, Erin, Karen Anderson

Welcome:

Meeting started: 7:00 pm

Meeting chaired by Kristil Hammer. There is quorum.

Agenda, Minutes:

Agenda: changed next meeting date, minutes date, add PAC fundraising, add crossing guard update, add equity survey

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended
moved by: Kim Currie
seconded by: Colleen O'Brien
Approved

ACTION: send out minutes with meeting agenda, check site access of documents

Minutes - approval of minutes moved to March meeting

Post Secondary Transition Meeting

The meeting was generally dissatisfying. The district has arranged for an information meeting for parents with UVIC reps on March 9. The district presented SD61 as one of the leader districts for attendance. They say high school remote learning has forced students to have more ownership of their learning. It was pointed out there are philosophical differences between the district and parents ie. lack of interactions vs more ownership. There was a lack of balance between pros and cons of high school learning in a COVID environment.

High School Issues Letters

VCPAC has not received any reply to the 2 letters sent regarding high school issues. What do high schools want us to do? A survey is being sent out by the district. It was suggested to wait until that is complete before we proceed.

Bylaws - Appeals Process

VCPAC sent a letter to the board. The bylaw amendment appeared on the District meeting agenda with no packaging/information attached. There has been no consultation. Kristil called BCCPAC and John Gaipman provided good feedback. This will be coming up slowly so it's something to consider and listen for feedback from parents. Waiting for Freedom of Information request.

Equity Survey

An Equity Survey was completed in class for grades 7, 9, and 11 students. It was unclear what the purpose of the survey is. Parents found it confusing. It would be nice for parents to know ahead of time, especially if the topic may be triggering for some students. Demographic questions only distinguished indigenous learners. It appears to almost be a replica of another annual survey for indigenous learners. There was a question asking if students had experienced racism.

- ACTION:** get a copy of the notice telling about the survey
- ACTION:** bring back as agenda item at next meeting
- ACTION:** Kim will take it to John Gaipman for clarification
- ACTION:** Add topic of surveys in general to future agenda

SD61 Board Meeting

Kristil discussed the amended budget and the significant falls in fundraising, especially at the elementary level. It will be discussed at the next OPPC meeting. PACs are doing less fund raising but they are also spending less. Some PACs don't know what to spend money on.

ACTION: Ask PACs to go back to schools to engage with principals about what we need to fund raise for.

Crossing Guard Update

PACs discussed who performs crossing guard duties at their schools and how they are paid. Most schools are coordinated through the Greater Victoria Crossing Guard Association, and many use EAs to cover this duty between bells. The standard and satisfaction of crossing guard coverage varies across schools.

ACTION: ask the Greater Victoria Crossing Guard Association to come to our next meeting to provide information on their service.

Anti-racism Funding

VCPAC was approached about providing funds to support an anti-racism initiative. VCPAC does not currently have funds set aside for such initiatives. It was agreed that it would be worthwhile to provide funds, but the process to access them cannot be too onerous. A motion to approve the funds could not be made without a financial report on the current status of VCPAC accounts.

ACTION: move to next meeting when there is a financial report.

ACTION: Lisa will bring a copy of a simple application form used for similar funding initiatives.

Awards

Angela described the annual awards ceremony and how nominations are sought, reviewed, and awarded to deserving people involved in schools. She is happy to take the lead but will need assistance from an awards committee. The plan is to get the information out to PACs in March. The ceremony will take place in May, either virtually or in person.

ACTION: Request volunteer committee members

ACTION: Angela will send out the information to PACs

Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for VCPAC executive positions. The voting will take place at the April AGM

ACTION: Post and distribute information

ACTION: Create a short video describing what VCPAC is.

Inclusion Survey:

Presented by Christine Payne. The survey has been distributed to and reviewed by all VCPAC executive members. It is being finalized. There is a lack of funds to translate the entire survey but they may include a brief statement at the start of the survey in multiple languages. It should be ready to go out in about 2 weeks.

What's Happening in Schools:

Members were asked to share what's happening in their schools (challenges/successes)

- high school challenges
 - Learning gaps
 - Criteria for admission
 - Recognition by local post-secondary institutions of COVID effects on learning outcomes
 - Some US Universities have made admission accommodations public

- May be too late for current grade 12 students but there is still time for grade 11 students
- Check with Education Planner BC

ACTION: Request to expand March 9 meeting to include other post-secondary schools and delay the meeting to a later date. Need to be intentional: What is COVID's impact on post secondary admissions? What supports are in place for students coming in and what are the expectations? Maybe invite SD62 and SD63.

Next Meeting

March 30, 2021 7pm on Zoom