

# Esquimalt High School December PAC meeting

Dec 8,2020

Time: 6:45

Location: Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Tina Pierik (principal); Kimberley Hamilton (Chair; co-President); Kim Currie (co-President, and co-VCPAC/BCCPAC); Barb von Sacken (Secretary); Christine Sullivan (co-VCPAC/BCCPAC); Char Charlie (Indigenous Education Rep); Barry S. (Alumni Rep); Julia Herzog (member); Howard Herzog (member)

Meeting brought to order by Kimberley

1. **Acknowledgment of Indigenous Territories** – Kimberley
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Kimberley
  - Attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Review and approval of Agenda** – Kimberley
  - The meeting had Quorum
  - **Motion** by Kim to approve Agenda, seconded by Kimberley, motion carried.
4. **Approval of Nov 17,2020 Meeting minutes**
  - **Motion** by Christine to approve minutes, seconded by Kim, motion carried.
  - Brenda's last name from November minutes remains unknown.
5. **Administration Report** – Tina Pierik,
  - a. Quarter 1 Report Cards (went home on November 26) & Quarter 2 Interim Reports (will be sent home on December 18)
    - As of Dec. 18, we are halfway through the second term.
    - Jan 4 will be start of a new schedule.
  - b. November 20th Professional Development Session
    - Educational camp in the morning. The afternoon was book club with Jessie Thistle, author of From the Ashes. Jessie generously donated his time; Esquimalt made a donation to the Out of the Rain youth program.
  - c. Seasonal Music Programs and Challenge Update
    - Dec 16 is the virtual Zoom music/band concert. There will be an invite in this week's Docker.
    - Challenge teacher is working with some Challenge students on Mondays at lunch (led by Jamie Burren).
    - Monthly Challenge parent update in the Docker, coming this Friday.
  - d. Parent & Guardian/Teacher Conferences - upcoming
  - e. Other updates

- Parent Education Night will be on the topic of school-related anxiety. Designed for parents of Challenge students, but all welcome.
- Dec 9 boxed lunch and gift swap for staff.
- Culinary Arts program - 660 gingerbread kits have been ordered resulting in a cheque for \$6600 to Santa's Anonymous!
- Ola, Esquimalt's Emotional Support Cat has been on the local news. Last year a grad created cards featuring Ola and the money raised went to the Out of the Rain youth program.
- Food and hamper drive is currently happening. Donations go to Esquimalt school families.
  - 30 Esquimalt families are being supported this year.

**6. Monthly Parent-Guardian Town Hall/Open Question Period – Opportunity for parents/guardians to raise questions with the PAC Exec or ESQ Admin (10 minutes)**

A. Will the PAC endorse the BC Teachers' Federation open letter to parents asking parents to support a culture of mask wearing? (see November 24th letter available at <https://bctf.ca/newsreleases.aspx>)

B. Will the PAC take action to show support for mask wearing (except for those individuals who are unable to wear masks) in all classes: for example: asking current student leadership for ideas on actions the students could take regarding encouraging mask use, or sending a letter to all parents and students, or asking our principal to place signs throughout the school (if this has not yet been done) and take any other action that we may come up with.

C. If our school has autonomy in its policy making, will the PAC strongly request that Principal Pierik introduce mandatory mask wearing throughout our school, including in classrooms, except for those individuals who are unable to wear masks?

Tina's response to C:

- The principal cannot override the provincial health order but needs to implement it.
- Esquimalt High staff cannot make students wear masks in their cohort but can elsewhere. Most kids are being compliant.
- Leadership students are creating posters via Instagram and there is lots of reminding happening.
- Schools are proven to be very safe places and students are doing what is expected of them.
- Parents can help by encouraging students to follow guidelines outside of school.

D. Will the PAC formally request that Dr. Bonnie Henry mandate mask wearing throughout all high schools, including in all classrooms?

**Discussion:**

- Julia requested the PAC represent the above concerns to support the Teachers Federation and to provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry strongly request that high school students wear masks in the school building.
- Tina agrees that parents have power and can put their wishes forward to BCCPAC.
- Kim has already connected with BCCPAC on the topics of mask wearing and noted we can as a PAC make a request to Dr. Bonnie Henry to change policy to make mask wearing mandatory at all times, if that is what our Pac membership wants.
- Christine noted the various levels of advocacy may make it harder to be heard and wondered about teacher feedback. Asked how and who will enforce mask wearing if it becomes mandatory?
- Julia noted her concerns were not an enforcement issue
- Kimberley noted we are moving towards a “culture of mask wearing”.
- Julia requested 3 things:
  - a motion that PAC write a letter to the Esquimalt community to ask parents and guardians to support a culture of mask wearing,
  - the PAC to endorse the Teachers Federation open letter, and
  - the PAC send letter to Dr. Henry asking to make masks mandatory to provide a consistent direction to students.
- **Motion** by Kimberley – PAC to write open letter to parents and guardians that encourages mask wearing at school and culture of mask wearing (following the tone of the Teacher’s Federation letter but doesn’t endorse this letter). Seconded by Julia. Motion carried unanimously. Kim will write the letter.
- Tina suggested PAC send letter to BCCPAC and ask them to forward.
- **Motion** by Julia - PAC draft a letter to Dr. Bonnie Henry asking her to mandate mask wearing throughout all high schools and cc the letter to BCCPAC and VCPAC. Seconded by Howard
  - Christine wondered about PAC staying in our lane and talking to parents of ESQ first.
  - Kim and Tina commented that they felt these actions were in line with PAC activities.
  - Vote – One opposed. One abstained. 3 in favour. Motion carried.

## 7. Executive Reports

**Communications (VACANT)** – suggest there may be student who could act as communications

**VCPAC/BCCPAC Reps:** Christine S & Kim C

VCPAC meeting on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020- Christine

Items Discussed included:

- Outdoor learning in relation to what individual schools are doing and how they are using funding towards outdoor learning spaces. Activities seem dependent on school location and set up.

- Noted there is inconsistency in PACs getting permission to use things like canopies some needed permits while others did not.
- Mental health of high school communities.
  - A lot of concern around transition to post-secondary, students are feeling concern about what that will look like. Suggested exit interviews to get a sense of where graduating students are at.
  - Char offered to do exit interviews with her Songhees students.
  - Post-secondary schools across Canada have not made accommodations on entrance requirements.
- \$250 Parent education grant has been received. This will be combined with \$250 from last year.
  - Suggested pooling \$ with other PACs for online parent learning (e.g. guest speaker Allison Reese).

**Kimberley H & Kim C – PAC Constitution and Bylaws review**

- **Motion** by Kimberley to again table, *PAC Constitution & Bylaws – Review and discussion of Constitution*, seconded by Howard. Motion carried.

8. New Business

- a. Review of Calendar of key events as general reminder.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12th, 2021, @ 6:45pm via Zoom  
 Agenda will show up in Docker in both weeks prior to meeting.

Motion to adjourn Kimberley

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>1 - Mask Wearing</b>	PAC to write open letter to parents and guardians that encourages mask wearing at school and culture of mask wearing (following the tone of the Teacher’s Federation letter but doesn’t endorse the Teachers Federation letter).	<b>Kim</b>	<b>Jan 13</b>	
<b>2 - Letter to Bonnie Henry</b>	PAC draft a letter to Dr. Bonnie Henry asking her to mandate mask wearing	<b>Kim/Kimberley</b>	<b>Jan 13</b>	

	throughout all high schools and cc the letter to BCCPAC and VCPAC			
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