

Esquimalt High School
MINUTES - PAC General Meeting
November 17th, 2020

Location: Online Zoom Meeting
Start Time: 6:45 pm

Attendees

- Members: *Kim H.*; *Kim C.*; *Boon A.*; *Luc S.*; *Brenda (last name not recorded)*; *Tess B.*; *Christine S.*
- Invited Guests: *Tina P.*, School Principal; *Barry S.*, Alumni Representative

Relevant Documents (Find these in the PAC Google Drive)

- Calendar of Key Events
- Report from VCPAC Representative for meeting held October 27, 2020

Meeting Chair: *Kimberley H.*

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territories – *Kimberley H.*
2. Welcome, Introductions and Attendance

Attendees introduce themselves.

Brenda comments regarding difficulty accessing Zoom link information on day of meeting given that it is listed only in the weekly Docker. Co-Presidents respond that the PAC Executive does not have access to all parent/guardian email addresses, which hinders ability to communicate effectively with PAC membership.

Kim H. asks members attending tonight's meeting to provide their email address for future PAC communications.

Quorum achieved.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Amendment: Alumni Representative will speak before Administration Report.

Kim C. moves to accept the Agenda with amendment. *Christine S.* seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

4. Approval of October 13th, 2020 General Meeting minutes

Amendments:

- Change "EVITRA" to "VTRA", which is an acronym for 'Violent Threat Assessment'
- BCCPAC dues have not been reimbursed for two (2) years

Kim C. moves to approve the October 13, 2020 General Meeting minutes with amendments. *Tess B.* seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

5. Report from Alumni Representative - *Barry S.*

Barry S. is Class of '61 and began participating in alumni activities eight (8) years ago.

The Alumni Association formed twelve (12) years ago and is registered under the Societies Act. This is the branch that liaises with school administration and provides needed financial assistance. Tina Pierik, school principal, attends meetings. This branch also manages school archives and heritage; work is currently underway to digitize materials and to create a list of Distinguished Alumni.

The Alumni Foundation is the fundraising branch. This branch is responsible for Ribfest, Buccaneer Days, scholarships, and the turf field project (\$265K of \$3M goal has been raised thus far). They seek government subsidies as well as donations from the local business community.

The Optimist Club is offering 17 refurbished bicycles to students in need. The Alumni Association will provide helmets, at no cost to students. **ACTION:** *Tina P.* will work on finding homes for the bicycles via school channels.

Resources referenced: <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/> for access to general information, minutes, and newsletter. Contact information is ehsalumni1959@gmail.com

Tina P. underscores the great and generous work of the Alumni Association.

6. Administration Report – *Tina P.*

- Xmas hamper campaign will take place again this year. This is a staff-driven project whereby approximately 30 food hampers are prepared for school families in need.
- Esquimalt School Plan for 2020/2021 remains the same and aligns nicely with the new Strategic Plan for School District 61 <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/plans/>
- There were no face-to-face Parent & Guardian/Teacher conferences this year. Several parents made appointments outside the schedule timetable.
- Quarter 1 ends with participation rates being about normal. Quarter 2 has begun with an extended lunch period, as requested by teachers (time for transition to afternoon course) and students (time to finish eating). Students on a full-day schedule are welcome to stay in their morning classroom to eat, with the exception of the Computer Lab and Auto Shop classrooms.
- Grad Leadership is planning two movie nights and a gingerbread house decorating contest to fundraise for Grad '21 (student organized and student led). A winter formal is not being organized. Announcements by Grad Leadership are being made via Instagram and a newsletter (next edition coming end of November). There will be a Grad assembly in December.
- Rugby Academy, Music Programs, Applied Design/Skills/Tech Programs are all ON for the 2020-21 school year. There will be no Rugby in December and January.

- NEW! For students in distance learning courses, there will be the option of in-school support between 4pm and 7pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are approximately 80 Esquimalt High Students undergoing distance learning; the in-school support is a way to keep these kids connected to the Esquimalt High community.
- A learning center in Room 330 has been set up for those days where students have only a half-day of in-class learning. Students must reserve a spot. This should be useful for homework help and make-up tests, for example.
- Room 315 has been made available for drop-in use by students after school hours.
- The library is open but – due to Covid concerns - limits have been placed on capacity.

7. Parent/Guardian Input & Questions

Q: What course changes and impacts are we seeing within the 4C Challenge Program as a result of COVID-19 (i.e. Grade 9 retreat; 4C conference; class reps; connecting the cohorts)?

A: (*Tina P.*) There are no social activities planned, so the retreat and conference will not take place this year. Due to strict cohort restrictions, students within the Challenge program are getting to know each other very well. 95% of the Challenge program is classroom-based, so the learning continues. Better weather in the springtime may bring more opportunities for outdoor activities.

Q: Why has the Grade 12 English Challenge course been removed from the curriculum? Why was there no consultation with parents?

A: (*Tina P.*) Covid-19 restrictions have limited the ability to inform parents and students of changes to the curriculum. Parents were advised via the Docker and the course selection form. Of note, course offerings are not guaranteed and are reviewed based on the needs of the student cohort involved. It was a department decision to remove English Challenge from the 2020-21 Grade 12 curriculum and to offer a more project-based course for this cohort of students. The decision took into account the mental health well-being of students as well as staffing considerations.

Tina P. invites parents to communicate directly with her and/or with teachers with any and all concerns.

Kim C. invites parents to contact the PAC Executive with any questions they would like to have addressed by administration. Every PAC General Meeting includes an opportunity for members to ask questions.

8. Executive Reports

Finance

Tess B. presents the proposed PAC budget for 2020-21. Motion by *Kim C.* to approve the budget. *Kim H.* seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

VCPAC/BCCPAC

Christine S. presents her report on the VCPAC meeting of October 27. Invitation to members to volunteer for the school board's Indigenous Equity committee (more information available by contacting kristilh@vcpac.ca). *Kim C.* once again encourages members to subscribe to the VCPAC 'SNIPS' newsletter via the VCPAC website <https://vcpac.ca/>

Confirmation from *Tess B.* that a request for BCCPAC membership fee reimbursement has been put forth to VCPAC. **ACTION:** *Tess B.* to report to the VCPAC/BCCPAC Rep once reimbursement has been effected.

Next VCPAC Meeting is on Tuesday, November 24th, 2020.

Communications

The Communications Coordinator is not in attendance. She has relayed to the co-Presidents that she is unable to fulfill her duties and has requested that a volunteer take her place. No volunteers amongst attendees. *Tina P.* offers the school's Facebook page for publishing PAC information.

Kim C. asks membership to provide ideas on how to improve PAC communication via esquimaltpac@gmail.com

Indigenous Education Department (IED)

PAC Rep is not in attendance. No update.

Co-Presidents' Report

Motion by *Kimberley H* to move the review of Constitution to the December PAC meeting. *Kim C* seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

Kim C. asks for feedback regarding Parent & Guardian/Teacher Conferences. *Christine S.* asks about the mental health of teachers during Covid-19. *Tina P.* responds that some staff have taken a leave of absence and there is a weekly check-in of teachers by the administration. Teachers are undergoing a workshop on the topic of 'Resilience', led by Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe. References made to the following resources: <https://scoutsca.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/2020/09/guide-to-resilient-children.pdf>; <https://robynehd.ca/>

9. New Business/Calendar of Key Events

Kim C. speaks of a BCCPAC survey asking about PAC membership's experience with virtual learning. Three (3) participants have put their name forward; two (2) additional participants are required. **ACTION:** *Tina P.* will put a reminder in the Docker.

Kim C. and *Kim H.* present the Calendar of Key Events, a living document to ensure important deadlines are not missed by the PAC Executive. Members are invited to email the PAC Executive if they notice any missing events. *Christine S.* notes that the deadlines for

applying for the BC Gaming Grant, Thrifty Smile Card and BCCPAC membership are missing from the calendar. **ACTION:** *Kim C.* to add missing events to the calendar.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 8th, 2020, @ 6:45pm via Zoom

Adjournment: 8:31pm