

Esquimalt High School
FINAL PAC Minutes
April 13, 2021
esquimaltpac@gmail.com

Attendees: Vicki Roberts (Vice Principal); Ange Coutts (teacher); Kim Currie (co-President); Kimberley Hamilton (co-President); Christine Sullivan (VCPAC Rep); Tess Brown (Treasurer); Jason Easton (member); Barry Scott (Alumni)

Absent: Barb von Sacken (Secretary)

Meeting brought to order by KH at 6:47pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territories - KH

2. Welcome and Introductions.

3. Review and approval of Agenda

Motion to approve - KC; Seconded - KH. Motion carried.

4. Approval of February 9, 2020 General Meeting minutes

Motion to approve – CS; Seconded – KC. Motion carried.

5. Administration Report – Vicki Roberts

a. Capstone Project – Ange Coutts

This is the first year for the Capstone Project, a graduation requirement under the new curriculum and worth 2 credits. Students complete a passion project (40pts), documenting their process (30pts) and reflecting upon their learning (30pts). Students are coached by someone within the school community with whom they have a connection (e.g. counselor, case manager, teacher-mentor). The work culminates in a ‘Gala’, where projects are presented to the public. This year’s gala will be held May 5 under public health guidance.

If, for whatever reason, a student is unable to complete the full responsibilities of a capstone project, the “SOS” option is offered. Here, the student must complete three 5-year plans, create a budget, attend a ‘reflection’ appointment, and attend the gala event (or one of two make-up sessions for said gala). This will earn the student a grade of 50% and meet graduation requirements.

The next deadline is April 21, when students have a 15-minute check-in with their coaches. Any questions can be directed to acoutts@sd61.bc.ca

Q: Can the Alumni Association be of assistance?

A: Yes! The hope is that the greater public (including our alumni friends and media) be invited to the annual Gala event – under the health guidelines of the day. Funding would be greatly appreciated for food. A formal funding request will be made to the Esquimalt High School Alumni Association by Ange Coutts.

Q: Are the coaches paid for this work?

A: The coaches volunteer their time outside of paid hours, but there is a small pot of money allotted for teacher “release time”. Administration staff are not remunerated for their coaching time. There are currently 29 volunteers. Ange

Coutts manages the coaches and oversees the project and is paid one block of teaching time.

- b. Graduation volunteer hour requirements
Administration is being flexible with this, given Covid-19 public health guidance.
- c. Graduation events
To be held June 19. Planning is underway; likely to be another car parade/drive-thru diploma ceremony.
- d. 2021-2022 Timetable survey
Results: 51.6% of Parents rated the overall 2020-21 experience as “good”; Parents were ‘somewhat’ (44.1%) or ‘very satisfied’ (30.8%) with the quarter semester system; 62.4% want to know the 2021-22 timetable in advance and want it to remain consistent all year.

Q: Will the quarter semester system stay on after the pandemic is over?

A: All administrative changes that occurred during the pandemic will be reviewed to determine if they are worth keeping. Here is some of the feedback we received:

Benefits	Challenges
Focus on/teach fewer subjects at once	Long periods seated; hard to maintain focus
Immersive/concentrated experience	Hybrid schedule confusing
Less homework/prep	Need discipline for home-based work
Less overwhelming (reduced stress)	Easy to fall behind if class missed
Reduces contacts (safer from Covid)	Stressful in highly academic courses
Fewer transitions	Unable to cover full curriculum
Relationship-building with teachers	Gap between subjects a concern
Less movement in the hallways	Lack of socialization
Great for longer projects (e.g. shops, culinary)	Inconsistent breaks
Later start to the day	Need additional support for vulnerable learners

Q: Will the late start in the day be retained?

A: Administration heard loud and clear that students and parents liked the late start. A late start would mean cutting back hours elsewhere (e.g. lunchtime) due to contractual obligations with teaching staff.

- e. School mascot.
Deadline for survey is Friday, April 16.
- f. Student Learning survey.
Deadline is April 30 for parents/students in Grades 10, 12.
- g. Musical
Production is being filmed and should be ready by early June. **ACTION (CS):**
Remove call for volunteers from Facebook page.

- h. Federal Covid funding
Allows for 1.0FTE to help students struggling academically.
- i. Summer school will not be offered by SD61 in 2021.
- j. District Financial Budget for 2021-2022
Being discussed at SD61 special meeting on April 13, 2021. Challenging time for teachers.

Q: Are Esquimalt parents weighing in, either to administration or to the PAC Executive?

A: Administrators are redirecting parents to SD61. PAC Executive has not received communication from parents. The Esquimalt Music Parents Association is contacting parents/guardians directly regarding proposed cuts to the Music program.

6. Open Question Period

Q: Are any staff on stress leave?

A: Some staff are on a leave of absence, but the administration cannot comment on the nature of the leave.

Q: Are you anticipating turnover in personnel next year?

A: Esquimalt High teachers are exceptionally loyal; turnover rates are low relatively speaking. That said, finding qualified French Immersion teachers is always a challenge.

Q: Were all parents notified regarding the decision not to run the book club for Dr. Shimi Kang's books?

A: Unsure. **ACTION (VR)**: Look into whether the cancellation was communicated to interested parents.

Q: What is the official position regarding the decision not to share member contact information with the school's PAC?

A: Unknown. **ACTION (VR)**: Find answer and report back to the PAC Executive.

7. Executive Reports

a. Treasurer – Tess Brown

There are new BC Gaming rules: <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/resources/16-dpac-pac/960-gg-2021>. The deadline to apply for the next school year's allotment is June 30, 2021.

b. VCPAC/BCCPAC – Christine Sullivan

Motion by CS to approve \$70 to have Tess Brown and Christine Sullivan attend the Parent Education Conference to be held virtually May 28&29. Seconded by KH. Motion carried.

ACTION (TB): Register two names by the early bird deadline of May 3.

ACTION (TB): Request parent education funds from VCPAC to reimburse cost of attendance (\$35 per participant).

Motion by KH that the PAC support a VCPAC endorsement for the renaming of George Jay Elementary. Seconded by KC. Motion carried.

ACTION (CS): To voice Esquimalt High School Parent Advisory Council's support at the next VCPAC meeting.

Another reminder was sent to VCPAC via email asking for BCCPAC membership reimbursement.

- c. Communications – Christine Sullivan
Facebook posts continue to be updated, by theme.

PAC minutes are not yet up on website.

ACTION (KH): To provide CS access to the PAC Google Drive

ACTION (CS): Send 2020-21 PAC minutes to gorme@sd61.bc.ca so they can be posted onto the school website.

- d. Co-Presidents' Report

No update from Awards Night Sub-committee.

Esquimalt High School PAC AGM – May 11, 2021. Co-Presidents would like to add co-representatives for every grade level to the list of board nominations. CS questions how these co-representatives will be able to communicate within their cohort given that contact information is not shared with the PAC.

ACTION (CS): A Google Form has been created by KH, which asks members to opt-in to a contact list. To be added the PAC Facebook page.

ACTION (KH, CS): Discuss communications strategy to promote attendance

Here are the PAC's unanimous voting instructions for the BCCPAC board:

RANK	1 st Vice President (2yr)	Director (2yr)	Director (1yr)
1	Tania Sargent	Amanda Hillis	Amanda Hillis
2	Samantha Trarback	Carmen Sundstrom	Marvin Klassen
3	Sarah Shakespeare	Tania Sargent	Carmen Sundstrom
4		Samantha Trarback	Tania Sargent
5		Coralie Hockly	Samantha Trarback
Motion by	KC	KC	KC
Seconded by	KH	KH	KH

ACTION (CS): Obtain signatures from two members of the Executive for the Proxy Vote Form in time for the April 19 registration deadline.

ACTION (CS): Register Christine Sullivan for BCCPAC AGM by April 19 deadline.

Motion by CS to adjourn the discussion regarding BCCPAC AGM resolutions until an Executive Meeting of the PAC to be held on Thursday, April 15 at 6pm. Seconded by KH. Motion carried.

ACTION (KH): Send an invitation for a virtual meeting to all members of the Executive.

8. No new business.

9. Next meeting: AGM Tuesday, May 11, 2021 @ 6:45pm via Zoom

Motion to adjourn made by CS. Seconded by KH. Motion carried.
Adjournment @ 9:15pm.