



MINUTES

Attendees

Tom Aerts (Principal), Kimberley Rogers (Chair), Deidre Murphy (Co-chair/Secretary), Carla Unger (Treasurer), Kerry Pridmore (VCPAC Rep), Paula Marchese (Member at Large), Kelly McClaren (Member at Large), Terry Ann Lyon (Member at Large), Hazel Currie, Kirsty Nicol, Anne Grimm, Manjit Aitken, Joanne Gemmill, Kimberley Smit, Naomi North, Kerry Pridmore, Mercedes Calvert, Margret Orme

Guest

Will Moore, Head of Counselling

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Presentation from Will Moore, Head of Counselling

Students

- Overall, students are adjusting well; having two classes is more manageable than the usual eight
- Much less discussion around academic stress much less than in the past

Counselling Department

- The school has two full-time and two part-time counsellors
- Students can make an appointment to see a counsellor by filling out a slip in the counselling area, which is private.
- Counsellors prefer students meet with their assigned counsellor, though they have the option to meet with someone else
- The range of activities being offered is more limited than usual; activities currently running include yoga, volleyball, and weight-training
- Currently the counselling department is focusing on meeting with grade 9 classes; counsellors are going into classrooms to introduce themselves and explain what the counselling department does. They're also going into grade 9 and 10 PE classes (focus is on relationships, mental health and consent).
- The department is looking to bring in guest speakers to PE classes to talk about substance use, addiction, and mental health. The curriculum is offered through UVic. Jennifer Gibson from Island Health came into the school to talk about sexual health, and a dietician came in to talk to students about nutrition.
- Will stressed the importance of parents maintaining open dialogue with their children, and of being mindful of the language they use. He advised parents not to use words such as depression and anxiety, for example, but to leave these to medical experts.

Questions from parents

- *How can we find which counsellor our child has?* A process for locating counsellors on the school website is in the works.
- *What advice would you give parents and students to help someone who is struggling e.g. with abuse, relationships, etc.?* There isn't one answer to this type of question. Encourage the individual to seek out a trusted adult (e.g. a counsellor). The [teen mental health](#) website is a good resource.
- *Is there a way for the dietician who has been in for grades 9 and 10 to reach students in the senior grades who aren't taking PE?* The school is focusing on the junior grades to help them understand the expectations in the school. It's more easily embedded in grades 9 and 10, though they're looking at things for senior students.
- *Is there something that will replace the Party Program (as it's not happening this year)?* Not sure of a replacement at this point.
- *Have more students reached out for support this year given the pandemic?* There's been less traffic in the counselling department. In the past a lot was academically related, as there's a lot of unspoken pressure on academics and stress related to too many tests and assignments. The students aren't saying a lot about the current situation we're in.
- *Have students mentioned the pace or intensity of the current delivery model?* A few students have mentioned that it's hard to keep up, but not many. The key to keeping up is using the time on Wednesday afternoon.
- *How is community being created for our kids? Grade 9 students in particular lost their middle school community rather abruptly and the transition to high school has been difficult. Many are feeling a loss of community; is there anything being done to help with this?* The school has noticed that with grade 9s there is not as strong an attachment / connection as they would like. Student services and admin are trying to address this while observing protocols around Covid. This has been challenging.

3. Reports

Admin - Tom Aerts, Principal

- Students raised almost \$52,000 for Cops for Cancer this year. Impressive given the current circumstances we're in.
- Trying to do things that we would normally do in the school, but in different ways. A lot is being done by Zoom, including:
 - Grad parent information session on Oct 21 – roughly 175 attendees
 - How to apply for post-secondary virtual evening – approximately 110 attendees
 - Zoom concert nights have been recorded and released to parents and students, including the senior concert band, jazz band, dance, and choir
- For Remembrance Day the school put together a 35-minute video that included a guest speaker and performances (dance, poems, band, choir, student art). Students took it seriously and responded well.
- Marks will be available on Thursday, November 26. Reports will be emailed to students, though parents can also email the school to request that reports be sent to them directly.

Graduation assessments

- Grade 11 students wrote the Literacy 10 assessment in the first week of November. The majority of grade 11 and 12 students have completed the numeracy assessment; outstanding numeracy assessments will be done later in the year.
- Grade 10 literacy and numeracy assessments will be completed in January, April and June 2021
- Current grade 12 students do not have a literacy assessment this year (next year's grade 12 cohort will have a literacy assessment)

Clubs

Currently 13 clubs running:

- Debate
- Anime/J-drama/Manga
- Peer Tutoring
- French Club
- Interact Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Badminton
- Choir
- Tennis
- Cultural Connections
- Art
- Fishing
- Connect to Care (focus on mental health & relationships)

Others include for-credit, outside-the-timetable leadership clubs: Leadership, Fine Arts Leadership, and Athletics Leadership.

Covid 19 Update

Parents asked a lot of questions following the Provincial Health Officer's recent update. There have been no changes to the school following the announcement. Statistically schools are safer than other places. The school has a number of protocols in place to ensure the safety of everyone in the school:

- Daily health check
- Designated entrances
- Hand hygiene
- Physical distancing
- Cohorts (learning groups)
- Masks
- Cleaning routines

Masks are required by staff and students in common areas at all times. Students are not required to wear masks in their cohort learning groups, though can if they choose to.

Parent Questions

- *When will the literacy assessment marks be available on MyEd?* Literacy assessment marks will be available within a couple of months. Students will be able to re-write the literacy assessment if they are not satisfied with their mark.
- *How can we share photos and other information for the yearbook?* Photos for the yearbook can be shared with Mr Turner (email address is on the school website).
- *Is OBH ready/prepared for if/when schools are shut down, in terms of online learning?* Yes, the school is ready to move online if it becomes necessary.
- *If there is a possibility of remote delivery, are tech skills being focused on on teacher Pro-D days?* Yes, the September Pro-D Day was all on Google classroom, for example. Oak Bay did a different thing last Spring; because linear students had completed about 75% of the curriculum when we went into lockdown it was ok. It would be very different if they had to flip to online now.
- *Will parents get advance notice of which day grade 9 students will be getting their vaccination?* Vaccination dates for grade 9 students are Dec 2 and 7.
- *Have student cards been given out yet?* Student have received electronic cards. We are in the process of confirming whether they will also receive physical cards.
- *Will the school continue with the quarterly system?* No, but we will have a conversation with staff re the value of having fewer classes – i.e. between the semester and linear systems.
- *Will you consider surveying students and parents on this?* Yes, this is something we could look at doing.
- *Has lunch been sorted out – i.e. what is happening with students at lunch to avoid crowds? And on really rainy days? Are there options for students that aren't doing intramurals or the structured things in the school?* On rainy days students are allowed to stay in their cohort classroom, or to go outside, but they can't then return to the school. In addition, the Connect to Care Club is going to

start a socially distanced board game café on Thursday and Friday and intramural volleyball has started. The school is trying to get different things going. Leadership is also looking at ways they can connect with students – e.g. having the library open – but physical distancing requirements makes it challenging.

- *Are parents meant to be able to sign into their child’s Google classroom account?* Yes, most teachers are happy for parents to sign in.

Chair – Kimberley Rogers

- No report

Vice-Chair/Secretary – Deidre Murphy

- No report

VCPAC Rep – Kerry Pridmore

- No report (VCPAC meeting is tomorrow)

4. Treasurer – Carla Unger

PAC Accounts

- The PAC maintains two accounts: BC Gaming Account and Parent Contribution Fund. Some funds were carried over from last year, so we are in a good position financially.
- The PAC received the full amount of the BC Gaming Grant (\$25,020) this year, and \$5,626.00 from the Parent Voluntary Contribution Fund (comparable to funds received last year).
- Recently disbursed funds (\$1500) to pay for the rugby scoreboard (commitment from last year).

PAC Allocation of Funds

- A total of nine applications for funding were received from the school. One additional request (for art supplies) was not included as the school was able to fund it.
- The PAC Executive met earlier this month to review the applications. The PAC Executive’s proposal to fund eight of the nine applications, totaling \$22,749.66, was presented to the PAC as follows:

Applicant / Initiative	Description / Purpose	Funding
1. Rugby Teams (Athletics)	Contribute to cost of installation of new scoreboard	\$2000
2. Oak Bay Book Read	Books	\$800.00
3. Athletics	Various sports and associated fees (LVISSAA, BC School Sports membership, referee fees); laptop to operate scoreboard projector; extra equipment needed due to Covid-19 (i.e. to allow social distancing)	\$12,150
4. Outdoor pursuits	Universal paddling seat with a canoe adapter	\$837.41
5. Community Leadership & Philanthropy	Lunch program	\$1500
6. Choral music	MacBook Pro laptop	\$2352.88
7. Connect to Care	Group speakers, events for students that add to culture, connection, and awareness	\$2359.37
8. Awards/Trophies	Maintenance and engraving	\$750.00

Total: \$22,749.66

- A decision re the request from the Athletics Department for funding of a garage door for the weight room in the amount of \$11,500 was postponed pending further information.

- Remaining funds of approximately \$17,000 are available for requests later in the school year
- A motion to accept the PAC Executive recommendation to fund all of the requests (with the exception of the garage door), for a total amount of \$22,749.66 was made by Kimberley and seconded by Manjit. Motion carried.
- Parents, students, clubs, and school staff can all submit requests for PAC funds. The PAC Executive will send information out to let people know applications for funding will be accepted in the new year, in light of the fact that we have funds remaining.

5. Other Business

- December PAC meeting cancelled
- Date of the next PAC meeting (January 18, 2021) may change as it conflicts with a scholarship meeting on the same date.

Next meeting: January 18, 2021 - Online

Adjournment