



MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

PAC Co-Chairs: Kris Nichols and Kathryn Robertson

PAC Treasurer: Carla Unger

PAC Secretary: Karin Sweeney

PAC Members at Large: Hazel Currie, Paula Marchese, Kalina Popova, Kim Smit

Vice-Principal: Phil Ohl

Attendees: Rhiannon Cockayne, Kate Dorion, Annette Fieltsch, Joanne Gemmill, Diana Gibson, Karen Meyer, Carolyn Neil

Regrets: Craig Hickie (Member at Large)

1. Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement and Introductions

- Kris welcomed everyone and gave a territorial acknowledgment
- Introductions were made around the table

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: *Be it resolved that the Agenda for January 23rd be approved* - **Approved**

3. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *Be it resolved that the Meeting Minutes from September to December 2022 be approved* - **Approved**

4. Co-Chair Report

- **Teacher and Staff Appreciation** will take place on Tuesday, January 31st to coincide with the Turn Around Day at the school. Discussion around providing coffee and donuts from 9-11 am or contributing to the scheduled lunch or desserts provided by the school. Carla to provide signs to advertise this at the school. A letter will be sent out to the parent community on Friday. Teachers will be further notified on the list serve. Later decided to provide donated cookies and dessert, coffee/tea, and flowers. Carla and Karin to organize it.
- **Recruitment of 2023/2024 PAC Members** will be ongoing over the next few months culminating in an election at the PAC meeting in May. Looking at ways to pass along lessons learned this year and suggested PAC as a good way to be involved and understand what is going on at the school. People were encouraged to spread the word.

5. Multi-School Event - Screenagers Film

- **The film *Screenagers Next Chapter: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience*** (the newer of two films) will be shown on Thursday, February 23rd at 7 pm in The Dave Dunnet Theatre with other schools invited to attend, for both students and parents. Funding for this event has been provided by PAC and a PEF grant from the District. This event is a continuation of educational planning on kids and digital media that started prior to the pandemic. It will involve facilitators and PAC is looking for people to help with this. More information to be shared soon. <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/press-release-nc>
6. **Administration Report (Phil Ohl, Vice-Principal)**
- **Feedback on Winter Dance:** Although the school has been moving away from dances, a number of students came forward and requested one. Recruitment to see how many students were interested (initially thought around 150 but at the end over 250 tickets were sold). Used partial cafeteria space to create a more upscale event with food stations, a dance floor, a photo booth, and DJ. The event was a big hit with a lot of positive feedback. The ticket price was \$65/ticket and there was a profit of \$2000 that will be rolled into grad events.
 - **New Indigenous Courses within the curriculum:** An email was sent out today to parents/caregivers (see attachment below). This curriculum will not impact current Grade 12s. Pre-existing requirements are still there and core courses will remain the same but students need to have one Indigenous content course for graduation for a total of 80 credits (4 credits/class and 4 classes/semester). Discussion around accessing local knowledge but the situation in each district is different depending on capacity at the moment. OB High students will be picking from Ministry of Education-approved courses. Option for combination classes through an Indigenous lens, such as English First Peoples and BC First Peoples Socials Classes. French Immersion Social Studies has another class called Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12. Grade 11 students are encouraged to take a course next semester. Trial this semester and see where it will go for next year. Dual English and Socials class which has been offered will be divided up into two separate classes. No Grade 10 classes are offered yet but students are encouraged to take Grade 11 or 12 courses. Option for courses through SIDES eventually. Classes will be recognized as academic courses by all post-secondary institutions.
 - **PAC Feedback:** A question raised at the VCPAC is that the Province is not providing enough financial support for this program and asking a lot from teachers. There was concern about classes that fall under a more linear system and whether Indigenous classes will be recognized internationally. Further discussion that non-Indigenous peoples have to “dig-in” to the uncomfortable and understand that capacity will be an issue for some time. This is part of the Truth and Reconciliation actions.
 - **Vice-Principal:** OB High plans to be proactive in getting information out to students and families. Teachers want authentic resources. The school will build capacity mindfully with staff and various departments. Intent to allow students choice in their area of interest. The population at OB High is primarily Metis and those that identify as Indigenous do not live on a reserve. Parents who wish to find out more can reach out to any school administrator or school counselor. Link in the email that went out today with more information on each class offered.
 - **Timekeeping and Focus Block:** Legally the School Act requires OB High to take attendance twice/day. Focus block takes place 4x/week for 45 mins. Data collection takes time, energy, and resources to manage so this year the decision was made to not take attendance during focus block. Students are allowed to go anywhere in the building during this time. Oak Bay High continues to monitor this decision throughout the year.
 - **PAC Feedback:** Concern raised that focus block is educational time that is being wasted. The school website also states that attendance is taken. Concern that most of the parent community

- does not know that their kids may not be using focus time wisely. Concern that students are spending this time on social media instead, which is an addiction for many kids. Question raised if teachers could mandate kids to come to focus if they need extra help?
- Vice-Principal: Focus block has a clear vision that it is supposed to be a time that students access support for classes that they may have missed or need more help in. Can also be for social and down time, or teacher/family/student conversations. Survey went out and received support for focus block.
 - PAC Feedback: Time use at the school is different now than in the past when students had 8 linear classes.
 - Agreement that the conversation about focus block needs to continue.

7. Treasurer Report (Carla Unger, PAC Treasurer)

- \$500 available from PAC for graduation expenses (receipts required).
- \$500 available from PAC for teacher/staff appreciation with additional gift cards for staff that might not otherwise be covered.

8. Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) Report (Paula Marchese)

- Meetings take place via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month. There is an open representative position for anyone interested in attending and voting on behalf of OB High PAC. Meetings are typically 1-2 hours in length.
- Update on the Police Liaison Program: Last fall the BC Human Rights Commissioner asked schools to decommission their PLO program.
<https://bchumanrights.ca/news/letter-to-school-trustees-on-use-of-school-liaison-officers/> The District is looking at the program with equity-seeking groups that include trustees, stakeholders, teachers, staff, and parents. Would be interesting to have students' voices heard as well. Anyone can write letters of feedback and submit them to: info@vcpac.ca
- Other issues discussed: Aligning the Victoria School Calendar with those in the Saanich and Sooke School Districts; a committee is looking into this and will be presenting to trustees. District budget is currently being worked on by a committee and has a predicted deficit. Indigenous Department Head will be speaking at the VCPAC meeting in February and March. Discussion that there is a significant disparity in graduation rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and that it is going up incrementally.

9. Graduation 2023 Plans (Rhiannon Cockayne, Volunteer Grad Coordinator)

- Volunteers are needed from Grades 10, 11, and 12 to plan the block party portion of the graduation at Willows Beach on May 19th. Set up starts at 8 am with decoration crew arriving at 9:30-10 am, set up finished by 11:30-12 pm. The event takes place from 2-4 pm. Students are then transported to the Delta Ocean Point Hotel for a dinner and dance, with a stop at the Parliament Building for a photograph on the way. Students are dismissed to parents for pick up at 11 pm. School District has 3 school buses that OB High can rent (\$240/bus for 4 hours) to transport students in two batches. There will need to be consideration for rules and safety as students get onto buses, and there are some learnings from the Winter Dance. Further grad meetings will be held outside of PAC time, with updates to PAC.
- Families will receive 2 tickets to the graduation ceremony at UVIC Farquhar Auditorium on June 22nd. Ticket numbers are restricted due to the size of the grad class. Cost is \$65/student plus \$10/ticket = \$85/family

10. Adjournment

Next PAC meeting: Monday, February 27 at 7:00 pm

Dear Families,

I am writing to share that as part of the Province of British Columbia's commitments to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education and Child Care is implementing an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all students starting in the 2023/24 school year. All students working toward a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) in English or French, must successfully complete at least four credits in Indigenous-focused coursework. This change represents an important step toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation.

In the Greater Victoria School District, several high schools have been offering courses that fulfill this graduation requirement for many years. For some schools, these will be new courses introduced in 2023/24. Some students will already be registered in courses or have completed courses that fulfill this requirement. All other students will need to select a course prior to graduation.

The number of credits required for graduation has not changed. Students still require 80 credits for graduation. School teams will determine which of the following courses they will offer:

- **BC First Peoples 12**
- **Peuples autochtones de la Colombie-Britannique 12**
- **Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12**
- **Études autochtones contemporaines 12**
- **English First Peoples 12**
- **English First Peoples 11 (Literary Studies, New Media or Literary Studies, Spoken Language or Literary Studies, Writing)**
- **English First Peoples 10 (Literary Studies, New Media, Spoken Language, Writing)**

There will be the opportunity for students to take more than one course.

Additional resources are linked here for your reference:

Video – BC's Indigenous-focused Graduation Requirement – Advancing reconciliation through education:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMrFJE5_2uk

Both the Indigenous-focused Graduation Requirement – Q&A and Parent Brochure:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/indigenous-focused-graduation-requirements>

If you require additional information, please reach out to the Principal or Vice-Principals at your child's school.

Sincerely,

Deb Whitten

Superintendent of Schools

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