

Minutes
Vic High PAC meeting in School Library
7 pm, November 14, 2022
(Approved December 12, 2022)

Attendees: Greg Pitre, Heather Currie, Angela Haslam, Kate Wallace, Kris Grenier, Anisa Newell, Laurel Hovey, Aaron Parker

Land Acknowledgements, Welcome, and Introductions (Kate)

Guest Speaker – Gregory Pitre, Athletics Dept., Teacher sponsor for Boys Basketball.

- Athletics are undergoing a rebuild coming out of Covid. Currently, there are lots of teachers and parents helping but need to keep reaching out as it is a struggle to find and keep coaches. Sometimes UVic students can help out but there are problems with continuity due to course turnover. **PAC will look into ways to help recognize community members for their help.**
- Vic High is hosting a senior boys' basketball tournament this January with 12 teams participating. As well as the athletes this will involve lots of other students. **Kate will look into selling bags of Caffe Fantastico Coffee at the tournament concession.** Junior Boys Basketball team now has coaches (tough to find). Chuck-a-Puck fundraising proceeds from the upcoming Royals Game on Dec 6 will go to the Boys Basketball Program.
- Volleyball doing fantastic right now, coached by several community “angels” of support. Rugby will depend on interest from kids and if coaches can be found. The school has a Standing Permit to play on the Topaz Park field. Track and Field and Badminton take place in the spring. Two Cross Country students competed at the provincials a few weeks ago.
- The school is working toward changing team names. Although there is a lot of history behind many of the names some are no longer culturally appropriate. Looking at timing the changes with the move back to the Fernwood campus. The school will ask the School District for help in determining something appropriate. Needs to be something that the First Nations Houses are comfortable with as well as a tie-in to the school history. The old mural in the Andrews Gym out of date with all the old team names. Putting signage acknowledging that changes to it are being considered was suggested.

Agenda (Kate)

A Fundraising Proposal by Heather and Vaping in the Washroom were both added to the agenda. A motion to approve was made by Heather and seconded by Angela.

Minutes of October 17th meeting were approved. Motion put forward by Angela then seconded by Heather.

Principal's Report (Aaron)

- End-of-term report cards going out on the 23rd. Looking forward to seeing student results.
- Dec. 1st – Fine Arts Night, first in 3 three years. Display of work throughout the school by fine arts students will include a Gallery Walk and performances by dance and theatre students.
- Family Affordability Request for Support brought in 143 responses, about 20% of our student population. Fairways Gift Cards is the most popular support. The school should be eligible for the PAC's discount of 5%. **Kris will contact Fairways and check the status of the account.** Other supports include cards for Walmart and the Good Food Box. (Neighbourhood Resource Group (NRG Fernwood).

Chair's Report (Kate)

Possible use of Operating Funds: Options under consideration are “Helping to implement environmental sustainability” in the school” and “Updating the school mascots/team name” The discussion was **tabled** until January when the school should know more about the move back to Fernwood and have final funding information.

Treasurer's Report (Kristine)

The current balance in the General Account is 7,165.19. The cost of snacks for last month's Caffe Fantastico Teacher Appreciation came to 231.00. The balance in the Gaming Account is 15,289.36. Of the 13,160.00 allocated for the Fall Budget 6,293.38 has been accessed. Coffee sales are going well.

Parent Ed Grant (Laurel)

January 18 at 7 pm, in collaboration with Reynolds PAC, Vic High will be hosting **Eco Anxiety – Strategies for Hope and Action** with Kate O'Connor as the speaker. A promotional poster will be provided that will be shared by Reynolds with Vic High, and feeder schools. It will provide a live Zoom link - no registration is required. Parents are encouraged to attend with their kids. Vic High and Reynolds both received Parent Ed Grants of 250.00 to cover the cost.

Update from the VCPAC (Heather)

November 7th meeting highlights include:

- A working group was struck to address the lack of custodial staff in schools. Staff is being shared between schools. Tiktok posts are encouraging vandalism in schools.
- Concerns about a lack of space in facilities as all available space is being used as classrooms.
- Now have 4 new Members at Large. Still need a VP, a Secretary, and one more Member at Large.
- Asking all PACs to convey their budget concerns to their rep regarding the upcoming SD61 budget.
- More resources are needed for counseling and support staff.
- Ideas for Parent Ed Events needed.

Potential Fundraising Event (Heather)

Roller skate Victoria can provide everything needed for a low-cost Roller Skate Night. **Heather will find out more details and look into the possibility of using the school gym as the venue.**

Vaping in the School Bathrooms

Supervision of the washrooms has been increased with the administration having conversations with at least 3 students. Only a small number of students are involved but it is a tricky situation. VCPAC is currently looking into this issue as well. Some suggestions included a **Parent Ed Event re vaping** focusing on vaping's detrimental effects and increasing the signage in the washrooms.

Indigenous Course Program

The Ministry of Education is implementing a curriculum change next school year which requires all graduating students to complete (at least) one Indigenous Course in order to graduate. Vic High is already offering some courses that have appropriate content but, in the future, there will likely be more courses available. There may be difficulty finding teachers with the knowledge or expertise to teach these courses.

Next PAC meeting December 12th. Guest Speakers from the Leadership Class