

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
GP Vanier Secondary School
Date: 19 November 2024

Recognition of Traditional Territories - J Shields

In attendance: Julie Shields, Erica Black, David Benton, Rae Walsh, Hayley Dato, Laura Farnan, Shawn Thir, Bev Wilkie, Aimee Pollard, Allisha Ochs, Season Pizzey, Janice Dekkers

1. Called to order at 18:31 pm. Welcome/introductions, Quorum met.
2. Approval of agenda as amended- Motion by Bev W , Second by Rae W, carried
3. Approval of October Minutes as amended, Motion by Season P , Second by Aimee P, carried
4. Unfinished Business - None
5. Reports
 - a. Chairperson - Jennivieve McRae-King - no report
 - b. Administration - see below
 - i. Adventures in the Outdoors - David Benton. Not the full Explore program - for gr 10 and does small local field trips - double block - Science and PE. Random selection for who gets accepted into program
 - ii. Social & Environmental Science - Double block. Grade 11.
 - c. DPAC - Rae Walsh/Hayley Dato - see below
 - i. Sea Can - water (changed yearly), power bars, charts, ropes, first aid supplies...Julie has list.
 - ii. There is a release procedure for kids, however kids at High School age may leave and nothing staff can do.
 - d. Trustee - Shannon Aldinger (not present in person) - see below
 - e. Treasurer -Beve Wilkie.
 - i. Budget A & B presented - tabled to January 21 2025 meeting. No vote today.
6. New Business - Create PAC email address or email specific to position. Would be good to have an email address linked to our bank account so we could get electronic records - but would need to limit access. Recommend
 - a. Bev W - Move to have 2 email addresses - general and treasurer. Limited access to treasurer email - Second Season P, Carried. Bev will action.
 - b. Erica Black - Island Life Photography Campbell River. Can they meet the needs of the school including Grad. Tabled to January 21,2025 Motion by Allisha O, Second by Janice D, carried
7. Q&A
8. Next Meeting Tuesday January 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm
Adjournment at 7:47 pm

November 2024 Admin Report To PAC

The new term started on November 12th, and report cards should be posted tomorrow to student and parent portals. Teachers should be making contact with parents of students they are concerned about this week. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please connect with the teacher by email. Our email addresses can be found on our website - [Staff Directory – GP Vanier Secondary \(comoxvalleyschools.ca\)](https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca). End of term was a busy time, with a Flex Day, grade 12 students writing their grade 12 Literacy assessment (linked to their English 12 class), fall sports teams having their Island and provincial tournaments, and Remembrance Day.

Athletics – The Fall Season is wrapping up!

The fall athletics season at Vanier was active and successful, with over 150 athletes participating across various sports. Our cross-country team had a fantastic season, with more than 25 athletes competing at the Island Championships in Powell River, and one individual advancing to the provincial championships on the Lower Mainland. Volleyball was equally impressive, with six teams showcasing their skills.

The Grade 8 teams had strong participation, and our girls performed exceptionally well, making a strong showing at the North Island tournament as they worked toward a BC qualification but ultimately fell just short. Our junior teams competed and worked hard, with the junior girls placing 4th at North Islands. At the senior level, both teams qualified for Islands, and our senior girls won the AAAA North Island title for the first time in a decade.

The energy and commitment of our athletes filled the gym from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, making this fall season both successful and enjoyable while providing countless opportunities for our students to grow and excel.

♣ In Basketball, Vanier has teams at Grade 8, grade 9, Junior and Senior Levels

♣ Wrestling has begun

♣ Ski and Snowboard teams are set to hit the slopes when the mountain opens!

Citizenship – Citizenship activities and giving back is something that has been embraced at Vanier.

The Baking 12 class is baking 2500+ cookies for EDAS (Everyone Deserves A Smile) gift packages. Many schools within the valley help out with the packages, gathering up donations of socks, gloves, hats, scarves and small personal hygiene items. A winter accessory drive (scarves/hats/gloves) will begin very soon. The Sports Leadership class put together a haunted house experience for the school in our multipurpose room on Halloween, and student leadership/student government put on a fantastic costume parade in our gym. Our Leadership 9-12 class put on a phenomenal Remembrance Day service to the entire school. The Christmas Hamper Drive will be beginning in December, as Vanier continues to support our community.

Arts – Grade 8's and the Beginning Band 10 class gave a great concert, showcasing all that they have learnt so far this year. Junior and Senior band classes performed today at the Comox Valley Concert Band Festival. Dance classes and Drama/Acting 10-12 are preparing for their festival. Students in term classes of metalwork and woodwork should have brought their finished projects home at the end of term 1.

Grad 2025 –Winterfest (Dec 4th) is coming together well - many local businesses have donated prizes, and many parents have signed up to run gaming tables or help out at the Grad & Parent fun event. We are sticking to past practices to host a casino night theme with chances to win donated prizes -

more tickets from more games played and a wheel of Wow that should see each grad go home with a small donated gift /prize. We also have the fan favourite photo booths back. We will run a 50/50 for parents to participate in (thank you for doing up the license 😊) to see if we can recover some of the rental fees.

School Photos - Photo question from last PAC meeting - Many parents have responded that this year, Lifetouch was not as smooth as previous years. Upon your request, we have information from Island Life Photography in Campbell River to review. Good news - they have samples for review through the lens of the parent portal and pricing was also shared. Challenges to consider, we are new to their list if we choose them, so we will not get priority booking times as we have for many years through Lifetouch. This company serves Campbell River and the Comox Valley so we need to consider whether they can handle us with their 19 schools already, incl 5 Middle or Sec schools + Isfeld, Highland & maybe us added to the mix). We will be following up further.

Upcoming Events –

Nov 20	Report cards posted to MyeducationBC Portal. Paper copies to follow soon after
Nov 23	Grad Attire @ Comox Valley Dodge (free clothing
November 26	English 11 classes will go to the Big House for a cultural presentation (9-10:30)
Nov 27	Career sessions for grade 11 and 12 students in the morning. Attendance is required.
Nov 30	Vanier Winter Market, 9-3 in the gym.
Dec 2 – 10	Grad Photos
Dec 4	Flex Day
Dec 4	Winterfest Casino night for grads, 6-9 pm
Dec 10	Winter Music Concert in the gym
Dec 20	Last day of classes in 2023
Jan 6	First day of classes in 2024
Jan 15	Flex Day – grade 10 numeracy/literacy assessments for students with gr 10 English/Math in semester 1
Jan 21	January PAC meeting
Jan 24	Last day of quarter 2
Jan 27	Non Instructional Day
Jan 28	Start of quarter 3

Report from the November 4th 2024 DPAC Meeting.

At this time, all DPAC meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in the Isfeld Library at 6:30pm. Any parent can attend, only reps can vote.

Website for more information: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/dpac/>

Email: dpac@sd71.bc.ca

Facebook: School District 71 Parents Advisory Council (look for Bluejay)

Presentation on Critical Incidents from Assc. Superintendent Sean Lamoureux and District Vice-Principal Tara Ryan. Critical Incidents are anything that disrupts the normal operations of a school day, but their Critical Incident Response Team CIRT is specifically for the terrible

scenario involving serious harm to staff and/or students. The Team is made up of very experienced staff, registered clinical counsellors and external (qualified & relevant) resources. They will do everything they can to support the school community through traumatic events. Brief discussion of Safer Schools Critical Incidents:

Lockdown = Threat/disruption inside the school (emphasis on safety and keeping students separated from harm.)

Hold & Secure = threat/disruption outside the school (proactive and goal is that student activity remains normal inside the school.)

Committees Reports/Updates:

Emergency Preparedness Committee:

QUESTION FOR PACS:

- 1) Are you aware that in the event of a major emergency, there is a release procedure in order for the school to release your child to you?
- 2) Do you know what the purpose of the Sea Can at your school is? Do you know what is inside of it?

DPAC Subcommittees meet with a more flexible schedule and report back to DPAC at the monthly meeting. Currently our subcommittees include: Emergency Preparedness, Sexual Health, Anti-Racism, Transportation and a Speaker Series on Parent Education topics. To contact, email: DPAC@Sd71.bc.ca and put your committee contact in the subject line to be forwarded to the relevant contact.

Next Meeting December 2nd - Isfeld Library and Zoom.

Shannon Aldinger, SD71 School Trustee Report **Vanier PAC – Nov 19, 2024**

- **From October 22/24 Board of Education meeting:**

- **Presentation re: Enhancing Student Learning Report for 2023/24:**

- <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/framework-for-enhanced-student-learning/> •

Update re: Equity Scan – which is a process to identify promising practices as well as barriers that are impacting Indigenous student achievement and success (in response to the 2015 Audit on Indigenous Education, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action); in process of consulting KFN Chief and Council and our district's Indigenous Education Council; meetings for Equity Scan Planning Committee will then be scheduled for rest of year

- **Update re: Board's Gender-Based Violence committee** – work ongoing re: review of district policies & procedures that relate in any way to gender-based violence and review of exemplars from other districts & a few post-secondary institutions. Committee members have met with multiple community-based organizations that work with children and youth in our district and will continue to do so. The

committee is considering opportunities for students, staff, parents and community to provide feedback to the committee.

- **From November 12/24 Committee of the Whole:**

- **Education Presentation re: Update on Literacy and Numeracy Frameworks**, by Dr. Vivian Collyer, Associate Superintendent, and Lisa Pedersen-Skene, District Principal for Early Learning and Child Care.
- **Operations Presentation re: Proposed Boundary Catchment Adjustments**, by Associate Superintendent Jay Dixon and Director of Operations Molly Proudfoot discussed the Proposed Boundary Catchment Adjustments (re: Brooklyn, Valley View, Aspen Park and Airport elementary schools that would take effect for the 2025-2026 school year). <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/catchment-updates/>

- **Other from District:**

- District will not seek to re-open **Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Center**: “Over the years, the infrastructure at Tribune Bay has unfortunately deteriorated, with significant upgrades now required to meet today’s standards for safety, accessibility, and sustainability. This reality, coupled with the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Society’s inability to continue operating the Centre and the decision by the Qualicum School District not to renew its permit with BC Parks, has led us to re-evaluate our role in operating the centre. Ultimately, we concluded that the extensive resources needed to re-open the centre are beyond the district’s capacity at this time.”
<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/local-news/sd71-not-re-opening-tribune-bay-outdoor-education-centre-7615149>
- **Youth Climate Caucus**: Feed the Fire of Passion & Change (Nov 14/24)
<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/youth-climate-action-summit-set-to-inspire-and-ignite-change/>
- Karma Taiji named **new district principal of diversity, equity & non-discrimination**; one aspect of her work will be to embed principles of equity, antiracism, and non discrimination into all aspects of school operations and curriculum.

- **From the Province:**

- Lisa Beare appointed **New Minister of Education & Child Care**, announced Nov 18/24
- **FREE Virtual Workshops for Parents: “Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities”** <https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session> • Offered via the Ministry of Education & Childcare’s ERASE (Expect Respect & a Safe Education) on Nov 28, Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 4, Feb 26, Mar 12, Apr 8 and May 7 • “Recommended

for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe & caring use of technology at home & in community. This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sexortion. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.”

- **Anti-racism** materials available:

www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/erase/documents/k-12-anti-racism-strategy.pdf •

Digital literacy and the use of AI in education: supports for British Columbia schools:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/ai-in-education>

- **Next Board of Education meetings:**

- Regular Board of Education meeting: Nov 26, 2024

- Open Committee of the Whole: (none in Dec)

- Attend in person or virtually or watch via recording:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/board-meetings/>