

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
GP Vanier Secondary School
Date: 21 January 2025

Recognition of Traditional Territories - J Shields

In attendance: Julie Shields, Erica Black, Shannon Aldinger, Beve Wilke, Janice Dekkers, Joanne Barr, Shawn Thir, Amiee Pollard, Hayley Datoos,

1. Called to order at 18:33 pm. Welcome/introductions
2. Approval of agenda - Motion by Beve Wilke, Second by Joanne Barr , carried
3. Approval of November Minutes, Motion by Aimee Pollard, Second by Shawn Thir, carried
4. Unfinished Business -
 - a. Motion to create PAC email - General and treasurer– Need to be set up still with procedure as to access and handover by Bev W, second Janice D, Carried.
5. Reports
 - a. Chairperson - Beve Wilke - no report
 - b. Administration - see below
 - c. DPAC - Hayley Datoos - see report below
 - i. Disaster planning - schools need a small amount of food to get through a night if something was to happen. Also communication issues - many cell phone dead zone in Comox Valley.
 - ii. Presentation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
 - iii. Student voice - students are able to directly voice what is happening - form all schools. Five meetings over the school year - 2 have occurred so far.
 - d. Trustee - Shannon Aldinger - see report below
 - i. [Emergency Preparedness](#) - information on district website has been updated
 - ii. Student Voice - next meeting focus on Gender based violence
 - iii. Equity scan
 - iv. Food Advisory committee.
 - v. Digital literacy
 - vi. Next Board meeting next week. Parents can attend/listen in Shannon.aldinger@sd71.bc.ca
 - vii. Shannon.aldinger@sd71.bc.ca
 - e. Treasurer -Beve Wilke. Budget options available and handed out for review. Will be voted on at the February meeting. Award money goes to physical awards.
6. Move to extend meeting 10 minutes by Julie S, Second Beve W, Carried
7. New Business
 - a. Application made to be on list to pick up bottles from landfill on behalf of Vanier Music Parents Group. Bottles approximately every 2 weeks
 - b. Motion to move February PAC meeting to Feb 25 at 1830 by Beve W, Second Aimee P, carried
8. Q&A

- Is the info from the Duel Credit night available? Yes, a recording was made and will be available online.
9. Next Meeting Tuesday Feb 25 , 2025 at 6:30 pm
Adjournment at 1943 pm

Vanier Admin Report to PAC

January 2025

Term 2 is rapidly ending – in fact there are three days left in semester one. Students are beginning to write their final assessments and present their final projects. January grads are wrapping up their Careers 12 and Capstone projects, as they plan for dual credit, trades programs, or the next stage in their life. The last two months have been a busy one at Vanier. Citizenship projects were taken on with gusto during December, with the school filling the cafeteria with the hamper items they collected for 27 families in the Valley. Several classes supported the EDAS project (Everyone Deserves A Smile campaign), that put together 1400+ gift packages across the district for the homeless, including hats/scarves/gloves/warm socks/gifts/and cookies. The leadership 9-12 class and the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister put on a great Winter Assembly on the last day before the winter break.

Students in grade 10 English and Math classes wrote their Numeracy and Literacy Assessments last week. Both of these tests must be written before they graduate and are only offered certain days of the school year. Please check in with the office staff if your child was not able to be here for their test. Students should be submitting any missing assignments, working on final projects, science fair, preparing for final exams, and/or completing their Careers 11/12/Capstone materials. Report cards will be issued February 5th online.

The school has a number of tests and surveys coming up in the next few months. We have the Program for International Student Assessment (approximately 40 grade 10's), and Student Learning Survey (grades 10, 11, and 12, parents and staff). All of these surveys will be completed between now and just after spring break.

Course selection for 2025-2026 will be beginning in February, with students picking their courses February 24 to February 28th. Information for parents and students will be Thursday February 20th, starting at 6:30 pm.

In Athletics, our ski and snowboard team has 30 athletes having fun and racing on Mount Washington. Mondays are race days, and the provincials will be held in Whistler for those who qualify. The district wrestling program is run out of Vanier, with students practicing three times a week. 9 Vanier athletes have been competing and doing very well. Basketball is well underway with a home tournament almost every weekend. Over 100 Vanier students are coming out to teams at grade 8, 9, junior and senior levels.

Island Health has hosted an optional HPV vaccination clinic at Vanier this week, over lunch in the multipurpose room. Students in grade 11 or 12 are encouraged to drop in and get protected. Grade 9's are also schedule to be immunized in February, and packages have been sent home this week with more information.

Our Winterfest evening was a huge success! Students enjoyed the slideshow of baby pictures paired with current pictures, then games of skill and chance (blackjack, roulette, craps, poker) to be able to bid on prizes. Thanks to our very generous community, some very lovely gifts were available as

prizes. Grad Attire continues to provide everything needed on graduation day, completely free of charge. More information can be found at <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/gp-vanier-secondary/grad-information/>. The next big grad item is Bursaries and Scholarships which packages will be available January 31st, and applications are due March 7 at 1 pm (not accepted late). Last year over \$100,000 was given out at Vanier's Bursary Night thanks to the generous support of our community, so we encourage all grade 12 students to apply. Next fun event is Spring BBQ.

As discussed in November meeting - having some negative feedback about Lifetouch. Next year the school will be using IslandLife Photography.

Upcoming Events in January/February

Fri January 24	End of Term 2
Mon January 27	Non-Instructional Day – School Closed
Tues January 28	Start of Term 3
Fri January 31	Bursary Program Opens up (online)
Friday February 5	9:30 Grade 12 meeting, Parent night in the evening
February 3-6	Grad Photo retakes
Wed February 5	Report Cards posted online
Mon February 17	Family Day – school closed
Tues February 18	Non-Instructional Day – School Closed
??	PAC meeting, 6:30
Late February	Counsellors and Administrators begin course selection for 2024-2025

Report from the December 2nd 2024 DPAC

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 the Bluejay)

Presentation from Joe Heslip (Associate Superintendent) & Karma Taiji (District Principal of Equity, Diversity & Anti-Discrimination)

Karma's role is new and .5 or half-time position. With this position, there will be three areas of focus: anti-racism, SOGI, and mental health. Also looking at capacity building within the district, which is not just one person's work, we all need to build our capacity to do the work and recognize racism. The current focus is on the adults to build supports for students. Reach out by email with questions.

Joe's work with the Equity Scan: (complex topic please excuse brevity) Previous work at the Ministry of Education and Childcare (MOEC) through five years of Equity Scans across the province. Equity Scan explained in a bundle: there are four areas we need to work in (Powerpoint reference.) 1) Policy & Governance (maintain barriers or reduce barriers); 2) Learning Environment (how do we view Indigenous students and families and encountering racism); 3) Learning Profile (data to track graduation trajectory); 4) Pedagogical Core (embed Indigenous worldview)

Equity in Action - A Framework for Equity: Create a District Equity Skills Team, Conduct Scan, Create District Equity Profile, Develop Theory of Change, Define Goals and Set Equity Action Plans. Video and slideshow resources available.

Email both or either with your questions at:

Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent - Joe.Heslip@sd71.bc.ca

Karma Taiji, District Principal - Karma.Taiji@sd71.bc.ca

Committees Reports/Updates:

Anti-Racism Subcommittee - met this month as a committee, and with Karma. Email: dpac@sd71.bc.ca

School Food Subcommittee -

District Food Policy Advisory committee meets this Wednesday. There is a Pilot Project starting at Arden pay-what-you-can universal lunch program.

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 DPAC Meeting: January 6th- AGM - Isfeld Library and Zoom.

**Shannon Aldinger, SD71 School Trustee Report
Vanier PAC – Jan 21, 2025**

- Emergency preparedness – updated information for parents on district website post-bomb cyclone:
<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Comox-Valley-Parent-Emergency-Letter.pdf>
- Updates re: District Student Voice sessions, Board of Education’s Gender-Based Violence Committee, District Equity Scan, District Food Advisory Committee
- Careers Program Survey -
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVSchools> • Budget season upcoming
- From the Province: **FREE Virtual Workshops for Parents:**
 - **Re: Social Media: “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 **Feb 4, Feb 26, Mar 12, Apr 8 and May 7 (6:30-7:30)**

- “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/sextortion. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.”
- **Re: Consent & Respectful Relationships: “Establishing Respectful Relationships & Consent in our Communities”**
<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-gbv-student-sessions>
 - Offered via the Ministry of Education & Childcare’s ERASE (Expect Respect & a Safe Education):
 - **grades 5-8: Feb 4 (9-10 am & 11:05 am – 12:05 pm) & Feb 26 (1:05-2:05 pm) •**
 - grades 9-12: Feb 4 (2-3 pm), Feb 26 (8:50-9:50 am & 10:30-11:30 am) •** “In this session, we will expand on the conversation of consent. Additionally, we will define and explore the dynamics of gender-based violence. We will discuss how gender-based violence is manifesting in both the physical and digital landscape, as well as the potential for exploitation within relationships. Throughout the session, our trainers will give students tips and tools to help them navigate and grow in these environments. **Students will learn:**
 - What defines consent? A discussion
 - The definition and dynamics of gender-based violence
 - An overview of worrisome content, and how to manage exposure on popular social media and gaming platforms
 - The different types of bullying and cyberbullying relationships
 - The consequences of sending/receiving intimate images and videos
 - The evolution of sextortion and –important signs to look for
 - The importance of checking in on our mental health and strategies for success
 - An anonymous student reporting tool that can help you and your friends stay safe both online and offline
- **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 meeting:** Jan 28 at 7:00 pm

- Attend in person or virtually or watch via recording:

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