

Kwalikum Secondary School Parent Advisory Council

General Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023 7:00 PM

Call to order at 7:00

In Attendance Administration: Lori Marshall (Principal), Jennifer Nichols (Vice Principal), Jennifer Lunny (Vice Principal).

PAC members in Attendance: Shannon Cowan, Fern Foster, Lorna Gray, Stacey Mrack, Lisa Haupt, Shana Couillard, Julie Babiy, Arwen Henson, Kat Pummell, Paula Elgood, Mike McMillen.

Review of Agenda and Approval. Shannon motioned. Kat 2nd, all in favour. CARRIED.

Approval of May meeting minutes. Shannon reviewed the minutes. Lorna motioned to adopt the minutes. Lisa 2nd, all in favour. CARRIED.

SCHOOL REPORT: Principal's report from Lori Marshall:

- Jennifer N. is new VP for grade 8 & 10 plus student support for grade 8 learners.
- Other new staff: Carrie Christie 9 & 10. Haley McMillan, Art. Lindsay Taylor, Humanities 9, English 9&10. Lucas Verburg is Science and Math 9 and 10. TIDES is now part of KSS, taught by Kyle Dykstra and Dennis Mousseau.
- Chris Gauvin is Career Ed coordinator. It has moved to the teacher prep room for CEAP.
- Learning Centre is now in room 150 for teacher support for CEAP courses and soft-landing spot for kids as well as a quiet place to sit and self-regulate when needed.
- Counsellors have taken in new students and they have been doing class changes and settling classes. Very big classes, so some course request changes not possible. Things will settle by end of September.
- Grade 8 day was Tuesday, great start for just them, all staff on hand to make sure they were in homerooms and answer questions. Grades 9-12 started Wednesday with grade group assemblies. Went over code of conduct, fair warnings, and no goes, being responsible, supports and activities available, etc.
- Brand new gym floor was put in the summer, everyone must have non-marking sole shoes.
- First whole school assembly 09-13-23 to build connections. Leadership team and some teachers have come up with activities for the whole school over the next few Wednesdays. Four team house colours.
- **Picture day will be Wednesday, Sept 20** with Lifetouch. Every student needs to have one done, codes will be sent out and parents can decide then online. No expectation to buy, but students need to get them done for student ID and yearbook.

- **KSS Open House on Thursday, Sept 21.** More information on Facebook, My School Day App, and the KSS website. Grade 8 parents arrive at 6:30 and rest of the school at 7pm. Will follow a Monday schedule with 10-minute chunks in each class, with 5 minutes in between. Purpose is to put a face to the name of teacher and say 'hi.' Meet and greet.
- **September 28th Grad parent info night!** Lori met with kids wanting to be in a grad committee. Grad Prom and dry grad is a parent run endeavor supported by the school.
- Last week of Sept 25-29 is Truth and Reconciliation week.
- **Oct 2nd no school in session.** Learning activities around school wide.
- Fall sports: Boys' soccer, girls' volleyball, mixed cross country. Information available on gym notice board. MWF 7:15 is basketball cross grade and boys and girls with Mr. Frampton, a retired local teacher.
- End of September all schools have to have all their numbers finalized. Indigenous students and unique needs that qualify for IEP must be identified by then. Numbers are finalized then (Sept 30) and that is how they are funded. Early indication across the district is we are up students, but not too much movement in our school. We are around 70 international students. Around the same as last year. Approx 800 students in our school.
- Healing forest update. Operations and Maintenance worked this summer but they were not able to dismantle the outdoor basketball court. No date has been set, but they are hoping to get to it this fall. First grant application has been approved and money is sitting in account. Lori has put in plan to operations and maintenance but water has to be built in to the cost, OP and Maintenance will not take that on. Looking at setting up working group soon.

Shannon was contacted by Ray Woroniak to speak to Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Roundtable about possible funding. She will follow up to see if there are any time restrictions on contributions or other caveats.

- KSS does not hand out academic awards, but this does not hinder or support post-secondary. Transcript of grades must be used for entrance scholarships, but many other scholarships are now based on service and initiatives that hold students apart from academic brilliance. Part of the reason KSS moved away from awards is that giving awards make it about awards and not about learning. If it is set up as an award vs learning and application, she feels it takes away from learning and creativity. It goes against the revised curriculum that we are trying to build core skills and collaboration skills.
- Shannon asked if there is a way to do some basic scholarship prep before grade 12 and get info to the grade 11 or earlier about volunteer/leadership criteria schools/scholarships are looking for. Lori indicated this is possible to incorporate into Career Education and other areas.
- There are approx. 130 graduates coming up this year.

PAC Chair report by Shannon Cowan Executive report. Nothing from the chair as summer was quiet.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stacey Mrack

General Account Beginning Balance: \$1324.21

Gaming Account balance \$4167.56 included 4 cheques that went out at the end of August which is year end. They have applied for gaming for the new year. Formula based on numbers of students we don't have actual numbers yet, but might be about \$14K. She will have better idea by next month.

We don't generally do fundraisers.

DPAC Report: First DPAC meeting is on Sept 20th and Kat Pummell is DPAC rep.

Unfinished business. Secretary is open. Shannon nominated Lisa. Lisa accepted. Julie seconded motion. All in favour. CARRIED. Lisa Haupt is new secretary.

Two members at large positions are currently held by parents looking to pass them onto others who are more available. Member at large involves coming to meetings to vote, no extra duties. Fern nominated Lorna and Lorna accepted. Shannon moved that Lorna is member at large, Julie 2nds, all in favour. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Healing forest.** Shannon reviewed history of KSS unusable outdoor basketball court and how the idea of replanting a natural space in line with the National Healing Forest Initiative came up. The initiative establishes natural spaces dedicated to reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous communities. The idea is the forest represents reconciliation. Could include a plaque, garden, benches or just trees. Premise is that trees are known to hold healing properties and would provide a calm, restful and healing space for all. Got \$1500 from David Suzuki foundation to begin project. Fern, Shanna, Paula and Shannon put names forward to be on the working group. School District will be covering the cost of removal of the pavement.
- **Gaming grant committee.** Committee meets once a year to decide how to distribute gaming grant funds for extracurricular activities requested by teachers. Cannot be capital expenditures. Lisa, Julie, Lorna, Stacy, Fern, Shana and Shannon put names forward to be on committee.
- **Next meetings:**
 - KSS PAC: Tuesday, October 3, 2023
 - DPAC: Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 6:30 pm (via Zoom)
 - School Board: Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 6:00 (via Zoom)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm.