

KITSILANO PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Update and Public Education Newsletter

Update on DPAC and Public Education Issues, February 2019

Apologies that our public education newsletter is a bit later than usual this month! This edition should take us up to Spring Break.

There are a lot of moving parts in the system at the moment – a good place to start is DPAC's usual comprehensive monthly update, which you can check out at:

[DPAC's February edition](#)

Some highlights include:

1) Long Range Facilities Plan:

A pressing issue for the VSB at the moment is the draft revision to Long Range Facilities Plan, released to the public last week. The Ministry of Education requires every school district to have such a plan, which the district uses to define and prioritize capital projects such as seismic upgrades and construction of new schools, as well as set out criteria for school closures, which are once again on the horizon in Vancouver as the district grapples with overcrowded schools in some areas of the city, and schools enrolled well under capacity in others. Click [here](#) to review the draft LRFP.

The public consultation portion of the process is extremely short compared to previous revisions. Feedback about the draft can be sent directly to the VSB at LRFP@vsb.bc.ca. In addition, DPAC is collecting feedback at a question and answer session to which all parents and guardians of VSB students are welcome on Thursday March 07, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Room 180, Vancouver Education Centre, 1580 West Broadway.

2) Parent Advocacy Network Campaign re review of Area Standards:

PAN has begun an email campaign - #BuildSchoolsRight - supporting their call to update the provincial design standards used for new and replacement schools. The current document is resulting in schools losing approximately 30% of their area (such as the proposed seismic upgrades for Edith Cavell Elementary and Eric Hamber Secondary). For a full explanation of why this matters, see panvancouver.ca/news

The quick and simple email tool which can be used to send a message to your MLA is at [email tool](#)



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, February 28, 7 - 9pm
SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS OF DIVERSE LEARNERS

JOIN DPAC

Ratification processes are currently underway for two new candidates for the DPAC executive. See <http://vancouverdpac.org/> for details. If these two nominations are accepted at the March DPAC executive meeting, there will be three open positions remaining on the twelve member board.

FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

DPAC has established a Facilities subcommittee to help the executive bring parent input to facilities related issues. This group's two main initial tasks are to provide feedback to the draft LRFP (see

Presentation at February DPAC general meeting
Vancouver Education Centre
1580 W. Broadway, Room 180

To confirm attendance or request childcare for any DPAC event, please visit the Upcoming Events section of the DPAC website, vancouverdpac.org.

Thursday, April 25, 7 – 9 pm
PROPOSED VSB BUDGET FOR 2019-2020
Vancouver Education Centre
1580 W. Broadway, Room 180

May 3 - 5
BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS (BCCPAC) CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Pacific Gateway Hotel, Richmond, details at <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/conferences/1/conferences>

In the next month BCCPAC will publish the booklet of resolutions brought to BCCPAC by PACs and DPACs across BC. These resolutions are debated on the floor of the AGM and if passed, guide BCCPAC's advocacy work with the Ministry of Education. Watch this newsletter for the link to the resolutions, and if you have comments or thoughts on how the Kitsilano PAC should vote on any particular issue, please let our DPAC rep Alan know.

above), and to tap the experiences of PACs from schools that have been through the seismic mitigation program and produce a guide to the process for PACs at schools still awaiting upgrades. Alan is serving on this subcommittee and would like to hear from any Kitsilano parents who can connect him with people who were on the PAC executive during Kitsilano's seismic upgrade, as there may well be some lessons from our experience that would be helpful to other PACs.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Items of interest on [DPAC's resources page](#), (recent presentations on anxiety in youth and cannabis legalization will be posted shortly):

- 1) SACY presentation from September:
[Engaging Parents at the Secondary Level](#)
- 2) Additional material on the new curriculum and post-secondary admissions:
Slide deck from November 2017 DPAC general meeting presentation "New Reporting Models" – scroll to the slide with this title under the "Vancouver DPAC Presentations" on the resources page. Clicking on the title downloads the presentation as a pdf.

What do you want to know?

If you have any questions, feedback or suggestions for content, or are interested in helping put the newsletter together or tracking specific issues, please send a message to Alan via the "contact us" tab on the [Kitsilano PAC website](#).

