

## **C.R. District Parent Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, November 20, 2013**

**Present:** Michael Savoie (President), Karen Worsley (Secretary), Lisa McCosh (Vice-President & Acting Treasurer), Violet Shade (Director), Kate Morgan (Director), Christine Szaflik (CUPE), Jennifer Boulet, Karen Gauthier, Lara Hamer, Suzy Roberts, Joni Berfelo, Michele Babchuk (Trustee), Nevenka Fair (SBO), Deborah Beres (CRDTA), Cheryl Chatterton

### **Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Michael Savoie welcomed everyone and introductions were made. No guest speakers at tonight's meeting.

### **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Draft Minutes from the October 16, 2013 meeting were circulated for review, a copy had previously been delivered to each school to the attention of the respective PACs, and also emailed directly to the attendees listed on the October meeting sign-in sheet.

Christine Szaflik commented on the playground fundraising issue discussed at October's meeting. Mike Savoie directed attention to the DPAC letter dated November 20, 2013 sent to SD72, a copy of which is printed on the reverse side of tonight's Agenda. This matter will be discussed further under the "Old Business" section of tonight's meeting.

There being no further questions, additions or revisions, the October 16, 2013 Minutes were approved as presented.

### **Agenda:**

With the addition of the following items, tonight's Agenda was approved:

Under "New Business", 7(a) Playground Supervision, and 7(b) DPAC Website.

### **Correspondence:**

Items received and presented for review: BCCPAC magazine, Teachers' magazine, Habitat Playground catalogue.

### **School News & Reports from PACs:**

- Karen Worsley passed along a *thank you* to Michael Savoie from the Cedar PAC for his assistance in getting their PAC up and running this school year.
- Timberline Grad students will now be able to have a prom (has not been a part of grad in the past). Parents have commented that the new Administration at the school has been very open to ideas and comments expressed by parents/students, and the year has started off well.
- Violet Shade provided information on the C.R. Indian Band Club which provides a link between the reserve and the school community (EAs, maintenance workers, teachers) with a goal of providing better bridges. Breakfast gatherings have been held each month this year, with a great turn-out this past week. Progress is being made as hoped.

## **REPORTS**

### **A. Treasurer – Lisa McCosh, Acting Treasurer**

- Lisa advised that there is \$2,330.96 in the gaming account, carried over from previous years, which we need to spend. Out of these funds, it was approved to pay for all SD72 school

BCCPAC memberships this year, as well as a DPAC computer.

- There is currently \$3,162.99 in the general account, with an additional \$2,000 received from the SBO. These funds will likely be used for the DPAC website.
- In response to a question asked, Lisa clarified that DPAC funds are meant to be utilized in support of the PACS (parents) which then support the students. Items covered may include guest speakers or other educational resources for parents, computers, etc.
- UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and approved as presented.

#### **B. District Diary – Nevenka Fair**

- Discussed the current status of the Strategic Plan which provides District goals for the next 5 years. The students' voice has just been obtained through secondary and middle school focus groups and a group of 27 grade 5 students, and all groups were great to work with. Information will be presented at the next Board meeting by 3 of the students. It was important to obtain the student voice to hear what was/is a great experience for them, what they would like to stay the same/change, and what they would like more/less of in their education.
- Careers Program – currently looking at how this program can be improved and what changes are possible. There will be a Trades Day in March 2014 for grade 5-12 students which will focus students thinking on their passions and strengths and what choices may be available to them and how do they get there.
- Nautical Science Program new in January and provides hands-on teaching which will operate to provide many pathways of education.
- Aviation Program also to start soon at Timberline.
- Student Success Plans – looking at areas of schools regarding student needs, identifying/setting goals and planning how to get there. Uses class reviews and compiles information to review collaboratively with staff and SPC.
- Grad Planning – amazing the involvement and amount of work that goes into planning for grad.
- Lunch Supervision – has been approached by Willow Point parents to open a discussion regarding their concerns on lunchtime supervision of students. Of course this is a budget issue, however, the criteria will be revisited and recommendations will be made to the Board. | It was noted that “fair doesn't always mean equal”.
- Transition Surveys – to be done this month with students. Looking at also surveying parents of kindergarten students in order to gain more information relating to full-time kindergarten.
- Nevenka stated that she appreciates that our meetings are started with the positive comments from schools making note of what there is to celebrate. Although there are always item to improve upon, it's important to also hear the positive.

#### **C. Board of Trustees – Michelle Babchuk**

- Provided provincial news regarding the BC School of Trustees Association and the challenges over the past year, and the difficulties ongoing to gain and keep responsibilities at the local level to provide the best representation possible.
- CORE Review – the provincial Government is looking at every public sector to find efficiencies through shared services, amalgamating districts, etc., to be done in December 2014. Michelle is on the provincial board advocating for representation (smaller communities such as ours could be “left-out”).
- Assigned to the Conflict of Interest Task Force, recently met with Minister Fastbender and invited him to the CR School District. Currently waiting for confirmation, but a visit is expected. Also met Rob Wood, Deputy Minister.
- District Staff – Very happy with participation in the Strategic Plan including 4,400 comments online, city council, meeting at Timberline, and high school students. Results are in

compilation now and strong trends (ie trades) are expected.

- Facility Review being done to determine what we need and have to start paying for – takes a long time to plan. This is not a District in-house review, someone unbiased is being brought in (Hugh Skinner) who is recognized in the Ministry. This is an advantage if we need to advocate to the Ministry as we wouldn't have to get another report, as his report will allow us to advocate directly to the Government. It was noted that Steve Woods, Manager of Operations, has already done the ground work on this project.
- Education Committee Meetings were discussed as a follow up from October's meeting, The previous format was stiff, disjointed and didn't feel successful so they were stopped. Rather than individual school meetings, now there will be four meetings each year with a district-wide focus, hosted at rotating schools but open to everyone, generally with a set focus (ie strategic plan).
- Question was asked regarding the assignment of Trustees to individual schools. Liason Trustees were removed due to an inequity in the amount of time each had available to spend. Also, it is harder for schools out of the immediate area to receive visits. All Trustees now represent everywhere. Contact information for all Trustees is available on the SD72 website.
- It was noted that there will be a Trustee Academy the first week of December offering professional development opportunities.
- Question was asked regarding SD72 properties for sale – a request for interest was sent out on the Evergreen property. Based on a review of information, they are working with a request for proposals to rent property. The property would still be in our hands if needed at a future time (note: it is one of the biggest school properties in B.C.).

#### **D. Teachers' Association – Deborah Beres**

- Teachers are in the process of bargaining with the Government.
- Also, they are taking the Government back to court re class size, integration, etc. The case completes at the end of this week but the outcome is not expected until next Spring. They are feeling positive about the outcome.
- Deborah noted that on the BCTF website there is a parent section with information available and invited parents to check it out.

#### **E. CUPE – Christine Szaflik**

- CUPE met with the provincial government, bargaining has finished and both parties have now come to an agreement. CUPE has a ratification vote scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **F. BCCPAC ([www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)) – Michael Savoie**

- Quadra sent delegates to Kelowna for the Fall conference – they will present to us in January.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Playground Fundraising by PACs (see October Minutes)**

- A letter dated November 20, 2013 was sent by DPAC (copy printed on reverse of tonight's Agenda) to Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer of SD72, voicing the frustration of PACs who are tired of the fundraising loop for playgrounds being a priority for the PACs within our District. Also, not all schools have the ability to raise funds, so not all children can have the same opportunities. Parents are not OK with this. The letter was not sent as an “attack” on Kevin Patrick directly, but sent as it was felt necessary to place our concerns on record regarding the apparent PAC fundraising fatigue.
- Christine Szaflik mentioned that this has got to be a problem elsewhere, in other Districts too?
- Phoenix rep. mentioned that this issue started as a local concern brought to DPAC, and now to

the District level, following correspondence the Phoenix PAC received from the District after the installation of their new playground as part of the recent reconfiguration of schools.

- Question: has this come up at BCCPAC as a resolution? Is this something for us to consider?
- It was noted that although a couple of schools have been fortunate enough to receive “rebates” on their playground purchases in the past couple of years, again there is an inequity in this issue resulting in some being very happy but most not.
- Michelle Babchuk mentioned that at every AGM she goes to this issue is advocated and every year the same response is given for the districts to take money out of the funds already granted. It was also noted that this issue also fits in with advocacy of healthy schools, obesity issues, etc. Michelle's recollection is that the last round of rebates came as a result of parent advocacy through the BCCPAC. She will continue to advocate from her side, but from her perspective our best bet is to go through the BCCPAC.
- Michael Savoie mentioned that we are very lucky to have such a good rapport between DPAC and the Trustees and all community members, but this frustration is growing and has to be discussed.
- Discussion ensued re funding issues.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Supervision of Schools – Jennifer Boulet & Karen Gauthier from Willow Point**

- Jennifer advised that Willow Point's recently installed new playground is great, but they have noticed reports of kids getting hurt through aggressive play and lots of parents are upset. Parents are generally happy with the administration and teachers at the school, but don't understand/agree with the ratio of supervisors to students on the playground: currently 3 adults to 286 students, including 65 kindergarten students, who they feel are not properly supervised. When an incident occurs on the playground at lunch, that leaves them a “man down” very quickly and it doesn't seem possible for the then 2 adults to cover supervising that many students.
- Concern also raised that students with EA's during classroom time are not supported during outside recess/lunch time.
- Willow Point parents have formed a safety committee to deal with these issues.
- It is felt that there are not enough paid noon hour supervisors, which provides a real gap and little support to implement the anti-bullying and WITS programs lessons at playtime. It has been reported that the students themselves don't feel safe.
- *There is a discussion that is going to happen at the District level – other schools are encouraged to bring their voices forward for support.*
- Karen advised that parents have stood by and watched students at playtime and are discouraged, but they have received a good response by both school administration and Nevenka Fair, who has been very supportive.
- Nevenka has put a leadership program in place at 3 schools whereby information is given at the kids level for reporting issues and discussing matters.
- Staff have been very supportive and are using pylons to keep kids more central. Also, pinnies are placed on kindergarten students for easier identification and to keep them in the same play area. Playground structure play time has also been separated into grade use. These plans are being monitored to determine their effectiveness.
- Looking at “lunchtime with Dads”, but this is tricky to monitor/input – thinking of hockey and soccer games or other structured activities.
- Action BC presented to grade 4/5 kids with outside games and how to teach to others – use peer mentoring skills.

- **REQUEST FOR INPUT:** Michael Savoie has requested that if your PAC has any input/ideas to pass along after reading these Minutes, please communicate them directly to the Willow Point representatives at the following email address: [info@jenniferboulet.com](mailto:info@jenniferboulet.com)
- Christine Szaflik (who is also an EA at Cedar), mentioned that the same issues are present at Cedar (and likely other schools). These issues have been partially addressed by introducing judo lessons with a certified volunteer at lunch time, and suggested that intramurals would also help. Also, at Cedar the EAs are on duty at lunch time and take their breaks at different times, which helps place more adult bodies outside during student play time.

#### **B. DPAC Website - Kate Morgan**

- At the start of this school year it was decided that a stand alone website would be appropriate for DPAC to provide more parent directed discussion/information.
- A quote, dated October 7, 2013 (copy attached) was obtained by Chameleon Creative Graphic & Web Design Inc. in the amount of \$1,080.00 (excluding taxes), covering website design and programming and a yearly hosting cost.
- Discussion ensued, it was mentioned by several that this was a good price for the services provided.
- UPON MOTION made, seconded and carried, IT WAS RESOLVED that DPAC approve the payment of \$1,080 (plus applicable taxes) to Chameleon Creative Graphic & Web Design Inc. for the creation and hosting of a new DPAC website, with yearly hosting of \$50 included.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

- Quadra parent mentioned concern regarding September start-up staffing issue. At the start of the school year Quadra had 5 teachers, then down to 4, students started shuffling and they received 5 new students before September 30<sup>th</sup> so a position wasn't eliminated. They are looking for flexibility to accommodate schools with more transient populations. Had the new students arrived on October 1<sup>st</sup> they would not have been able to attend school on Quadra as there wouldn't have been room. There does not appear to be any flexibility and parents feel that there should be exceptions to the numbers made as it's not the same as if a Campbell River school is full and you can just move to one a little further away.
- Nevenka Fair addressed this issue by confirming that a .5 position was taken away and the school was actually overstaffed. It's a matter of helping people look at things differently about the structure of classes, using extra supports and looking at different situations to make it work in order to accommodate students coming in. They are currently working with Quadra administration on a vision for next year. It was noted that Quadra also has a lot of home schooled children, which makes it more difficult to project numbers.
- Quadra parent had further concerns with the lack of support for special needs children through EA cutbacks made in November, saying that without support it takes up too much time of the teacher in the classroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** January 14, 2014 at 7 pm in Robron Library.