

C.R. District Parent Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Present: Michael Savoie, Kate Morgan, Lara Hamer, Denise Vowles-Biegler, Lori Derouin (CRDTA), Suzy Roberts, Violet Shade, Karen Worsley, Cheryl Chatteton, Shauna Schmitke, Debi Mackie, Nevenka Fair (SBO)

Regrets: Lisa McCosh

Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Michael Savoie welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Guest speaker Greg Johnson, District Principal of Aboriginal Education and Alternative Programs, was introduced.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: Draft Minutes from the September 18, 2013 meeting were circulated for review, and a copy had previously been delivered to each school for the attention of the respective PACs. There being no questions, additions or revisions, the September 18, 2013 Minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda: No additions to the Agenda.

Chair's Opening Remarks:

- Michael reminded everyone that meetings this year will be held between 7 - 8:30 pm, unless a special guest had a presentation requiring additional time (only expected to occur once or twice). The DPAC Executive would be available before and after the scheduled meeting time for any further discussions.
- Strategic Planning & Thoughtstream process currently being conducted by SD72, how was the list of contacts formulated? The schools utilized the email contacts maintained at each school - remind parents that they should ensure that their contact information, including email address, is kept current with their child(ren)'s school.

Correspondence: only item received (other than bank statements) was the Teacher's Magazine (circulated).

School News & Reports from PACs: Michael asked if anyone had any news from their school, stating that this was an opportunity to pass along positive information to share with the rest of the District.

- Willow Point has just completed the installation of a new playground, which benefits not only the students but the entire community.

REPORTS

A. Treasurer - Lisa McCosh, Acting Treasurer

- Lisa was not present due to illness and sent her regrets. She also provided Michael with the current bank balances of \$3,164.99 in the Gaming Account and \$2,332.96 in the General Account.

B. District Diary - Nevenka Fair

- September 30th was a huge date within the District as this is the Provincial date for counting student numbers and confirming funding to be received. This year student enrollment is within 10 of the projected number of students, which is a commendable projection.
- As a result of the BCTF job action, cash savings from teacher salaries not paid is provided to each school district in the form of Learning Improvement Funds ("LIF"), to be applied towards situations in schools requiring extra support, such as teaching, EA's, etc. The SD72 allotment this year is approximately \$622,000. There is a tentative plan already in place for the application of these funds where supports are needed, including an elementary counsellor, \$266,000 towards teacher positions

(L.A. increase of time), and professional development, with a mandatory 30% (\$186,000) saved for the second semester.

- The LIF is reassessed after the completion of classroom reviews, etc. happening this Fall to fine tune where exactly the extra help is required. District-wide data will be reviewed and then funds will be allocated. In addition to the LIF, Intervention Grants can be specifically applied for by schools from funds allocated each year to address additional areas needing attention/extra support.
- Information provided from the Technology Planning Committee indicates that district infrastructure needs are in place to support the teachers' use of technology to support student learning. Although technology could always use more funding, things are looking good at the present time.

Guest Speaker: Greg Johnson

- Currently working on the Consultation Plan for the fourth Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. See attached hand-out re the purpose, goals and process for the Agreement. Currently in Stage Two.
- Goals are set with the aboriginal community to ensure that culture and language needs are met, representation is given to all aboriginal people, and allocation of funds is made to enhance programs to "level the playing field".
- Greg did an informal quiz with those present to test knowledge of Aboriginal Education facts within SD72. The grade 8-12 completion rate is 72%, and if aboriginal students make it to grade 12 well over 90% graduate.
- PAC reps were asked to share the information provided at the PAC meetings and ask the question "how is it part of our school culture?".
- Question to Greg: Where does the money come from for the enhanced programs? The funding comes directly from the Ministry of Education, Aboriginal Education Branch.

C. Board of Trustees - No representation at meeting.

- Nevenka provided information on behalf of the Trustees from meeting recently held. There has been a ton of response/data received from the Thoughtstream Process currently being conducted by SD72. On November 2nd there will be a community forum to obtain further information for the development of the district's second strategic plan for the education of Campbell River students. This plan will help shape the future of our school district for the next five years to ensure that all our students experience the success they deserve. The forum will bring together representatives from such groups as the local First Nations bands, service clubs, VIHA, the Municipality, the Regional District, the Chamber of Commerce, as well as educational partners - teachers, administrators, parents and students.
- Student voice to be done, led by administrators in middle and high schools. Also, four to five grade 5 students in each elementary school will also be asked questions.

D. Teachers' Association - Lori Derouin

- Lori mentioned that there are three teachers this year that will be taking turns coming to the DPAC meetings as representatives, tonight is her turn. Michael expressed his thanks on behalf of DPAC for the teachers' involvement.
- Tomorrow bargaining sessions will recommence between teachers and employers. Teachers have been working without an agreement since the expiry of the old one June 30, 2013.

E. BCCPAC - Michael Savoie

- The BCCPAC website (www.bccpac.bc.ca) has been streamlined, Michael encouraged parents to check out the available information, including a blogger (Janet Steffenhagen) who used to write for the Vancouver Sun newspaper.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Treasurers' Workshop:

- Michael stated that he brought copies of a previously provided hand-out re Treasurer information with him if anyone wanted to take one back to their PAC.
- As a follow-up to discussion at the last meeting, Michael confirmed that Karen McLennan (past Chair of DPAC) was willing to present a workshop to not only Treasurers, but any other PAC members who might benefit from the financial information (ie Chairs, any members thinking about getting involved).
- Thinking of holding the workshop at 6-7 pm *before* a DPAC meeting (so that it's a separate event), possibly in November or January. ***Please take this item back to your school for discussion and provide your feedback directly to Michael (email: bouncearama@shaw.ca) and he will set it up.
- Suggestion from Denise, at the start of each school year there could be a fundraising meeting between schools to minimize the competition between schools for fundraising dollars. It was confirmed that this issue has come up in the past, perhaps this could be addressed by placing a calendar on the new DPAC website so that schools can view and list their events. Kate will look into this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. F.O.R.C.E. Webinar - Oct. 17/13 6:30-9:00 pm at Robron

- See attachment re "in the know" networking session "Worries and Woes: Identifying and Preventing Anxiety in Children".

2. Playground Fundraising by PACS

- DPAC has received a letter (attached) from the Phoenix PAC advising of concerns regarding playground fundraising by PACs, and requesting support from other PACs and DPAC in writing a letter of concern to SD72. The following discussion ensued.
- There is a concern of an ongoing obligation to PACs of having to fundraise \$2-3,000 each year, for something that is going to happen in 20 years. PACs are not here just to fundraise - it was noted that the fundraising issue is the biggest detraction from parents participating in PACs. Also, the playground issue is a new one for middle school PACs who are not used to the same level of fundraising as elementary schools have had to do.
- The issue of continual fundraising for playgrounds is very problematic and putting unwanted pressure on individual PACs who feel like this item has to be placed on the top of the priority list when there are so many other items to be dealt with. It is felt that this cycle of continual fundraising is burning out the PACs and it needs to end.
- Concern is that a letter has now been received from the district which places all of the responsibility upon the PACs to ensure that fundraising for playgrounds is sufficient to cover replacement when old playgrounds need to be replaced.
- Although there are now annual inspections and letters sent to PACs, more warning is requested as to when playgrounds will be decommissioned.
- Michael asked for a show of hands from those present who supported a DPAC letter being sent to the District and Trustees asking what they are doing to advocate for playground funding elsewhere so that sole reliance is not placed upon PACs. Support received - Michael will prepare a letter.

3. Trustee and Parent Interaction

- Kate brought up the issue of SD72 Trustee interaction with parents at schools. There used to be a bi-annual visit of Trustees to each school, which was cancelled within the past couple of years. Discussion ensued, with many ideas put forward, and it was generally agreed that there is a need to change the format to meet the Trustees in a more informal way with more opportunities for parent interaction. We would like to start a conversation with Trustees as to how to accomplish this goal.
- Nevenka mentioned that this very topic was just mentioned yesterday by Trustees wishing to address the same issue.

OTHER MATTERS

1. BCCPAC Memberships: Michael reminded PACs that DPAC has offered to pay the \$75 fee for all school BCCPAC memberships again this year. If not already done, please send your school's BCCPAC registration (form available on BCCPAC website) through your school's internal delivery system to "DPAC". If your PAC has already paid directly, DPAC will reimburse upon receipt of a copy of the documentation.
2. PAC Request for Funds from SD72: Michael reminded that PACs can submit a letter to Kevin Patrick at the SBO requesting funds for students (ie. Southgate approx. \$200, Willow Point \$150). This money has already been allocated in the SD72 budget, so go ahead and apply for it. Michael will bring another copy of a sample letter application to the next DPAC meeting.
3. Circulation of DPAC Minutes: Please note that the DPAC Minutes are "draft" until they are approved at the next DPAC meeting. Once completed, Karen will circulate the Draft DPAC Minutes to each school to the attention of each PAC so that they can be reviewed/discussed at the next school PAC meeting, and will send copies to the SBO and Trustees. A copy of the draft will also be sent via email to each person present at that meeting, as well as the CUPE and CRDTA office. Email addresses will not form part of the Minutes, and the draft Minutes will be sent "BCC" so that the addresses remain confidential. Once approved, the final Minutes will be posted on the DPAC website by Kate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

NEXT MEETING: November 20, 2013 (7 pm - Robron Library)