

C.R. District Parent Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Present:	Kate Morgan	Phoenix	katemorgan@telus.net
	Lisa McCosh	Phoenix	lisamccosh@hotmail.com
	Lara Hamer		laradh@telus.net
	Elaine Thompson	CRDTA	lpcrdta@telus.net
	Karen Worsley	Timberline	worsley@telus.net
	Michael Savoie		bouncearama@shaw.ca
	Violet Shade		kiwikare@hotmail.com
	Nevenka Fair	SBO	nevenka.fair@sd72.bc.ca

Introductions

Michael Savoie welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: Minutes from last meeting held May 2013 were not available.

Additions to the Agenda: The following items were added to the Agenda under "New Business":

1. Report Cards
2. Qualified TOCs for high school math/science.

Special Guest: Deanna Hunt, CR Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity (Van. Island North) (Handout titled The Genworth "Meaning of Home" Contest) See habitat.org or habitat.ca

- Habitat has a new build Spring 2014 at 480 Hilchey Rd. in Campbell River, and the City has just given another property on Westgate.
- 5 minute video presentation shown about what Habitat for Humanity is all about. Summarized, it provides homes and education to manage a household, including finance/budgeting. The home is provided at approx. 1/12th of the cost and is made affordable due to commitment of volunteers and donations received. New owners do not get the homes for free (volunteer hours + mortgage tailored to family).
- The ReStore sells gently used and donated building supplies and funds raised cover the administrative expenses of Habitat, with left-over proceeds used on the builds.
- For every 12 homes built, the mortgage pays for the next one. Over 600 homes built to date.
- Looking for two applicant partner families to apply to be part of the Hilchey project - know anyone?
- Contest: "The Meaning of Home" being held across Canada for grade 4/5/6 students, consisting of a poem/composition/essay. Lots of prizes, including a grand prize of a \$60,000 donation to a Habitat affiliate of the winner's choice plus a school-wide pizza party. Contest opens October 1st and submissions can be made until November 7th. There is also a video contest. Please help spread the word to teachers (can do in-class or on-line).
- Question asked to Nevenka Fair: Can high school students earn credits working on the Hilchey (or other) projects? Deanna is already working with Jeff at Carihi.
- October 19th sale at the ReStore (1725B Willow Street, CR), with proceeds split between the N.I. Transition Society and Habitat.

NEW BUSINESS

1. DPAC Meetings this year:

- Michael advised that DPAC meetings will continue to be held every 3rd Wednesday of the month (no meetings December or June) at 7 pm in the Robron Library. The dates will be posted on the SD72 website. DPAC meetings this year would be confined to 1.5 hours in length (7 - 8:30 pm), the only exception being if there is a guest speaker invited that is anticipated to present over 15 mins., then the meeting will be between 7 - 9 pm (only 1-2 times per year).

- If anyone has any suggestions for guest speakers or has a topic that they think parents would like addressed, please contact Michael directly.
- Michael presented an idea obtained from SD71 website where a local hotel donated a couple of nights stay per year for outlying school PAC representatives to attend meetings/presentations in town. What if we approached local hotels with a "buy one/get one" idea and offer the accommodation to Cortez (as possibly Sayward) representatives? Maybe when special guest speakers/presenters are in town? Does anyone have any connections for accommodations? There were no objections to the idea so Michael will investigate further.

2. School Start-Up

- No issues discussed, generally pretty smooth across the District.

3. Report Cards / Communicating Student Learning

- Michael advised that Southgate parents had advised of their frustration/challenge in finding information at the end of June 2013 and over the summer.
- Nevenka Fair confirmed that the new format is now in place for all grade K through 8 students in the District. If parents are having issues with obtaining information there are alternate ways to obtain it, this should be a school based request for information, not at the Board Office. Parents can still ask for paper copies of reports or emails.
- This year there will be a pilot for "Eportfolios", hoping to have it in place at every school this Fall. Parents will be able to view online the student's entire portfolio under their folder. This will alleviate the challenge of sending paper back and forth to school. Students can also be taught how to use the program.
- Elaine Thompson stated that when requesting information about their child(ren), parents should start with the teachers for additional information, then move to administration if necessary.

4. Qualified TOC's for High School Math/Science

- Karen Worsley expressed the concern of numerous high school parents and students of the apparent lack of qualified TOC's for high school math/science classes. There are been several instances this Fall already where TOCs have covered classes and didn't have the knowledge to cover the material and answer student questions, resulting in undue stress upon students taking these challenging courses.
- Nevenka Fair advised that she believed that the TOC list was not "open" except for the Learning Assistance and French Immersion categories. She will communicate concerns to Human Resources.
- Karen mentioned that this item will also be discussed further at the Timberline PAC meeting next week.

REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report - Lisa McCosh, Acting Treasurer

- Lisa McCosh reported that the DPAC gaming account has \$2,334.96, with \$1,500 allocated for school BCCPAC memberships (as approved May 2013). School BCCPAC Registration Forms are still required from quite a few schools. Also, \$800 was allocated last year towards the purchase of a DPAC computer/laptop. We will be trying to get a laser printer included in this purchase.
- We still have to apply for this year's gaming grant, but have been waiting for the expenditure of above funds before making the application. The timing is somewhat flexible, and the application will be made closer to the end of this month.
- DPAC general account has \$2,796.61, plus a travel subsidy just received from BCCPAC in the amount of \$370.38.
- Lisa is currently the Acting Treasurer for DPAC, the position of Treasurer is open and we are looking for a volunteer.

- A Treasurers' Workshop for PACs will be offered by Karen McLennan sometime this October - schools will be advised when the date is confirmed (will not be on a DPAC meeting night). The information to be presented should take away the fear of the unknown and make it easier to fill the Treasurer position. Other PAC executive members are also welcome and encouraged to attend.

B. District Diary - Nevenka Fair

- Strategic Planning process starting in a few weeks (Nevenka to provide timeline), parents will receive an email where Thought Stream will ask 3-4 questions. The answers provided will be categorized per school and for the District. A follow-up email will be sent to prioritize the data received and the Board will then use the resulting data for their strategic planning process.
- There is also a middle school "cafe" of questions and input to obtain information from students.
- Achievement Contract is on the SD72 website for viewing.
- Pro-D days in August were well attended and a good way to start the school year.
- Enrollment is almost as projected and one extra teacher has been hired. In SD72 there are approximately 5,000 students enrolled. French Immersion registrations: EDM was closed for registrations but now has one space; Willow Point has two spaces available. We were almost at the waiting list stage.
- Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) discussed. Elaine Thompson mentioned that these funds have been provided to the District from the BCTF strike "savings", with a percentage coming back to us. Nevenka confirmed that these funds were used to address "hot spots" in schools not met by regular programs/learning. There was a Spring process - money could go towards teachers, intervention support, pro-d or EAs. Additional learning assistance time is possible. They are now looking at a Fall process and are expecting plans to be handed in the next week or so. Elaine is also involved in this process. It was noted that 30% of the funds must be saved for the 2nd semester.
- Seismic Upgrade now happening at Phoenix. We were not on the list, but unexpectedly received the grant. Portables are in and it will take a minimum one year period to complete.

C. CUPE Report: no representative present due to current contract negotiations.

D. BCTF Report - Elaine Thompson

- Elaine confirmed that teachers will not be crossing any picket lines by CUPE. Teachers are very anxious and are waiting to hear the results of the CUPE meeting tonight.
- BCTF legal case on now, covering the issue of legislation stripping contracts re class composition. A positive outcome could result in more money placed back into the system.
- Some teachers expressed start-up complaints regarding a greater numbers of students than expected, and other teachers have mentioned that things have gone quite well.
- French Immersion - wishing the boundaries are changed. Students have been lost to the Francophone school (they have apparently revised the "parent condition" and offer incentives like Ipads and laptops for students).
- Nevenka advised that the French Immersion boundary issue came up last year and they are still looking at it. In the future registration for French Immersion may have to be done at the District rather than at the school.

E. School Trustee Report - no representative present

OTHER MATTERS

- Lisa mentioned that Catherine Temple has offered to put any SD72 PAC fundraising event information on the "Go Campbell River" website. PACs should contact her directly if interested.
- Fundraiser information folders were handed out from Lee Simmons of Islandlife Photos, based in Willow Point. Recommended by several present.

NEXT MEETING: October 16, 2013

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.