

C.R. District Parent Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Present: Michael Savoie (President), Karen Worsley (Secretary), Violet Shade (Director), Kate Morgan (Director), Debi Mackie (Penfield), Michelle Babchuk (Trustee), Christine Szaflik (CUPE), Jennifer Boulet (Willow Point), Elaine Thompson (CRDTA), Paula Lagos (Discovery Passage), Ben Nicoll (Quadra), Cheryl Chatterton (EDM)

Regrets: Lisa McCosh (Vice-President & Acting Treasurer)

Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Michael Savoie welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Draft Minutes from the November 20, 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 November meeting sign-in sheet. <Note: there was no meeting held in December 2013.> There being no questions, additions or revisions, or business arising, the November 20, 2013 Minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda:

There being no additions or revisions, tonight's Agenda was approved:

Correspondence:

Items received and presented for review: Teachers' Magazine and Christmas card from trustees.

School District 72's international program is looking for host families – emails have been sent out through the District. Mike and his family have participated before, and mentioned that it is a very rewarding experience.

Colleen Clark, from F.O.R.C.E. (Families Recognized for Recognition and Care Equality) Society for Kids' Mental Health, presented at DPAC last year. There will be a Parent Information & Networking Session titled "Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: It's not just about washing your hands!" tomorrow at 6:30 pm in this same room. For more information and upcoming topics go to www.forcesociety.com.

School News & Reports from PACs:

- Phoenix assembly and talent show was held last Friday (originally cancelled due to snow day Dec. 20th) – very popular event with the students.
- Cedar will be having another movie night Feb. 4th, great success at the last one.
- Mike noted that Madman McKay will loan their awesome equipment to other schools for movie nights, etc. Phoenix showed Olympic hockey games in 2010, it was suggested that they do it again this year as a fundraising event for the school.

REPORTS

A. Treasurer – Lisa McCosh, Acting Treasurer, was absent so report was given by Karen Worsley, Secretary.

- Karen advised that as at December 31, 2013 there was \$4,658.99 in the general account, and \$262.46 in the gaming account. Gaming expenses included the approved purchase of the DPAC computer, and BCCPAC registration fees for SD72 schools. From the general account the approved sum of \$500 was paid to Chameleon Creative as the first instalment towards the creation of the new DPAC website.
- Mike mentioned that you can now get a "view only" card for PACs so that you can check balances and transactions on-line with web access for accounts. Provides security for other members being able to view it and convenience for the Treasurer. Ben (Quadra) mentioned that this matter has to be reflected in the PAC minutes of meeting to allow access for members. Quadra PAC is currently using this system, phone your bank if you are interested in checking it out (for non-profits).
- UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and approved as presented.

B. District Diary – Nevenka Fair

(See *District Diary* handout provided – copy attached)

- Technology: with respect to 3D printing, Mike asked is the teacher has final control over what's printed (U.S. looking at making laws due to plastic guns issue) – Nevenka replied that everything has potential to be used in bad way, it is monitored. She mentioned that the 3D printing is fascinating to see and difficult to explain. Some discussion about presenting for other schools/parents to see this new technology.
- ePortfolio project currently being piloted by 35 teachers – Shannon Hagen is the lead on it – information on your child can be set up per grade with videos of presentations, photos, samples of their work, includes communication of and celebration of learning. Only accessible by parents for their child.
- FSA: mentioned that test may cover areas not yet worked on during class, as exams are earlier in the year and not all curriculum has yet been covered – this is taken into consideration by teachers when reviewing results. Looked at by teachers to see where they have to spend more time and where their successes are that year so far. Question: is it now mandatory for students to participate? Yes, the Ministry expects that all students write the exam, with 3 exceptions noted (as sent home in SD72 letter to grade 4 & 7 parents – copy on file). If concerned, have a conversation with your school Administrator. It is up to parents to have the final say. You will also want to discuss what other meaningful activity will be available to your child if they are not participating in the exams (may wish to keep them home).
- Playground supervision: Concern in particular about the large number of K students at some schools (60-70 at Willow Point). Committee meeting in the next week or two to discuss new criteria, strategies and recommendations to make to the Board before the budget process. Elementary Administrators from small schools, two large schools, and Nevenka sitting on the Committee at this time. Reminder – information and contact details of Willow Point reps are in the November minutes. Presentation was just made by Willow Point parents at most recent Board meeting. Mike suggested that Elaine (CRDTA) can elaborate on teacher involvement/restrictions re supervision.
- No questions to Nevenka.
- Mike commented that it's nice to hear from senior administration the "teacher first" philosophy.

C. Board of Trustees – Michelle Babchuk

- Board items on the go include the strategic planning process, will be put together with the budget process so that they align together. Also, facility review coming up – excited to be up front and center on this issue so that facilities in need of repair/replacement can be addressed and can present in case funds come available from the government.

- Michelle just elected Chair and Barb Bowbrick Vice-Chair. Adhoc committees can be created by Michelle.
- See handout provided re the 2014-2017/18 District Calendar (copy attached), outlining some key regulations regarding school calendars and details of the calendar development process. Calendar can now be set for up to three years, committee now being struck representative of all stakeholder groups including CUPE, CRDTA, DPAC, students, administrators, Trustee Susan Wilson and Trustee Joyce McMann representative of the District. Need information to the Board by Feb. 28th. Consultative committee to take a look at all of the options out there to take a look at the next 3 years and what needs to happen. Could include items such as balanced calendars, year round schooling, etc. Something can be used immediately but can also impact longer down the road.
- BCPCSEA meeting and BCSTA meetings during the next few weeks, hoping to have good contact/conversations with Minister and Deputy Minister.
- Thanked Willow Point group for its presentation at the board meeting last night (playground supervision). Will take a look at the process to see how it can be improved. WPT comment – felt good to have conversations afterwards with trustees, they felt “heard” but a little unsure how to navigate the whole process to be effective without it being all-consuming re time. Noted that it is not a “public board meeting” but a “board meeting in public”, which is why there is a different type of structure and limited participation by the public. However, public interactions are encouraged with the trustees.
- District Calendar – clarified that the Board creates the school calendar, the committee is just for consultation to see what’s important. Have the opportunity to plan for 3 years, but it may not be done all at once. Depends on feedback from committee. It was noted by Kate that the calendar consultation has been done every year in the past with parents, but the government has now changed the calendar system re the ability to work out 3 years at one time. There is no defined spring break anymore, so the calendar is totally open, ie could have year round schooling, and each school could potentially do it differently. In the past, not a lot of discussion between the different groups (ie why did CRDTA choose one way and CUPE choose another way with the calendar options presented) – the committee should address this issue.
- No questions.

D. Teachers' Association – Elaine Thompson, CRDTA President

- Calendar comment – number of instructional hours required is at the bargaining table now and is being questioned. May see another change in instructional time.
- Great meeting with teacher/board liason (first one in 3 years) – talked about calendar committee, french immersion boundaries (to be considered in review of all facilities, becoming an urgent issue by EDM and Willow Point parents), curriculum implementation committee re BC Ed Program coming, relationships between board, teachers, trustees (would like to see school visits).
- Class size and composition reports just published by government, presented a couple of numbers for Campbell River: grades 8-12 2nd highest class average in Province, grades 1-3 8th highest in Province, other categories 18th & 19th. Also, special needs students in classes grades 4-12, 45 classes with 7 or more IEPs. Question by Violet: are there less EAs available in middle schools now? EA might only be assigned to one student, but could also be helping others in classroom, comes down to funding, only “X” amount of dollars received which is based on category of special needs students. Full report of numbers to be presented at later date.
- Discussion between CRDTA and Superintendent re FSAs, if parents request students not write then parents want request respected. Letter that went home from SD72 found to be intimidating and that parents don't have an option, that they would be breaking the law. Elaine

has been advised that she has heard from at least two parents that they have been told they have to come in to talk to principals before children will be out of test. Also, objection re how Fraser Institute misuses data and publishes/ranks schools.

- Question: how does the BCTF address the Fraser Institute and the misuse of data. Babchuk commented that in the past the BC Trustees administration advocated against the use of the data in that manner, however, it is a public document so they can use it how they want. Did try, but gets mired in rhetoric – focus now on educating parents in the schools. Basically, that's not what the media wants to hear.
- BCTF has analyzed information and it's no surprise what the data results show (socio-economic, etc.)
- Commented on student supervision and teachers participation – Campbell River teachers have the highest number of minutes of supervision per week in the whole province (up to 75 minutes). It was agreed that looking at teachers to provide additional time was not the area to be focused on.
- Mike commented there are many differing opinions in this room and we are fortunate to have the respect and participation of all the different voices in this District – we can agree to disagree but we can all have relevant opinions and listen to all sides of the issues. This is very much appreciated.

E. CUPE – Christine Szaflik

- Reached a new collective agreement, but have to go back to the Board this spring. Every year trying to make a presentation around budget time from their perspective and will be at the February Board meeting to voice what each department is concerned about.
- No questions.

F. BCCPAC (www.bccpac.bc.ca) – Michael Savoie

- Nothing new to discuss at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Calendar Committee

Mike asked who would like to sit on the Committee – Kate Morgan and possibly Paula Lagos.

OTHER MATTERS

Mike noted that before the DPAC meeting tonight Colleen Krasman and Karen McLennan facilitated a workshop and invited all SD72 PACs to “Treasurer 101” to discuss matters relating to gaming funds/restrictions, PAC finances and management of funds.

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the payment of a \$25.00 DPAC honorarium to each of Colleen Krasman and Karen McLennan in appreciation of their joint facilitation of the “Treasurer 101” workshop earlier this evening WAS APPROVED.

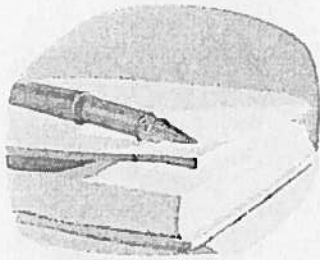
Karen mentioned that in order to protect/store the new DPAC laptop, she recently purchased a laptop case and presented an invoice in the amount of \$16.79 for reimbursement.

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the reimbursement of \$16.79 to Karen Worsley for

the purchase of the DPAC laptop case WAS APPROVED.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: February 19, 2014 at 7 pm in Robron Library.

Footnote to Minutes: There is a new DPAC email account, dpac-sd72@hotmail.com
A printed copy of the draft DPAC minutes are sent to the attention of the PAC at each SD72 school, and a copy emailed to each attendee at the respective meetings. If you would like to be included on the email list (regardless of attendance at the meeting), please email your request to the above address.



District Diary

Submitted by Nevenka Fair to DPAC on Wednesday, January 15, 2014

7:00 pm at Robron

For Learning:

Technology:

- Some absolutely fabulous opportunities happening in our schools with regards to integrating technology to support student learning
- Purchased a 3-d Printers at Timberline and students are applying the technology in a variety of exciting ways...super exciting
- Student ePortfolio pilot project is up and running and the portfolio layout and possibilities look fabulous. What a wonderful way it will be to communicate, showcase and celebrate student learning
- Would love to showcase some of this with you all at some point

FSA:

- Provincial Assessment for students in grades four and seven which looks at reading, writing and numeracy
- Done between January 13th and February 21st
- How does our district use the information that comes from this assessment? First, we would never use it in any way that would negatively impact a child. Our district considers and uses the information we get from the Foundation Skills Assessment as a part of the **Assessment for Learning** cycle. This information, along with other classroom and district data, tells parents, teachers, students, and the district what our students are doing well and where further growth is needed in relation to the three basic skills expected by the province in that grade level. *Your child's score on the Foundation Skills Assessment is not part of any report card mark or any other report from your child's teacher or school.*

Playground Supervision:

- There have been concerns expressed by parents and school staffs around elementary supervision especially since kindergarten went full days
- We have formed a committee to take a closer look at this and revisit the current criteria we have for supervision and make some recommendations to the Board for their consideration as they start Budget planning for the 2014-2015 school year.

Upcoming Seminar for Parents:

Parenting Through Times of Change: *Blended Families Seminar*. This discussion based seminar will focus on tools and strategies for parents who are dealing with the changes and challenges associated with parenting in a blended family.

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Campbell River Family Services located 487-10TH Avenue. There is no cost, but registration is required. For more information or to register, phone Sandy at CR Family Services 250-287-2421 or e-mail sandra.bellosillo@crfs.ca. Childminding is not available during this session

2014-2017/18 District Calendar

Some Key Regulations Regarding School Calendars:

- The School Amendment Act (Bill 36) enacted in Spring 2012, established a new legislative framework for school calendars.
- School Calendar Regulation sets Minimum number of hours of Instruction: 853 Kindergarten; 878 for gr1 through 7; 952 grades 8 through 12.
- The Board must make public, on or before February 28th, the proposed calendars to provide parents and board employees the opportunity to comment on the proposed calendar.
- Boards are required to submit their 2014-2015 school calendars by March 31, 2014.

Calendar Development Process:

December 2013

- SMT to Collect information/research regarding potential calendar options

January 2014 –

- Board to Rescind By-law number 3
- Establish a Calendar Consultation Committee consisting of:
2 Trustee Reps; 2 parent (DPAC) reps; 2 CUPE; 2 CRDTA; 2 Principal/Vice Principal; 2 Senior Management; Core Pro D Coordinator; 2 Students; Chaired by Superintendent.

The committee will meet twice in January (proposed dates 23rd and 30th)

Terms of Reference of the committee:

- Examine information regarding benefits to student learning provided by the change in legislation.
- Consideration of options: i.e. Status quo; Balanced School Calendar; Three week Winter and Spring Break; Two week Spring Break; Built in Professional Learning Community Time; Other;
- Recommendation of length of Calendar: i.e. 1, 2, or 3 years
- Make recommendation through consensus regarding elements the committee wishes to be considered by the board in the creation of a Calendar

February 2014

- Board develops a Calendar based on input from the committee
- Calendar is Distributed to stakeholders feedback and shared with Board

March 2014

- 18th: Calendar is adopted at the Public meeting of the Board
- March 31; The adopted calendar is sent to the Ministry Of Education