



DPAC MEETING NOTES FOR OCTOBER 4, 2010

Attendees:

DPAC Executive: Don Sabo, Dennis Fudge, Chris Finke, Michelle Hourie, Steve Shannon, Sarah Holland

Partner Groups: Brian Pepper, Lorraine Prouse, Cindy Heitman, Linada Naess, Margaret Karlson

School Reps: Edgewood (Cara Vandekraats), Giscome (Michelle Hourie), École Heather Park (Sarah Holland), École Lac Des Bois (Shannon Connor), Nukko Lake (Gillian Burnett), Beverly (Trinity Posterparo), Blackburn (Lynday Baxter and Nancy Basha).

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 pm

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Kelly Road; 2nd by Beverly

Adoption of Amended Minutes: Motion by Hart Highlands; 2nd by Blackburn

PAC Networking

- Blackburn is looking for ideas regarding hot lunch collections since SD57 staff no longer handle the financial PAC transactions.

Responses:

Nukko Lake shared that they are collecting cash payment on the day of hot lunch and are now working on collecting hot lunch payments for three months in advance (prepaid).

Pinewood recommends one-way insert box for the class room, similar to the feedback or comments box and to use order forms.

- Concern expressed about the need for more parent Involvement in Parent Advisory Councils

Responses:

Beverly has no PAC and DPAC Director Dennis Fudge recommended informing the parents that there will be no PAC at all if there are no volunteers.

DPAC Director, Sarah Holland recommended resources on the PTO and PTA websites for information on how to involve parents. <http://www.ptotoday.com>

- Nukko Lake attended the last SD57 Board Meeting to address the unresolved transportation issue with courtesy rides to be able to bus children from urban areas enroute to Nukko Lake.
- Discussion regarding the importance of planning proactively and to explore the viability of having an ongoing educational sustainability committee that monitored success indicators with a longer-term for management analysis over a minimum 5 year period to preferably a 25 year

period, especially with capitol assets with long amortization periods. The consultation period needs to extend far beyond the 60 days. Some examples of indicators might be declining enrollment; educational funding compared annually; and real cost-drivers that measure actual performance and management objectives. At the beginning of a consultation for any policy or change, the data for review ought to be provided for the parents and partner stakeholders first through a public forum such as the Vanier Hall. The understanding is that the Sustainability Committee disbanded at the end of school closures in May 2010.

- Concerns expressed for the safety of the children at the Centre for Learning Alternatives at John McGinnis due to the exposure to other adults accessing the building. What safety measures are there in place?
- Don Sabo, DPAC Chair announced an upcoming presentation on the impact of the economies of scale concerning the benefits and impacts on education.
- Buckhorn shared how their school is making a concerted effort to expand on community involvement and connections through providing daycare, recreation and social events.
- Heather Park had a PAC attendance of 60 parents for the first election, and who also discussed safety issues concerning the playground and traffic.

7:40 PM Invited Stakeholders In

Reports

DPAC Chair Report – Sept 26: DPAC Executive Meeting; Sept 27: Monthly President’s Meeting re: reducing costs; Sept 28: School Board Meeting – introduction of the concepts: Economies of School and Mega School, School District Operating Annual Budget approved, Changes to District Award Policy, Meisner Show (Mega Schools, Economies of Scale); Oct 4 (McDirmiad and Meisner Radio Show).

Treasurer’s Report – Explained Treasury Reports; DPAC gaming grants of \$2,500 fully reinstated: \$228,000 to schools;

Superintendent’s Report – Brian Pepper reported on the transfer of ownership of land from SD57 to Duster Elementary Fine Arts. Mortgage held by district for the value of the land for 7 years; reported on benefits of games coming to our community, the Calendar Committee, educational trends in class size, costs, education delivery in rural and remote areas; and policy governance (see Superintendents speaking notes: Appendix a.

Trustee Report – Lois Boone met with Minister Margaret MacDirmiad; update on Giscome – high priority and desire for the school to be replaced due to the distance that the children have to travel; rural schools, funding and ability to maintain the rural schools. Budget will come out in early spring in March of 2011.

CUPE Report – Lorraine Kraus introduced Margaret Carlson, VP of Cupe. Ms. Kraus reported that there were a lot of member layoffs in June; a lot of complaints; and a lot of current postings.

PGPVPA – Cindy Heitman talked about assessment for learning, curriculum, instruction, personalized learning, and working with families.

PGDTA – Matt Pearce announced and invited those in attendance to their open house gathering at their new location. Mr Pearce explained that the BCEGES is a student information system that reports attendance and tracks IEP's (Individual Education Plans). Mr Pearce talked about an ongoing litigation proceeding that relates to an alleged violations relating to the grievance process concerning class size and amalgamations as provided for in Bill 33 and Section 76 of the School Act. Restitution is being sought for the alleged punitive damages. The court proceedings are being heard at the Supreme Court of Canada.

DSAC – There were two representatives at the last board meeting.

Parent Involvement Committee – Cara Vandekraats that there will be two workshops: 1) PAC structural and accounting and 2) anti-bullying

New Business

Motion forwarded by Kelly Road and seconded by College Heights to designate Chris Finke and Sarah Holland as the two delegates to vote by proxy on behalf of the PAC BCPAC members at the Nov 12-14 BCPAC Extra-ordinary General meeting in Vancouver, BC. The travel costs would be funded by DPAC. PAC members in good standing effective October 31, 2010 are eligible to vote. The benefit of getting the proxy forms filled are that it provides SD57 parents with a stronger voice. DPAC will reimburse PACs in the amount of 50% of the BCPAC fee of \$75.00 when the DPAC Treasurer receives a filled out proxy form which authorizes the delegate to vote on their (the PAC's) behalf.

Chris Finke, DPAC Treasurer (treasurer@sd57dpac.ca) indicated that he would help to facilitate a gaming workshop if parents are interested.

DPAC Director, Sarah Holland advised that there is free accounting software called 'GNU Cash' (<http://www.gnucash.org>)

Parents expressed concern about children experiencing anxiety about the impact of large schools and asked Brian Pepper, Superintendent of SD57 what resources are available.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm. Next Meeting will be held on Nov 1, 2010

2010.10.04
District Parent Advisory Council
Superintendent's Speaking Notes

1. Dunster Elementary
 - Sale to the Dunster Fine Arts School Society
 - 7 years – district to hold mortgage – land value
 - Closing details and date to be determined