



DPAC MEETING NOTES FOR November 1, 2010

(a) Attendees:

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

Partner Groups: Superintendent (Brian Pepper), P.G.D.T.A. (Linda Naess), D.S.A.C. (Emily Yurkouski and Josh Hewitt), P.G.P.V.A.(Steve Wyer).

School Reps: Beverly (Trinity Posteraro and Colleen Smith), Buckhorn (Connie Kragt), College Heights (Jacqueline Dockray), Edgewood (Cara Vandekraats), Giscome (Michelle Hourie), Hart Highland (Kim Shannon), Highglen (Dan Wingman), Kelly Road (Steve Shannon), Ecole Lac Des Bois (Shannon Connor and Elena Thomas), Nukko Lake (Gillian Burnett), Pineview and P.G.S.S. (Michelle Rolfes).

(b) Meeting Start Time: 7:08 pm

(c) Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Nukko Lake; 2nd by College Heights

(d) Adoption of Minutes: Motion by College Heights; 2nd by PGSS

(e) PAC Networking

- College Heights (CH):
 - i. Their new office personnel is completely wonderful.
 - ii. Concern for the catchment and sibling policy issue.
 - a. Since March 30, 2010 the College Heights French Immersion program has cut in half with the new French Choice School – Lac Le Bois.
 - b. There is no longer sibling priority to families and now it is ‘first-come-first-serve’.
 - c. CH emailed the district and board stating these concerns and is currently reviewing the policy.
 - d. CH states there is no policy regarding kindergarten entry and sibling(s).
 - e. CH views that in the absence of policy, what is functionally happening becomes policy.
 - f. CH is concerned that as more schools close this policy issue will become more pronounced.
 - g. CH’s put forward that the policy needs to include: “siblings should receive priority” to support families. Due to the ‘district wide catchment for choice programs’ there is open access for all children.
 - h. Questions to PACS: Does this take precedence over sibling receiving priority?

- I. Nukko Lake Response: The process is to register in own catchment, then to transfer to the school of choice. Kindergarten is supposed to take place first. Transfer policies should be for moving and jobs.
- Nukko Lake had a silent auction, which was the biggest fund raiser for the year. Out-of-catchment policy has not been resolved.
 - Highlen reported that there were 380 in attendance at the 20th Annual Youth Leadership Conference. Youth explored climate change, poverty, and literacy solutions. See www.generationyes.org for more details.
 - Beverly has formed a Parent Advisory Council.
 - Edgewood had a potluck and announced an upcoming news book sale.
 - Lac Le Bois enquired about playground fundraising, Hendersen (50% on play steel), shipping costs, donations to PACS, and registered charitable society details?
 - Chilliwack District Policy has some language about school district insurance regarding PAC liability for the mitigation of risk.
 - SD57 helped with GST rebate, which was received at a later date.
 - Edgewood referenced the District Playground Committee and reported that monies were held by the district and that district does not want to handle PAC money.
 - Highlen reported that there money is now available; accounts no longer frozen.
 - Giscome reported that there is a need for careful planning, dialogue, and a transitioning period to implement proposed out-of-catchment courtesy policy currently under review affecting 244 students in SD57.
 - i. Concern expressed about SD57 for 'Acting Now and Thinking Later'. There is a great need to carefully plan, then execute the plan within a more reasonable timeframe as opposed to the 24 hours and 60 day current patterns as recently experienced with the school closures.
 - ii. It is important that the proposed changes are reviewed comprehensively, particularly the implications on the individual students and their families.
 - iii. In October 2010 an out-of-catchment bus arrangement was cancelled without notice (less than 24 hours) and this bussing arrangement has been in place since September 2004 to accommodate the families with dual residences, and other case by case reasons. The issue was raised and the bus was reinstated the same day.
 - iv. Michelle Hourie reinforced the need to reinstate the Sustainable Education Committee for long-range planning and dialogue with all the key stakeholders, with an emphasis to consider the implications of policy changes and the needs for a transition grace period that equitably accommodates the needs of the students.

7:40 PM Invited Stakeholders In

(f) Reports

DPAC Chair Report – Don Sabo:

- I. Attended Oct 25 President`s Luncheon;
- II. School Board Meeting: updated on DPAC 911 Workshop;
 - a. Expressed concern that Dec 4 might be a little late.
 - b. Presentation for standing committee: provincial extraordinary expenses, and parents lack of confidence in short-term planning cycle.

Education Services Committee – Stephen Shannon, Alternate: Michelle Hourie

- i. Sharon Caron, Assistant Superintendent on Learning Initiatives reported on Learning Alternatives and the Centre for Learning Alternatives Mentorship Program.
- ii. Worked on establishing timelines and ongoing issues.
- iii. District restructuring with the reduction of administration.
- iv. Lack of communication and equipment for the Centre of Learning Alternatives at the beginning of the school year.
- v. Next meeting scheduled for November 16, 2010.

EPPS Meeting Reports- Chris Finke, Alternate: Don Sabo – did not attend.

Policy and Governance Committee – Don Sabo, Alternate: Dennis Fudge

- vi. Working on the catchment and policy issues.
- vii. The transportation piece has not gone out yet.

Treasurer`s Report – Chris Finke

- i. Chris Finke provided the treasurer reports,
- ii. Advised that 50% (BCCPAC fee of \$75.00) will reimbursed to each PAC upon submission of the completed PAC proxy forms for the Spring Annual General BCCPAC meeting.
- iii. Spruceland proxy was not submitted.

Superintendent`s Report – Brian Pepper: SEE Appendix A: ‘Superintendent Speaking Notes’.

- i. Brian Pepper provided update on the Gang summit:

- a. United Nations Gang in lower and implications: addiction, death and jail.
 - b. Attendees at the summit included counselors, VP, teachers, RCMP, Integrated Gang Unit, and key note speaker.
 - c. School involvement includes business and other resources.
 - d. Much of the recommendations are prevention-based models.
- ii. The students register in their geographical catchment and that there are two types of catchment: neighborhood schools non-choice schools and choice schools.
- a. Choice Schools host one kind of program, such as: Montessori and Highlen, and then there are Choice Programs, such as French Immersion at College Heights and Heather Park. The Choice Programs fall within the neighborhood catchment.
 - b. Registration for kindergarten is on a first-come-first serve basis. Transfer policy includes a sibling provision: 1st priority to sibling, 2nd priority to someone in district, and 3rd someone out of district.
 - c. There are enrollment pressures at the school because the school building cannot accommodate the numbers.
 - 1) Projections are forecasted to 2017 and restrictions on schools are referred to the board.
 - 2) Hart Highway's decline is the largest in the school district, with vacancy rates.
 - 3) Transfers are more critical at secondary level.
 - 4) Currently there is a draft policy and an administrative procedure in place for public input on the parent's perspective.
- iii. The 1978 Abuse Policy was written in its first draft.
- iv. Most high schools offer 4 courses per semester and that each school decides their timetable and administrative processes.

Mr. Pepper will look into the issues of out-of-catchment courtesy ride, frozen PAC accounts, and questions concerning the administration of the PAC treasury (Henderson discount, rebate on HST, tax receipt for donations, and shipping costs).

Trustee Report – Lois Boone

- i. Catchment: Right versus Right Dilemma
- ii. Yearly meeting with teachers,
- iii. Upcoming Nov 4 meeting with DPAC, and
- iv. Upcoming meeting with Principals and Teachers.
- v. Ms. Boone met with Heather Park and discussed classroom composition, playground, and sinks.
- vi. Nukko Lake Bussing out-of-catchment courtesy ridership passed temporarily by school board until bussing review is completed.
- vii. The number of classroom size is below provincial limits.
- viii. The Policy and Governance Meeting process is 60 days in duration, which will involve the discussion of the catchment area provisions including debates on choice schools, choice programs, sibling preference for transfer, and no preference for siblings. Draft policy is written by Ms. DeMarsh who is good at putting legalities into place.

CUPE Report –

PGPVPA – Steve Wyer

- i. The new 'Family Model-Approach' to schools: seamless education, working together, and sharing common resources collectively and collaboratively through own networking system.
- ii. The k-12 family is seeing student as a whole passing through, for example an Edgewood Elem student may access Duchess Park resources, such as a Counselor.
- iii. Reflections on the characteristic and profile of a 21st Century Learner and balancing the need of foundational skills to school plans, innovations, personal interests, competent working knowledge, technology, and leadership.
- iv. The professional conversational model comprised of book study, contracts, and other things that are outside the day-to-day duties.

PGDTA – Linda Naess

- i. Teachers value the parent teacher interviews and the parents are encouraged to talk to the teachers;

- ii. October 22 is the first professional development day,
- iii. There will be a Pro D days scheduled in Jan, Mar, Ap, and May.
- iv. The teachers are tasked with meeting the needs of the children who have behavioral, emotional, and literacy needs. Some students who are in grade 5 have a literacy level of grade 2. There is a good history of retaining class size.
- v. Ms. Naess questioned, ``How do we fund wisely?``
 - a) Ms. Naess talked about streamlining processes and directing funding to the classroom. The kids in the classroom are suffering, the kids that we fail who become drop outs and involved in alternative lifestyles.
 - b) The bargaining objectives continue to be a big issue with class size and composition.
 - c) Minister of Education, George Abbot promised PGTA to set up meeting and is willing to talk, thus perceived as a reasonable minister with better communication skills.
 - d) There seems to be an erosion of where the money goes: to the school and to the child. The consultant and full time Teacher Aid supports are disappearing. The children are receiving some amounts for their special needs, and some specific special needs funds are being allocated elsewhere.
- V1. Lyn Hall asks for solutions to look at the model of special education that is in place.
 - a) Ms. Naess is not convinced that the special needs model is doing what it should.2)The L.A. and Support Teachers are getting fewer and fewer.
 - b) With class size legislation, there are fewer libraries, less support, less specialized teachers, and the existing teachers are doing onerous paperwork. The paperwork and reporting needs to be streamlined with reference to the filing out of forms and the IEP reports.

DSAC – Josh Hewitt, Alternate: Emily Yurkouski

- a) Goals: to raise awareness in school district and to represent the school body.
- b) DSAC is working on a presentation and will present at next Dec DPAC meeting.
- c) DSAC sees their main role is to get their opinion to the Board of Education and help advise the board regarding their decisions.

Parent Involvement Committee – Cara Vandekraats

- i. Dec 4, 2010 911 DPAC Workshop from 9:30 to 4 pm.
- ii. Registrations may be processed online at the DPAC website.
- iii. Guest speakers will be discussing accounting requirements, gaming, and the pros and cons of becoming a society. The workshop may be open to SD91.

d) New Business

Announcements: DPAC 911 Workshop

Upcoming presentation by Don Sabo on the 'Economies of Scale'.

Beverly did not receive funds yet; PAC account frozen.

e) Adjournment

Meeting was 1st motioned by Steve Wyer, and 2nd by Beverly to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Next Meeting will be held on Dec 6, 2010.