

DPAC General Meeting
February 7/11
Van Bien Training Centre

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Attendees:

DPAC Executive: Don Sabo, Dennis Fudge, Chris Finke, Marilyn Langlois, Steve Shannon, Sarah Holland, Michelle Rolfes (Pineview, PGSS)

Partner Groups: Superintendent Brian Pepper, School Board Trustee Lois Boone, C.U.P.E. (Lorraine Prouse, Margaret Karlson), P.G.P.V.P.A. (Cindy Heitman), P.G.D.T.A. (Matt Pearce)

School Reps: Kelly Road Secondary (Steve Shannon), Ecole Heather Park Elementary (Sarah Holland), Pineview (Michelle Rolfes), P.G.S.S. (Michelle Rolfes), Pinewood (Don Sabo), Ecole Lac Des Bois (Shauna Connor), Quinson (Ryan Clarke), Hart Highlands (Kim Shannon), Ecole College Heights Elementary (Jacqueline Dockray), Nukko Lake (Gillian Burnett)

Via Illuminate:
Beverly
Darlene Roy

1. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Motion to accept minutes made by ECHE
- b. Motion 2nd by Nukko Lake
- c. All in favour – carried.

2. Adoption of Minutes

- a. Request to include Committee Titles in reports – noted
- b. Motion to approve by EHPE
- c. Motion 2nd by Hart Highlands
- d. All in favour – carried

3. PAC Networking

- a. Spruceland – Grade 7 students did well in FSA last year (top 8)
 - i. Will be interesting to see this year's results with no French Immersion at school
 - ii. Change of Spruceland Elementary to Traditional School
 1. Still concern re. lack of communication
 2. Suggested that a mediator may have helped prevented misunderstandings
 3. No indication yet of how many Spruceland students will stay at Traditional School
 - iii. Seems to be an increase in discipline issues since French Immersion left the school.

- b. ECHE – questioned the wisdom of having 3 choice schools in close proximity – could put parents in a “tough spot”
 - i. Increase in carbon footprint with increased driving to get kids to their schools
- c. Quinson – kudos to school from ECHE parent, describes the wonderful feel entering the school for Strong Start
 - i. It is a “gem”
- d. Lac Des Bois – currently holding a raffle (a raffle a day) – profit so far \$8000
 - i. Holding Carnaval this week
 - ii. Noted that on online transfer process Lac Des Bois didn’t appear as an option – needed to use “other”
 - iii. Expressed disappointment that students are moving from school to school and its affect on the school community
 - 1. i.e. a student moving from EHPE to Lac Des Bois takes away from programming at EHPE
- e. EHPE – due to larger school size it was felt that administration isn’t able to devote as much time to curriculum
- f. ECHE – rumors persist about French Immersion program closing
 - i. Pleased to say things are going very well at ECHE
 - ii. Would be nice to have choice schools register one day earlier than regular registration
 - iii. Carnaval underway as well
- g. Nukko Lake – difficulty found with Kindergarten registration and transfer process
 - i. Parent had to register child for Kindergarten at EHPE then apply for transfer to Nukko Lake as student information was not present
 - ii. Comment made re. online registration problems: “put in the wrong information then contact the District”
 - iii. Feels there is a lack of communication between the District and parents
- h. Policy 5119 – noted that there was a referral to the policy for the definition of “neighborhood schools” but the definition is not there
 - i. Consider recommending contracting a policy advisor to review policies
 - ii. Don - Noted that biggest change (per Brian Pepper) was that Kindergarten registration had to now be in catchment
 - iii. Would have been nice to see more consultation with administrators
 - iv. Nukko Lake noted a report on Global BC re. similar “5119” issues in Maple Ridge
- i. EHPE – Carnaval last week
 - i. Holding a raffle (\$2/ticket, 8000 tickets)
 - ii. Playground – no word yet from District regarding relocating play structures – not sure if needing to fundraise

4. Reports

- a. DPAC Chair – see report
 - i. Interviewed by CKPG re. FSA
- b. Treasurer’s report – see attachments
- c. Superintendent’s report – written report submitted
 - i. Policy 5119 – revised policy awaiting final approval therefore not yet on the SD57 website
 - ii. Kindergarten Registration – 667 registered on Kindergarten Registration Day (only 65% of expected enrollment) – approximately 634 were expected to register that day
 - iii. Transfer Process – started today – impacted by Policy 5119
 - iv. Discussion about the Career and Technical Centre (CTC) - a great program offering a start in a trades program
 - 1. Tours of the program can be arranged
 - v. Question about the financial hardship policy – some parents have been paying for students to participate in fieldtrips as child’s parents could not pay – this is not unheard of
 - 1. Due to limited school budgets some planned fieldtrips may not work out if funds not available
 - vi. Late French Immersion – question asked as to why the program is only offered at Lac Des Bois (single track French Immersion) – may be due to limited room at dual track schools, difficulty resourcing the program at dual track, program intensity is aided by a French Immersion only atmosphere
 - vii. Some discussion about FSA results
- d. Trustees Report (Lois Boone)
 - i. Last Board meeting dealt mainly with policy 5119
 - 1. Most seemed satisfied with results
 - ii. Late French Immersion – approved at the meeting
 - 1. Mme Crandall to look re. interest – need at least 20 students
 - 2. Will only be in single track French Immersion school (Lac Des Bois)
 - a. Entry in Grade 6
 - 3. Some interest already expressed
 - iii. CTC graduation 1 ½ weeks ago
 - 1. Great program – good opportunity to enter apprenticeship (good first step)
 - iv. Questions:
 - 1. Quinson – what grade does CTC start? Grade 11
 - 2. EHPE – will late French Immersion eventually be offered at dual track schools?

- a. Based on information at present – only will be offered at single track school (? Due to need for total immersion)
 - b. Noted by Dennis that study in New Brunswick showed increase success in late French Immersion
- e. PGDTA (Matt Pearce)
 - i. Next month (March 4/11) – North Central Zone Conference
 - 1. There will be quite a few parents attending, in particular home schooling parents
 - 2. Many interesting topics, including full day Kindergarten and mathematics workshops
 - 3. Information booklets available for parents to look at
 - 4. Fee: \$150 for non-BCTF members
- f. PGPVPA (Cindy Heitman)
 - i. Noted that, in regards to the North Central Zone Conference on March 4/11, the keynote speaker is wonderful and well worth attending her presentation
 - ii. Kindergarten registration went well last week
 - iii. Transfer process began today
 - 1. It is suggested that applications for transfers be made sooner vs. later, as the more information the administrators receive now regarding transfers the easier it makes the beginning of next year with school configuration planning
 - iv. Question was asked in regards to a trend of “smarter” students in classes helping out weaker students – does this hold back “gifted students”?
 - 1. Noted that peer assessment happens in all grade levels in various forms
- g. CUPE (Lorraine Prouse)
 - i. In the process of bargaining – all day today, back again February 9/11
 - ii. Looking at a 2 year term
 - iii. Focus here on local issues
 - iv. At the Provincial Table: wages, benefits and other monetary considerations

5. Committee Reports

- a. EPPC – written report submitted
 - i. Next meeting Tuesday, February 16/11
- b. Education Services Committee Report
 - i. Transportation policy discussed at length
- c. Policy/Governance Committee
 - i. Met January 12/11
 - ii. DSAC, principals present as well
 - iii. Policy 5119 – submissions were reviewed

1. Desire from parents to have sibling priority
 2. Desire to move away from “first come, first served” approach
- d. Parent Involvement Committee
- i. No report
- 6. Announcements/New Business**
- a. BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association on FSA
 - i. Don was contacted by the Prince George Citizen for comment on DPAC position
 - ii. Check the website www.bcpvpa.bc.ca for press release
 - b. DPAC position on FSA
 - i. DPAC supports standardized testing, encourages parents to make an informed choice
 - ii. Dennis Fudge noted how ranking from the Fraser Institute is derived (% breakdown) – would be nice for parents to know this
 - c. Policy 5119 Feedback
 - i. Presented at last SD57 Board Meeting
 - ii. Many emails received from parents regarding draft change suggestions
 - iii. The deadline of January 6/11 was felt to be too short – need for more time
 - d. Gang Education for Children and Youth (Parents not involved)
 - i. CKPG television segment regarding gang education shown to attendees
 - ii. There is an initiative being developed
 - e. Communities That Care Prince George Initiative
 - i. Superintendent Pepper is on the Communities That Care board and helped put together the recent Gang Summit
 - ii. A survey was done by the Communities That Care (approved by the Board) – showed that schools do a good job of gang education according to kids
 - iii. Noted by Superintendent Pepper that you will not find a direct connection between gang education (specifically) and the Communities That Care
 - iv. Suggested by Superintendent Pepper that Sarah Brown (Communities That Care) come to the next DPAC meeting to discuss the Communities That Care Initiative
 - v. Discussion around need to provide education so that they can feel more comfortable talking to their children about gangs and other negative behaviours
 - f. 3 Copies of “A Guide to School Legislation in B.C.”
 - i. Available to parents on request – contact DPAC Executive
- 7. Other Business**
- a. Question – is there a CD available from PAC911?
 - i. There is information from PAC911 on the website

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7/11 at 7 p.m. at the Van Bien Training Centre