

# Executive Board Report – for November 3, 2014

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## Meetings

Board executive meeting held October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Accepted leave of absence request for Dennis Fudge, as he is running for trustee. Our bylaws require executive members to take a leave of absence during this sort of process. He might possibly book himself for conference, but wouldn't involve DPAC, and it would then be done through himself.

Leanne needs to step back for a while due to family illness. She is already booked for BCCPAC conference, and is interested in working with DPAC in the future.

Discussion as to how to book other people.

The Calendar Committee will be meeting Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30pm.

Looking to schedule small conference in Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Confirm that works at DPAC meeting, get committee together again. Also schedule in PAC Cafe, January 24<sup>th</sup> - check that at DPAC meeting.

Discussion of other committees

Discussion of trustee forum, being run jointly with PGDTA, CUPE, and PEA. Meeting held at PGDTA office October 30<sup>th</sup>, discussed format. DPAC has 3 questions that we can ask, 1 targeted at incumbents, 2 at newbies.

Discussed questions to send out to trustees for written answers and posting on website. Answers still coming in at this point.

Discussed PAC contacts, having reviewed list of who opens emails, comparing to those attending DPAC meetings and contacting DPAC for other reasons. Possible missing PACs are Centre for Learning Alternatives, Giscome, Pineview, Pinewood, Valemount Elementary. All other PACs have at least one person who at the very least opens DPAC emails.

## Media

Small amount on election. Was asked if I was looking forward to a turnover in board members.

## Other

Answered questions for a few PACs on principal/PAC relations.

## External Committee Meetings – Policy and Governance

Started discussion on Respectful Workplaces policy, as replacement for policy 4116.1. District states that the new policy is required due to WorkSafe requiring a policy against harassment of employees. Old policy applied to volunteers as well, new policy applies only to paid employees. Policy is now available for comment from partner groups, will go up on website after trustee forum.

## Presentation to Board – October 28, 2014

It would feel very strange, addressing you without making some note of the upcoming election.

This isn't exactly your final board meeting, as the current board – but regardless, we would like to pass along our thanks for your hard work over the years, and for listening to your partner groups, or working on doing so.

That's such an important part of being a trustee – is that listening, reflecting back that you've listened, and then that much needed transparency in your decision making as a public body.

There is so much for you, as trustees, to learn, in order to do your jobs effectively, and we do trust that the people who are looking to be elected realize quite what they're getting into.

It's a big job – and thank you for taking it on.

We do have a specific request for trustees this evening, which is to live up to two commitments that were made in the policy and governance meeting. At the January 22, 2014 P&G meeting, it was agreed, that if a particular addition to policy 5119 was approved, it should be recommended to the board that policy 3541 (student transportation, home and school) be revised so that it is congruent with policy 5119. There was also general agreement to recommend to the Board that a discussion take place with senior administration regarding the issues of choice and equity.

We would go somewhat further than that –if such a discussion about choice and equity has taken, it has not taken place in a transparent manner. There needs to be a public discussion of the issues around choice schools and programs, and equity and access for all students and families.

Going back to making the policies congruent - the main issue, really, appears to be that the catchment school is not well defined when it comes to students attending choice programs. Obviously, that's an issue that you want to fix.

Unfortunately, the solution that you've determined – adding the words "or a choice program" to a paragraph in the catchment policy, on circle page 24 – goes backwards with equity and choice in your policy

So – our request – either find a different way to solve that transportation and choice catchment issue tonight, or add to the schedule the transportation policy for review, and also schedule in that public conversation about equity and choice.

As to the rest of this overly long and complicated policy, frankly, I can't see the point in talking more at this time.

Our other request this evening is devoted to the viewing audience, which I'm sure is large – please come out to the trustee forum November 4th, 7pm, Vanier Hall, and please vote in the election. The decisions that school trustees make do matter. Make your voice heard.