

# Executive Board Report – for March 9, 2015

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## Executive Meeting

Board executive meeting held April 11th. Discussion including planning for BCCPAC AGM, DPAC secretary position, school board meeting, expanded committee of the whole, DPAC grants available and Quinson request, nominating committee for DPAC AGM in March, conference committee.

## Williams Lake DPAC & Gary Anaka

Gary Anaka is available September 24<sup>th</sup>. He does up to 3 workshops per day, and finds that grade 5, 6, 7 or 4, 5, 6 tends to be the best target audience for his workshop. He does do a primary workshop as well, grades 2, 3, 4 (or 2, 3). He encourages making sure the High school principal(s) are on board before booking the Teenage Brain workshop but it is a good one to have. For evening he says he has a few options:

- a) Teenage Brain just for Parents
- b) Teenage Brain for parents and students in grades 8-12
- c) Brain Wellness targeted more for the parent

COST: \$1050/day + travel and accommodations.

We have let Dan Watt, of the PGPVPA know that there would be two sessions available during the day of the 24<sup>th</sup>, and are starting to plan for an evening session September 24<sup>th</sup>.

He would also be available on September 25<sup>th</sup>, but this is a non-instructional day. We have let Cindy Heitman and Glen Thielmann know about this possibility.

## BCCPAC Resolutions Meeting

In total, we had 7 people attend this session.

We had no issues with resolutions 2015.1 to 12, for bylaws.

2015.13 on asbestos - sounds good, with exception of several weeks after removal. Dennis may speak to this resolution.

2015.14 - sounds good.

2015.15 - for second part of resolution, there would be a cost for a licensed inspector, and this service may not be available in small communities. "Any level" of hazard? This would require MAJOR amendments for our support. A bucket of water could be considered a level of hazard.

2015.16 - don't have a problem with it – but question, are there any additional costs to having this turned on?

2015.17 - don't have a problem with it, we had thought this was already being done. Doesn't seem to have any issues.

2015.18 - what the hell does this actually mean? How can we tell if it has been achieved?

2015.19 - transitional support - yes, but amend to include additional financial resources.

2015.20 - remove part #1, keep 2-3. #4 – will depend on discussion at AGM.

2015.21 - some quibbles about wording, but no real issues with the resolution.

2015.22 – there was a lack of interest in the subject matter of this resolution.

2015.23 - would not support as addresses discipline - let's set up training & conduct first.

2015.24 – amend to remove discipline. We could leave training, possibly conduct, and definitely add call for additional funding from the province to support current special education assistants.

### **Candidates & positions**

First vice president: support John over Farah, as Farah does not have any experience on the DPAC board as yet – starting with a first vice position did not seem appropriate.

Secretary: support Kendra over Iraj – Kendra was the only person who came forward last year, when the position was unfilled, and has been doing the job.

Treasurer: support Iraj over Gordon, as Iraj refers to previous treasurer experience while Gordon doesn't.

Directors(2): support Darlene, as from Prince George. Other director position will depend on previous elections, looking at John, Kendra, Shelley, Farah.

### **Policy and Governance**

The most recent policy and governance meeting dealt with revision to the district's leave of absence policy for the professional employees association, as a parallel policy to the newly revised PGDTA policy. Both would be brought back to the board after input at the same time. Policies on Recruitment and Administrative Appointments were brought forward, as they were referred to the policy for review by the board. A "concern had been raised by the board regarding the lack of clarity in the policy with regards to when positions were filled by appointment and when by posting." "In response to questions, Mr. Harris and Mr. Wiebe explained that the Board wished to clarify its role and to have more say with regard to the hiring of principals and vice-principals". "The partner group representatives suggested that trustees and senior administration should meet and sort this matter out without their involvement." A whistle-blower policy was brought up, as a result of a motion made at the November board meeting. There was general agreement that further discussion was warranted on this policy, and other sample policies from other districts were requested. The safer schools policy was requested to be reviewed at the next meeting.

## **Draft Presentation to Board – March 31, 2015**

My name is Sarah Holland, the chair of the District Parent Advisory Council.

I understand that we're going to have a report this evening, related to the size of the projected budget deficit this year. This can't be a surprise to anyone – we knew the district was going to be facing some challenges, even before the latest removal of funds by the government.

It's difficult to know what to say, as we are faced with a decision on how to once again hack away at this district's budget.

It's difficult to phrase this as news. It's more like "olds" – the same old thing, over and over.

It was encouraging to see the non-partisan Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommend to government that "...there needs to be stable, predictable, and adequate funding for public education."

Stable. Predictable. Adequate. None of those are terribly out there concepts. None of these should be some sort of pipe dream.

We know that year after year, districts have been faced with difficult choices. The same old news, over and over again – cut something, cut something else – but hey, keep it away from the kids, ok? Just cut the fat.

And year after year, the districts have cut, and cut, and tried their best to keep it away from the kids. Districts have done that – this district has made hard and difficult choices, certainly not always perfectly, but always looking at what is best for the kids.

I'm sure that from the provincial government perspective, it's a pretty easy choice to make. They announce some sort of cut, emphasize that it's somehow to be kept away from the classroom. Districts yell and scream and write letters to the Minister – some even sternly worded letters – and then districts do what's asked, year after year. And student results keep on improving, year after year. Why on earth should the province add more funding? Why on earth should they believe that this time it's different?

That's a great question, isn't it? I only wish I had a great answer for you.

I'm sure that through consultation, and working together, we can come up with some sort of answer. We urge you to consult, to leave time for changes and deliberation and different choices after consultation – and we also urge you to answer the question of why the province should believe that this time it's different, when year after year the district has managed to cut. And then, how we can work together, to bring that answer to the right people.

Good luck. We'll all need it.