

# Executive Board Report – for October 3, 2016

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## Executive Meeting

September 14<sup>th</sup> to review executive role in specific PAC matter.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> to review agenda

## Media

250News – Bus safety (Gillian Burnett)

## School District Staff

Attended the Superintendent's Meet and Greet Luncheon September 22<sup>nd</sup> (Gillian Burnett)

President's Round Table September 26<sup>th</sup> (Gillian Burnett)

## **(Draft of) Presentation to Board – September 27th**

Good evening, I'm Gillian Burnett, presenting on behalf of the District Parent Advisory Council. At this time, we'd like to welcome Marilyn Marquis-Forster and Nevio Rossi to the administration team. We look forward to working together in the coming year for the betterment of our students. And to the board, welcome back. We hope you had the opportunity to relax and enjoy some of the summer, but alas, it's September again and it looks like another packed year for public education in Prince George. We have new curriculum, new grad requirements, we're working on assessment and as always, we have to consider the physical facilities and the financial responsibilities that come with all of it. And that brings me to what we'd like to share with you this evening.

In June, you passed three motions to consider items brought forward in the Facilities Plan prepared by a third party. DPAC spoke to this briefly at the time and stressed the need for public consultation. Tonight we'd like to examine the process a bit further.

The SD57 Strategic Plan 2016-2021 identifies communication as one of the community needs. The district has adopted the value of openness to meet this need. Openness is described in the strategic plan, it states:

*We will actively engage in open communication with our education community. Transparency will enable us to establish trust and support from our communities and will provide clarity in our processes.*

We ask you to consider the following question; "Does the current process for addressing the issues identified in the Facilities Plan embrace the spirit of openness, and lead to trust and support from your communities?"

Parents want an opportunity to play an advisory role much earlier in the process. Once issues have been identified, we want the opportunity to engage in discussion about the alternatives and the criteria that will be used to evaluate those alternatives. This is very different than public consultation after a recommendation is already being considered.

When those involved are able to see how a recommendation has been reached, and participate in this process, they are in a better position to fully understand both the challenges and the benefits, and how this change can provide opportunities for improvement.

The District Parent Advisory Council believes that when we work together collaboratively, we make better decisions. We are willing to assist the district in exploring ways to improve these processes for the future.

Thank you.