

Executive Board Report – for November 7, 2016

Executive Meeting

October 27th – Discussed presentation to Board and Agenda development

Media

250 News – October 7th – Code Yellow

250 News – October 11th – Report Cards

CKPG News – October 12th – “Clown” related threats

CKPG News – October 18th – Vancouver School Board

250 News – October 20th – Gaming Grants

CKPG News – October 21st – Gaming Grants

250 News – October 26th – SD57 and Clown costumes for Halloween

Vista Radio – November 1st – Code Yellow and “Clown” Threats

School District

President’s Table October 31st (Gillian Burnett)

Board meeting November 1st (Gillian Burnett and Sarah Holland)

New Curriculum Presentation October 19th (Gillian Burnett and Sarah Holland)

Jesse Miller Presentation October 20th (Gillian Burnett)

(Draft of) Presentation to Board – November 1st

Good evening. I’m Gillian Burnett, representing the District Parent Advisory Council.

Although it is already November, tonight is October’s meeting. The month of Thanksgiving; and tonight we have much to be thankful for. We’d like to thank Cindy Heitman for putting on a very successful and informative session on the changes to the BC Curriculum on October 19th. We’re pleased to report that the technology worked and parents from McBride and Mackenzie were also able to participate remotely.

We’d like to thank the District and the RCMP for bringing Jesse Miller here to present to parents about social media and its role and influence on the lives of our children. This presentation was more about how to model and inspire good digital citizenship. Although the scheduling was a bit awkward (as parent teacher conferences were the same evening), those that attended report learning how to look at their child’s, and their own, use of social media from a different perspective.

We’d like to thank Trustee Hooker for her continued participation and support at our meetings, even with all the technical challenges we’ve faced bringing her in remotely and also to extend our appreciation to Trustee Warrington for attending our last meeting in person. We found this very beneficial for our members.

We're thankful that the Ministry has added Prince George in February as a community hosting a parent engagement meeting on student progress reporting in kindergarten to Grade 9.

And lastly, we'd like to thank every district staff member for ensuring the safety and well-being of our children during the Code Yellow and Code Red of October 6th and 7th respectively. We recognize that events of this nature do not happen frequently, thank goodness, but also that it did provide a learning opportunity for the district and the greater community. We know that the district is working on improvements to communication and procedures should another incident occur and we thank you for this work. For parents, the most frustrating part was trying to understand what was happening. Improved communication from the district during similar situations in the future will be much appreciated. Parents have enquired about the use of SMS broadcasts and/or the "Remind" system currently used in some schools as suggested communication channels to explore.

We note that tonight's agenda package includes data from the Early Development Instrument. I was fortunate to see some district generated data at the last EPPC meeting also. As DPAC has long advocated for a more data driven decision framework, we find this encouraging.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about our mini-conference coming up this Sunday, November 6th from 1 – 5 pm at Van Bien Training and Development Centre. Our goal with this conference is to share useful information and facilitate discussions about the purpose of Parent Advisory Councils; how and why to keep a good relationship between PAC and the school; what communication and representation look like within the school community; how and why to ensure meetings are conducted efficiently; the basics of raising, spending and protecting PAC money; and what to do when things go wrong.

And since I haven't said thank you enough this evening, thank you for the opportunity to present to you.