

# Executive Board Report – for June 12, 2017

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## Media

No media requests this month.

## School District

May 29<sup>th</sup> – Presidents Table Meeting (Gillian Burnett)

May 30<sup>th</sup> – School Board Meeting (Gillian Burnett)

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Interview Panel Assistant Superintendent (Gillian Burnett)

## **(Draft of) Presentation to Board – June 30<sup>th</sup>**

Good evening, I'm Gillian Burnett presenting on behalf of the District Parent Advisory Council. I don't want to take up too much of your time. We have a large agenda that includes some very significant and important work of the board tonight, but I need to make just a few comments in the order that items appear on the agenda.

I'd like to draw attention to item 7.3. Two of these playgrounds are made possible by the generosity of our school communities. The volunteers have invested a fair amount of time and energy in organizing fundraisers and the communities have generously supported them. They deserve a huge thank you for making these engaging play spaces possible.

Next, it is gratifying to see item 7.4 on tonight's agenda. This recommendation has been brought forward numerous times over the last several years by DPAC. It was made in response to the many complaints we hear from parents about the timeframes and processes the board and district use when considering significant changes to the catchments and configuration of schools. We have spent a great deal of time trying to develop a workable solution that could address the concerns we've heard. This is but one possible solution and I encourage each of you to seriously consider giving this recommendation a try. We need to do something and in the absence of another solution it can't hurt. We can always look at making changes in the future, but I hope you can all agree that some action is better than none in addressing the concerns of families.

We'd like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this year's budget development. Our process demonstrates your commitment to collaboration and partnership. We can only hope, regardless of which party forms government, that all costs our district incurs in restoring the contract language will be fully funded by the ministry.

Each year when item 9.2 appears we take the opportunity to reiterate, support and encourage compliance with Policy 5101, which states:

All communication with students and/or parents regarding fees and deposits must include a statement that explains that fees will not be a barrier to student participation in school activities.

Any field trip form, memo or web post needs to include this explanation if a student is required or requested to provide any level of funds.

And that brings us to items 9.3 and 9.4. These pieces really speak to what we do and why we do it. We look forward to seeing this in action in the coming years.

And finally, item 10.3. Although we can appreciate the need to have this policy in place for staff, we also want to reiterate our desire for a policy that covers everyone. Yes, the district has numerous policies that to some extent do cover conduct: 1170 Rights and Responsibilities of Trustees, 1170.1 Rights and Responsibilities of Students, 1170.3 Rights and Responsibilities of Employees, 1240 Provision of Volunteer Services and this one, 5131 District Code of Student Conduct. All of these policies identify who they apply to and there are gaps. There have been, and will continue to be, instances where staff and our partner group would be greatly served if we could point to a policy and know what the expectations and consequences of conduct are. We would prefer to have a policy that discusses the shared responsibility to demonstrate positive conduct, and the right to be treated fairly that applies to everyone in the school community; rather than several that read more like a laundry list of “shall nots”. We encourage you to continue to explore a general code of conduct that covers everyone while attending any school or district related activity, at any location.

Thank you for your time and I will now leave you to continue with the work outlined in tonight’s agenda.