

## **DPAC Chair Report – February 2020 (Andrea Beckett – Chair)**

January was a relatively slow month for chairperson activity due to the district getting settled with the new Superintendent and a lot of decisions at the district level being “on hold” due to waiting on what will happen with the provincial government thrown speech and budget. Unfortunately I was also unable to attend the last district board meeting due to personal and family illness.

We did receive confirmation from the district that the PAC insurance reimbursements were sent to DPAC, however we were not aware of this as they rolled it into our annual funding and provided no indication or separate invoicing for the insurance amounts. As such, DPAC wasn't aware that they has reimbursed us; those insurance funds will now be promptly dispersed to those PAC's who provided us insurance invoices.

I was invited by Stuart Parker of CFIS to speak the radio today; the February 3rd episode of After Nine - Monday Edition spent a full hour on the BC government's adoption of Christy Clark's education austerity agenda and how Northern BC has especially hard-hit by as a result. I spoke about the need for more front line resources, which requires more education funding from the Provincial government in order to provide the much needed front line resources and provide consistency of teachers, EA's and other front line staff for students. We discussed the role that DPAC plays as providing a parent and PAC voice in these issues, and provided some examples of issues that parents have faced based on what parents have talked about at our local DPAC meetings. I focused on the right that every student has to equal access to education and how the lack of resources, as a result from the provincial government level decisions, is affecting those rights. We also briefly touched on the impact of parents feeling forced to choose homeschooling in order to ensure their children get their needs met has on women and families in terms of taking women out of the workforce and impacting family's incomes.

The BCCPAC AGM and Conference is May 1-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. We have 21 schools who have paid for their BCCPAC memberships and are can send their proxy votes along. The deadline for Ordinary Resolutions *to be included in the AGM Booklet* is **February 28, 2020**. BCCPAC is the provincially mandated voice of parents in the K-12 public education system. Resolutions help guide the organizations' advocacy and operations from year to year and play a vital role in the strategic direction. Resolutions, which are brought forward, discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting, provide members the opportunity to bring forward emergent issues for collective respectful discussion, concise decision-making and continued collective advocacy.

We as a DPAC need to ensure that all those proxy votes are submitted by DPAC will support up to 4 people to attend (2 executive and 2 other members). Accommodation is shared, and DPAC covers the cost of the flight, hotel and up to \$25/day for food.

Outstanding items are still to get a DPAC cell phone set up and a DPAC laptop obtained and set-up.