

School Board Report

Andrea Beckett –DPAC Chair

At the board meeting on Tuesday there were several major/key issues:

1. Part of the restructuring that the board had planned to vote on would remove public and partner group input and time for presentation at the beginning of the monthly board meetings. DPAC, PGDTA and CUPE all spoke out very strongly against this publicly to the board at the meeting. The board decided to delay the vote on the restricting until time for review and feedback with partner groups had occurred. We are waiting to hear from the district what times and dates for these review meetings will be. I also spoke to the Citizen in an interview stating “Trust, transparency and accountability is really important in public institutions and education and this does not promote that in any way”. Below is the link to the Citizen article and interview:

<https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/school-board-shifts-timing-of-public-input-sessions-1.24084447?fbclid=IwAR3NYz5pWOZJLeKvBR82ETb7PXxqToKimclYFvAT7VqK0RkKSyhEYp98zk>

2. The board voted unanimously to proceed with the process of a name change for Kelly Road Secondary School after presentations from the Lheidli T'enneh Elders on the history of the area. The board stated that this vote was to simply start the process of looking at the name change, however this was not communication and message that was received by the community and those in attendance. The public and social media outcry has been significant. While DPAC personally very much supports any and all actions that work towards Truth and Reconciliation, the process and manner in which this decision was made is what concerns us and we have brought these concerns to the Board and Senior Administration personally and strongly. Our goal and mandate as DPAC is to support and be the voice of the parents and the children of the schools in our district and as such we will provide whatever support is required and requested of us through the discourse this decision has started.
3. The Amended and Annual budget numbers and comparisons were presented and Secretary Treasurer Patterson did a good job of explaining the financials to the board and public and answering questions in a forthright and honest manner.
4. Trustee's also voted on a pay increase of 2% (which works out to be about \$400) and this is in the district policy that this is to be reviewed each year. This is reasonable and in line with what other Trustee's in the province receive.