

To all our parent, families, and school communities,

Firstly, we as the DPAC executive would like to say thank you for your patience, feedback, suggestions, emails and messages over the last months. We, all being parents of children in SD57 as well, fully understand how difficult the last months have been since COVID has affected our families lives in so many ways.

We wanted to provide you an update on some of what DPAC is doing during the return to school planning phase that is currently underway:

1. DPAC executive met with Senior Administration and Board Chair Tim Bennett earlier this week to present and discuss the parent concerns that you have shared with us in your letters, emails and messages.
2. DPAC executive are also meeting with SD57 this week to review and provide input and feedback on the local draft restart plan for September 2020, which will be submitted to the Ministry of Education on Friday by our district.
3. DPAC is in the process of organizing a virtual “Town Hall” for PAC’s – trustee’s will be in attendance to hear local feedback and we will have the NH Medical Health Officer and the NH Public Health Nurse for Healthy Schools present as well so please stay tuned as we will have the details on this coming out shortly.
4. We have weekly in person meetings organized with the SD57 senior administration and board representatives to continue in working to ensure that parent’s and PAC’s voices, input, suggestions and concerns are heard.

The current restart plan working schedule as put forward by the Ministry of Education is as follows:

Aug. 17 – 21 School districts finalize their Restart Plans with stakeholder input including DPACs & PACs and submit to the Ministry

Aug. 21 – 26 Ministry reviews and approve Restart Plans

Aug. 26 School districts communicate information to parents on Stage 2 Plans and Final Versions to be posted online

While we know that there seem to be more questions than answers right now, we are working hard to get current, accurate and relevant information and answers for you. As such, please have a look at the following sites and resources, which we hope will help provide clarity around many of the issues which have been raised:

- BC Ministry of Education Website detailing BC's Back to School Plan for September:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>
- BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) Education Restart & Covid-19 Resources for Parents:  
<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/resources/21-advocacy/861-c19-updates>
- SD57 Information and Resources on Return to School and Covid Updates:  
<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Pages/COVID19Updates.aspx#/≡>
- BC Ministry of Education Website with details for Distributed Learning and Homeschooling:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/online-distributed-learning>

We also know that SD57 is working on a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document which will be released this week and will help to address the questions and concerns that parents raised in their letters and messages, so please watch your email, Facebook, and the SD57 website for that. ☺

Once again, thank you so much for your voices and we greatly value and appreciate all your feedback and input.

SD57 District Parent Advisory Council Executive

<http://sd57dpac.ca>