

SD57 DPAC Chair Report for November 2nd, 2020

This month has been busy for all of our Executive, as we have been working hard to help orientate and support the new members of our executive group. We developed a new Orientation to DPAC Executive working document and will be holding a technology training session for new exec members that we will continue to grow and develop over the years.

Additionally work has been done to review the current Constitution, Bylaws, Procedures and Policies and put the first round of updates together for these so that we can have those out to PACs and parents for review shortly.

The School Board General Public meeting is happening on November 3rd and a new board chair will be voted on as current Chair Tim Bennett has announced he will be stepping down from that position. DPAC will provide a verbal presentation to the school board tomorrow evening at the meeting, which can be found at the end of this report.

There have been some challenges at the district level in that the Policy & Governance Board are not currently meeting, thus issues that would normally be taken there for resolution are stalled. We are actively working with Senior Admin to determine the best means by which to "re-route" these issues in the meantime to ensure that they get addressed.

The DPAC executive will also be attending the virtual BCCPAC Summit at the end of November and bringing the information learned back to PAC's and parents in this district for next month's meeting so please keep an eye out on your emails for information coming out at the end of November from that.

Work for the upcoming month will be focused on:

- updating the Constitution, Policies & Procedures
- Ongoing advocacy work occurring at individual school, PAC and student levels
- Setting up a meeting with the new Chair of the board and Senior DPAC Exec to discuss priorities for the upcoming year
- Reviewing & Refining internal DPAC working processes, roles and responsibilities for the executive

DAC Presentation to SD57 Board of Trustees for November 3rd, 2020:

Firstly the DPAC would like to say a heartfelt thank to Board Chair Tim Bennet for his dedication, commitment and years of great leadership as SD57 Board Chair. We are aware how very demanding the role of Board Chair can be and DPAC has very much appreciated all the hard work and engagement you brought to the role and look forward to continuing our positive relationship with your successor. While the last two back to school months have brought both their challenges and rewards for students, parents, and families it finally feels as though we found our footing in this school year. We had our AGM and elections last month and are excited to announce that for the first time in many years we have a full Executive Board with every available position filled. DPAC has also been working hard to support PAC's in finding their place and voice as there have been many challenges for them to work through. In this process we have greatly appreciated

the work senior administration has done to improve communication between the district and DPAC to help support the PAC's and wanted to publicly thank you for your dedication to working collaboratively with us.

As we see COVID increasing its foothold in communities across BC there is ever increasing stress, worry and concern by parents and families on how the schools and the district will be able to support children's needs and safety as we move into the winter months. DPAC looks forward to working collaboratively with the district to work through these challenges and assist in developing solutions that will address the needs unique to SD57 and northern BC students.

In the upcoming month our DPAC executive will be attending the BCCPAC Summit November at the end of November to where DPAC leadership from across the province of BC will be engaging directly with representatives from the Ministry of Education and other key ministries influencing lasting and effective change in the educational life of children in British Columbia. It

is also an opportunity for DPAC leaders from across the province to gather, connect, discuss and network. Topics such as Mental Health in Schools, Anti-Racism and the Inclusive Education Parent Handbook with Jennifer McCrae, Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning Division and Patricia Kovacs, Executive Director, Ministry of Education are on the agenda and we look forward to bringing the knowledge we learn from this summit back to our PAC.'s, as well as the Board and Senior Administration to help improve the student education experience in this district as a result.

We know that the upcoming months will pose many challenges, both old and new alike, and look forward to actively collaborating with the Board and Senior Administration to work through them in a way that is best for our students and families.

*Thank you,
Andrea Beckett - DPAC Chair*