



District Parent Advisory Council
No. 57 Prince George
exec@sd57dpac.ca / www.sd57dpac.ca

Minutes - DPAC General Meeting

Monday November 2, 2020 @ 6:30p.m.

ZOOM Meeting ID: 656 7488 7171 Password: Kd5t*1cv

Attendance:

DPAC Executive: Andrea Beckett (Chair), Gillian Burnett (Vice-Chair), Arlene McKibbin (Treasurer), Rickie Mitchell (Secretary/Blackburn), Amie Thibodeau (Director), Laura Weller (Director/CIDES), Christa Porter (Director)

PAC Representatives or Guests: Kim Prysclak (Quinson), Lotte Andersen (STKRSS), Nicole Laferriere (DPSS), Lisa Gill (Westwood), Tara Gauthier (Spruceland), Wendy Wedman (Pineview), Crystal Martin (Glenview), Jodi Wilson (Heritage), Sherri Summers (Hart Highlands), Andi Dupperon (Edgewood), Julie Anderson (LDB), Kaitlyn Anderson (Buckhorn)

- 1) Call to order @ 1834hrs by Andrea Beckett (Chair); Minutes being recorded by Rickie Mitchell
- 2) Adoption of Agenda and Adoption of Minutes from previous meeting(s):
 - a) Adoption of the November 2020 Agenda *Motion:* Rickie Mitchell *Second:* Arlene McKibbin
 - b) Adoption of the September 2020 Minutes *Motion:* Christa Porter *Second:* Arlene McKibbin
 - c) Adoption of the October 2020 Minutes *Motion:* Christa Porter *Second:* Julie Anderson
- 3) PAC Networking and discussion
 - a) Is there any interest in a virtual PAC Café? No interest expressed at this time. Anyone interested in a Virtual PAC Café please contact DPAC. Will revisit this topic in the new year.
 - b) What do PACs want or need from DPAC in the coming year? Questions answered (ongoing)
 - c) Good grades - credit union offers cash for student customers with high marks.
 - d) UNBC Academic Success Center offers tutoring.
 - e) Dual credit program for 10, 11, 12 with UNBC, ask senior admin to clarify that program.
- 4) Review and Adoption of Executive Reports - as circulated
 - a) Executive Board Report - Chair (Andrea Beckett) *Motion:* Rickie Mitchell, *Second:* Arlene McKibbin
 - b) Treasurer's Report (Arlene McKibbin) – *Motion:* Christa Porter *Second:* Laura Weller

Review of 2020/2021 Budget - Accept budget as presented *Motion:* Gillian Burnett *Second:* Rickie Mitchell

- Clarifies 40 PACs eligible for Foodsafe grant, since CLA doesn't do hot lunch, so \$100 per PAC = \$4000
- Discussion about cell phone needs and budget

ACTION: Research and purchase a cell phone and data plan for DPAC (Andrea)

ACTION: Revise budget template to be posted with the minutes (Arlene)

c) Director's Reports – none

5) Review and Adoption of Advising School District Reports:

a) Policy and Governance - Oct 6 (cancelled)

b) Education Programs and Planning Committee - Oct 20 **Deferred until after partner group**

7:30pm – Partner Groups enter

Karen Wong (CUPE Local 3742), Parrish Child (District Principal and Vice Principals Association), Joanne Hapke (PGDTA), Cindy Heitman (District Deputy Superintendent), Anita Richardson (District Superintendent), Ron Polillo (SD57 Board Trustee)

6) Partner Group Questions/Reports (prepared in advance)

a) Review questions and discuss Partner Group Questions

Q1. Can you tell us how the district intends to deliver on their intention to share the meaning of the Shas Ti Kelly Road Secondary name with the school community and celebrate the opening of the new building?

Dustin Louie is doing some work in this regard. Lheidli T'enneh as well. That work is happening in the background in order to get that working in the school. Can't tell us about that at this time.

There will be a delay of the opening of the new building. We are on the time schedule of Ministry, not the District - might hear more near the end of November.

Q2. We understand that School Board Trustees and Senior Administration hold meetings with each Family of Schools. Can you share what information is shared at these meetings? What is the purpose, nature and intent of these meeting?

Essentially, they're updates on the schools. Basically, an update on what is happening at each individual school, highlights, goals, specific plans, etc. School administration (principal & vice principal) attends them to update the district trustees.

Can PACs attend? It's a formal avenue for administration to share with trustees so Anita hesitant to try to change that because other attendees might cloud the issues. This happens once a year while PACs get to talk to their administration at every monthly PAC meeting, and can share their own stories on many other platforms.

Q3. Doors are locked according to the District Restart Plan. What will be done on cold or stormy winter weather days? Is there a plan for students to stay inside during their physical/nutrition breaks?

Anita: Shared the question with Principals & Vice Principals and they are meeting later this week (Thursday) to have a conversation about this and how to address this. Already some adjustments (*example:* some schools open their doors in the morning now so students don't have to wait in cold). PACs will hear about it as soon as plans are finalized, but feel free to bring it up at PAC meetings.

Q4. Can we get further clarity on the "transitional programming"? As case numbers increase, parents who opted for transitional programming may feel more strongly about not returning to in class instruction. What will happen when our districts transitional dates run out?

Anita: Not crossed "district desk" yet so (she) has no answer at this time. Will work on getting an answer.

Additional Question: If parents want to transition to the transitional plan, can they do that?

Anita: No answer at this time. If there is going to be a change in direction or guidance, it will be a provincial plan change. Ministry has been quiet on that thus far. No new direction.

Q5. The meal program was recently centralized at PGSS. How has this changed delivery at all the schools including students that attend part-time?

Cindy: Most of our schools are on somewhat of a centralized program anyway so this is not much of a shift for them. Shift was from outside district to inside our district. Those who need it will still have full access.

Have heard the change is a positive one so lots of kids are getting fed as it is available to any school in the district, including more rural schools as well.

\$30 per month for families who don't want to make a lunch but don't "need" it to receive a lunch every school day, but those who are on limited budgets can pay what they can afford. People can contribute financially (or make anonymous donations or donations to pay for certain child's lunch).

Is there info online about this meal program? Good question! There isn't but something that the district is working on to get information out online for those who will need it and those who would want to donate to it.

b) Senior Administration Report *Cindy:* nothing to add

Anita: Anita expresses thanks to Andrea (DPAC Chair), Gillian Burnett (DPAC Vice Chair) & Kim Prysclak (former DPAC Vice Chair) for their questions & conversations that have been required on a weekly basis. Thanks to PACs as well for community support. We want to keep our kids as safe as possible as well as parents, staff, etc. (We) will keep trying our best to practice Covid safety measures and keep schools clean and safe.

Nicole Laferriere Q: Math can be an issue with the amount of information covered every day with the new quarter system that can overwhelm a student. Is there a plan to help students keep up?

Anita: May be more homework. We're going to get better as the changed plans settle in and is still better than it was in the spring and better than the students being home mostly teaching themselves. The reality is that the kids are a bit like guinea pigs right now (in regards to the system) and there is nothing we can really do about it at this time. It is not a bad system but a system we have to get used to.

Her son's experience was far better as his teacher is willing to be available in all spare time etc. so she encourages students who are struggling to reach out to their teachers for help.

c) School Board Trustee Report (Ron Polillo) BSTA & BCPC

There is a lot on the agenda for Inaugural Board Meeting (90 pages) on the website if you'd like more details. Lheidli T'enneh and McLeod lake looking for support letter to have 2 members on the board.

Was the over capacity for Duchess Park addressed? (1000 in a school built for 900 students)

Anita: It doesn't mean that they are all physically in seats.

d) Prince George Principal and Vice Principals Association Report (Parrish Child)

Very happy with the extra cleaning and care in all of the schools. Not many cases in the schools so far & he feels the schools are incredibly clean. This has meant less sick time for staff which is an added bonus of the extra cleaning and hygiene protocols. Extra shout out to teachers & custodial staff for all of their hard work. Going to be doing virtual assemblies soon (getting that set up). Some schools need coordinating for logistics.

e) Prince George District Teachers Association Report (Joanne Hapke)

Safety for students and staff still a big concern. Also, how do they assess children that they haven't seen. Concerns about cohorts. BCTF has been bringing forth their concerns to Bonnie Henry.

f) CUPE Report (Karen Wong)

Approximately 98/198 support staff members have returned to work. The 100 left have some who chose not to go back at this time. Custodial staff had an increase. Some support is short staffed. Taking time to adjust & pass questions along to SD57 board about logistics of their jobs. Some staff do go into different cohorts and they are very careful or they don't do it (go to principal with concerns).

Partner Groups exit 8:27

5) Review and Adoption of Advising School District Reports:

b) Education Programs and Planning Committee - Oct 20 (Nicole Laferriere)

Teachers taking a course on what to do with a concussion.

Meal program - average school gets the daily meals. 25% of households with food insecure. Some of the children that don't have access to food (ex: summer holiday, Christmas break) best case scenario is to offer 180 meals a year.

Some students will go hungry because they don't want people to know they're accepting these meals so are now being made to look identical to what most parents would send so that they don't feel ostracized & go hungry because the meals look "different" from peers. There is more help from the government to feed all kids. They want this as a universal program.

Trying to avoid the waste so they are trying to get the leftovers taken home by the student.

7) Unfinished Business

a) DPAC Zoom Administrator – Amie Thibodeau reviewed Zoom forms, post in website (Christa)

b) Online Foodsafe - review and establish criteria for PAC's to apply for funding from DPAC

Need to have receipt and proof of course completion for reimbursement into DPAC by Feb 1st, 2021

This is in addition to the previous motion in October:

In order for PACs to receive the \$100 Foodsafe funding, a receipt and proof of successful completion must be received prior to our February 1st meeting. *Motion:* Rickie Mitchell *Second:* Nicole Laferriere

Simplify the process for up front funding for Foodsafe to submitting a request to the DPAC Executive by email. *Motion:* Arlene McKibbin *Second:* Nicole Laferriere

8) Upcoming Committee Meetings

a) Board Meeting – Nov 3rd and 24th (Andrea Beckett)

b) Education Services Committee - Nov 9th (Christa Porter) *cancelled*

c) Policy and Governance – Nov 10th (Gillian Burnett) *cancelled*

d) Education Programs and Planning Committee – Nov 17th (Nicole Laferriere)

9) Adjournment 2134 hrs - Next meeting is Dec 7, 2020 at 6:30pm