

Chair & Vice Chair Report for February 1st, 2021

The last month has been extremely busy in terms of advocacy work for a number of children in our district, especially those in transitional or other not-in person education situations. We continue to have weekly meeting with SD57 senior admin and are currently actively working with the district to review and ensure that all families and children who are in transitional or distributed learning pathways understand what each pathway entails, is in the appropriate pathway, and have B.C. education curriculum learning resources readily available to them. Specifically, the following were discussed with the SD57 Senior Administration during our weekly meetings:

- Reviewed the two draft information documents for parents outlining transitional vs. distributed learning pathways including what each provides and how they are different
- Reviewed draft FAQ about school Covid exposure notifications that is being put together for parents & families
- John Gateman (CEO of BCCPAC) will get involved to set up a formal introduction between Gillian representing BCCPAC and the Native Friendship centre, and will help facilitate the building of relationships with the Native Friendship center
- DPAC strongly suggested the following message to high school leadership be provided by Senior administration
 - It is really, really important to increase the frequency with which teachers in high school provide student progress feedback for students when they are on a quarter system
 - Otherwise it is too late to catch when students are falling behind
 - Senior Admin agreed and will re-iterate this message at their meeting with school leadership
- SD57 has been able to approve extending the Microsoft Office 365 suite of tools to DPAC
- Clarified with the district where the money for student supports comes from:
 - Special Ed budget (majority of the funds)
 - CEF dollars
 - School based dollars

The district has also announced that the long suspended Policy & Governance meeting will be resuming, starting February 2nd and DPAC looks forward to continuing to bring the parent voice to the table at those meetings. DPAC has also been invited by the District to attend the review of the current strategic plan and start to lay the groundwork for the development of the new strategic plan.

In addition, the following presentation was given to the Board of Education at the monthly general Public Board Meeting January 26th, 2021 (which is viewable via YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/NH4dCEPyefk>)

Presentation to the Board for January 26th, 2021

Good evening trustees, and to all Rights & Stakeholders,

This morning I did something that was equally exciting and sad - I registered my daughter, my third, my last baby, for Kindergarten. Why I say this is sad is probably obvious, but the exciting part perhaps not so much. Many would think that the excitement is related to getting my youngest to this milestone and the "freedom" that comes with it - but for me it is something else. It is the excitement of knowing the world of learning and knowledge that she will be entering and the hope that her love of

learning will continue to grow and thrive. It the knowledge that as she embarks on this new education chapter of her life, and the experiences and relationships that come with it, she will develop the skills - both academic and other - to guide her into the ever-changing and uncertain future. However, her journey through the school system will only be as holistic as the voices at the table having input and guiding this journey, and that means ensuring that parent voices are always included. As SD57's current strategic plan, and we hope future ones, states under the value of Engagement: in order to fulfill the goal of engagement "Student success in living and learning needs to be supported by the wider community - a community of parents, guardian, families, community organizations and community leaders who are fully, broadly and meaningfully able to engage in student's learning".

Thus as my third child and so many others children today and in the coming weeks are entrusted into our school system and district, I ask that this board actively work to uphold that core value of engagement with the parent community and work towards ever improving having parent voices at the table - that parents are able to be speak and know that they are being heard.

In other news this past month has been busy for the Sd57 DPAC. Our monthly January meeting was lengthy but we reviewed and amended our Constitution and had the privilege of having such an engaged parent community that the need for two additional executive positions was approved. We also continue to appreciate the dedication of district staff, and this last month the presence of trustee Bennett, at our meetings and their willingness to have open and honest discussions with us and the parent community. DPAC was also involved in reviewing the Stage 3 Restart Plan with the district and we were very impressed with the work that had been done to address the updates needed both in language and in content to the plan. And as always, we continue our work engaging with parents and families across the district to ensure their voices and concerns are heard. B

Before I close tonight, I ask on behalf of the DPAC, as has been asked twice previously, to formally request a meeting with this board of education, the publicly elected trustees for SD57, so that together we can work to continue developing the relationship and engagement as is outlined in the strategic plan.

As always we value and thank you for time and dedication to this district and our children - it is noticed and very much appreciated.

*On behalf of the District Parent Advisory Committee,
Andrea Beckett - DPAC*