



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

Minutes - DPAC General Meeting

Monday February 1, 2021 @ 6:30p.m.

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

Attendance:

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

Regrets: Christa Porter (Director/Glenview), Amie Thibodeau (Director/Buckhorn)

PAC Representatives and Parents: Kim Pryschlak (Quinson), Nicole Laferriere (DPS), Lotte Anderson (STKRSS), Tovi Thiel (McBride Secondary), Laura McKersie (PGSS), Tara Gauthier (Spruceland), Crystal Martin (Glenview), Jodi Wilson (Heritage), Andi Duperron (Edgewood), Julie Anderson (ELDB), Kaitlyn Anderson (Buckhorn), Erin Tulle (EHPE), Jody Ispanovic (Foothills), Jill Joslin (Valemount)

- 1) Call to order, Territorial Acknowledgement & Introductions @ 1838hrs 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 February 2021 Agenda with correction that the Presentation by Lisa Horsewell will be in March, not February *Motion:* Gillian Burnett *Second:* Kim Pryschlak
 - b) Adoption of the January 2021 Minutes *Motion:* Gillian Burnett *Second:* Arlene McKibbin
- 3) Elections for two additional executive positions
 - Arlene McKibbin nominates Kim Pryschlak, *Second:* Gillian Burnett, Kim accepts
 - No interest or nominations for second position at this time

Action: Bring forward the remaining position at March meeting
- 4) Review and Adoption of Executive Reports
 - a) Executive Board Report (Chair and Vice-Chair) *Motion:* Arlene McKibbin, *Second:* Laura Weller
 - b) Treasurer's Report – Arlene McKibbin *Motion:* Gillian Burnett *Second:* Kim Pryschlak

Action: Arlene to review whether Dreamhost was for one or two years.

 - c) DPAC Bylaws Review Committee Update - *deferred to next meeting March 1st, 2021*
- 5) Review and Adoption of Advising School District Reports
 - a) Education Services Committee – Christa Porter *Motion:* Arlene McKibbin *Second:* Gillian Burnett
 - b) Education Programs & Planning Committee – Nicole Laferriere *Motion:* Gillian Burnett *Second:* Laura Weller
 - c) Policy & Governance Committee - *on hold and resuming February 2nd, 2021*
 - d) Calendar Committee – Gillian Burnett

- Calendar is posted on SD57 site for input
https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=387&ListID=75c80a8f-296a-4d0a-940f-ee765426e1a2&TemplateID=Announcement_Item#/=

Action: Andrea to share this information on social media

6) PAC Networking and discussion

- Hot Lunch information - can't find many options available that will deliver to a school not within city limits

Action: Rickie to follow up with Heather Miners at Blackburn for more information on the Healthy Hunger program and about deliveries and/or more options for out of city limits schools

- Lobbying for sidewalks to the school where the city said they would build it 2 summers ago and got delayed then and is now delayed again. Schools without sidewalks: Glenview, Edgewood, Blackburn, Nukko Lake, Valemount, Springwood, Buckhorn. In the past one parent had the city say the community should pay for it - this is not acceptable.

Action: Andrea to reach out to the city about sidewalk issues.

- More frequent learning reports need to come out and need to be a priority. SD57 does not actually have much say in this area.

Action: Andrea to put together a statement to put out about how protocols are mandated and who is in charge

7) 7:30pm – Partner Groups enter

Cindy Heitman (Senior Administration), Trent Derrick (School Board), Parrish Child (District Principal and Vice Principals Association), Joanne Hapke (PGDTA)

Regrets: Karen Wong (CUPE), DSAC

Links provided by Andrea Beckett, DPAC Chair

Partner Group Presentations & Reports

a) Senior Administration Report – Acting Superintendent Cindy Heitman

- Cindy doing updates first then on to questions: this week we are beginning to move forward with the strategic plan and get things in place in order to move forward. Trying to communicate to reach more input (communication will be going out next week to start initial engagement with a link for parents to follow in order to go in and give their thoughts. March will be the second engagement session and then a third one will be in April for the strategic plan. Seeing input on revisions and will be doing more updating for Covid compliance.

b) School Board Trustee Report – Board Chair Trent Derrick

- Update: still working towards Covid strategic planning - what that will look like moving forward while continued direction and budgeting is a concern within the next year (looking at that). Continue advocating that the federal funding continues as that is a concern while understanding the importance of keeping up with the cleaning protocols.
- The Strategic Plan sets the goals for the next 3-5 years and gives a chance to review and revise what's working and not working and how to move forward based on that information and (he) is looking forward to that.

Strategic Plan

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Documents/Community%20Voices%20Key%20Directions%20Third%20Annual%20Stakerholder%20Event,%2018%2011%2023.pdf>

Framework for enhancing Student Learning

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/school/abed/Lists/Publications/Framework%20for%20Enhancing%20Student%20Learning%20SD57%202017-2021.pdf>

- c) Prince George District Teachers Association Report – Joanne Hapke
 - Pointed out BCCPAC tweet that referenced the importance of FSAs in relation to funding, that is not how it works.

For information about FSA and Public Education Funding:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/foundation-skills-assessment>

<https://bctf.ca/fsa.aspx>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/resource-management/k-12-funding-and-allocation/funding-model>

- Teachers push for a stronger mask mandate, BCCDC waiting to see what is coming up with new variance and is very concerning to teachers, teachers still providing the best support they can for the children but it seems that things are getting much more concerning.
- d) Prince George Principal and Vice Principals Association Report – Parrish Child
 - We are increasing daily with students returning. Agree with what Joanne is saying and what “we’re” all feeling
 - e) CUPE Report – not in attendance
 - f) DSAC Report – not in attendance
 - g) Review questions and discussion
- **Will in-school capacity change significantly with transition students rejoining (ie from 75% to 100% in a class or school.)** Cindy - The district organized schools so that transition students fit into the plan and have a seat in the classroom so will not have an impact on the capacity but will have more bodies in the classroom. Currently working on getting estimates for next year’s enrollment, finding out what the intentions of parents who chose DL or homeschooling or transition in order to help formulate next year’s plan (will be reaching out to these parents)
- **How have teachers been managing overall with compiling work for students away and in person?** Cindy - constantly fluctuating attendance makes it super challenging for the teachers to plan, prep and have a learning plan as usual. Transitional students, if not expected back for the rest of the year, are to be moved to home learning/DL.

Joanne - teachers sent a survey 165 responded (25% of workforce). Some comments standing out on managing the overall work: “I can see how unfair it is for teachers to do in class then find extra time for the kids at home” and “it is like doing two jobs, like doing regular in class learning with extra chores of disinfecting as well as making up home learning packages as well”

As far as transitional students grading, they are hard to grade – not sure what to do when some work doesn’t even come back and the stuff that comes back can be a concern as to how much the student did themselves as well as how much support they got in doing it.

Parrish - principals also have to monitor isolation rooms, security, etc, it is a huge strain on the entire system right from support staff to administration

- **Does SD57 feel this system was successful and fair to students and teachers?** Working on some tweaks so that teachers have more resources for the transitional programs.

Re: Staffing - Teachers and CUPE members:

- **Have there been any significant challenges particularly when exposure notices have gone out?** Cindy - Yes. Absolutely. Challenges with staffing are that if a staff member tests positive they err on the side of caution and stay home as well as TTOC shortage. Surges of absences for both staff and students when notices of exposures sent out which is done rightly so, for all the right reasons.
- **Also to the overall guidance to stay home when sick. Are there more absences than in previous years?** Cindy - DSAC pointed out that staff are staying home when they're not feeling well / sick this year. That and because of cleaning protocols people aren't getting as sick as often as they have in previous years. Seeing a lot of people being responsible for staying home when they're sick. Increase in people in being healthy because of people doing the right things and hope that these habits continue.
- **Does the district have enough staff on call or flexible assignments to keep cohorts grouped as well as possible?** Parrish - It has been a strain on the system. Principals teaching daily and getting creative to provide support because no, there isn't enough support at this time. But are working hard to keep **cohorts separate**.

In response the district's comment "*If families have no plan or desire to return then the district needs to shift those families to a different support system*", we have the following questions:

- **Define 'Different Support System' - what does this mean?** This means looking at potentially moving into a homebound program or DL situation. Individual reasons for why families are still keeping their kids home will be taken into account. It will look different from school to school and be managed on an individual basis depending on reasons/situations of the child/families.
- **Do the teachers have enough support/time now to account for the absences and keep track of their students assignments and projects and which lessons were missed in person? Plus the 'transition' students on top of that?** Joanne - There is not enough time to do the work that is required - extra work calling, photocopying, making work packages, etc. It is also difficult when there are only a few days to mark the work package when it comes in. Not enough support because of the year this is, it is a challenge. It is the unknown kids who just don't show up (due to parents who sporadically keep them home for 2 weeks, or 3 days or an undetermined amount of time with no idea when they might be sending them back) so there is no plan for those kids (difficult to plan for), whereas transitional kids were at least in the plan from the beginning. Clarity in future for parents so they know what being on certain programs means exactly.

Administration has hired additional teachers, youthcare workers and EA's to help support, but there are not always enough applicants to fill the positions.

EAs are not doing teacher work (they are not teachers) and the reality is that there just aren't enough teachers to be hired.

Cindy - if we had more people to hire, we would hire them.

Joanne - teachers are struggling with the transition. Tweets about extra funding seem to have hit a nerve for some parents who don't understand - that is not happening. FSA doesn't provide extra support or funding.

Parrish - (we) could hire a thousand more but the system is just so different from last January and is much more complex now (adding other components to teaching) making it more challenging.

DPAC had feedback in regards to the transition option, specifically that it was not consistent from district to district or even school to school within SD57. *“A parent/guardian should know what to expect from SD57 (really, any public school in BC) no matter where their kids are enrolled. This lack of consistency and perceived lack of quality to choose transition is a barrier to parents and students knowing what their options are and being able to make a properly informed decision.”*

- **LDB transition plan: classroom teacher generated worksheets with no lessons and minor check-ins, exchange work weekly/biweekly.**
- **Other districts were dedicating teachers specifically to support transition learners within the schools. - this would have been more appealing to me.**

Sidenote (parent feedback): *“CIDES lessons seem to be really above grade level for the projects and some work in several areas. A couple of teachers mentioned to me the lessons require some modification to make it more suitable than the basic programming provides. It's like one lesson plan for grade 8 but basic adaptation to cover more grades with the same overall detail and explanation. This really needs improvement”* Laura (CIDES) explains she is working with principal through CLA PAC and is confident that improvements will be made.

Partner Groups leave at 8:28

8) New Business

- a) Creation of an Ad Hoc committee to work with senior administration to develop Advocacy Parent Handbook - Gillian Burnett, Kim Pryschlak, Tara Gauthier and Brandy Hall (as a community representative)
- b) Engagement with SD57 to discuss and develop new strategic plan
Need to get the word out to engage parents in this

9) Old Business

- a) Audit Committee report update - *in progress, update to be provided March 1st, 2021*
Gillian and Laura will be touching base to organize and get it done

10) Upcoming Committee Meetings

- a) Policy and Governance - February 2nd, 2021 (Gillian)
- b) Calendar Committee - Feb 13, 2021 (Gillian is able but if someone else is available...?)

Action to confirm date for Calendar Committee

- c) Education Programs and Planning Committee - February 16th, 2021 (Nicole)
- d) Board Meeting - February 23rd, 2021 (Andrea)
- e) Education Services Committee - March 1st, 2021 (Christa)

11) Adjournment @ 2035 hrs

Next meeting is March 1st, 2021 @ 6:30pm