

# Executive Board Report – for November 2, 2015

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## Executive Meeting

Not held due to conference.

## Media

- Opinion 250 News about conference
- Prince George Citizen about conference
- CKPG news about conference
- CKPG news about 5 year facilities plan

## Conference Committee Report

Eighty-three registrants pre-conference, 3 registered at door. Of those who registered for PAC subsidy ticket, 31 attended, and 9 did not attend (30% no show). Of those registered for full price ticket, 37 attended, 1 paid and was a no show, and 1 didn't pay and didn't show.

Comment feedback very positive from attendees.

Full cost breakdown still to come.

## BCCPAC – DPAC Survey

Three questions for discussion at DPAC Chair conference, November 7<sup>th</sup>:

1. What areas do you believe are most important for your DPAC to focus on?
2. What resources or information would help your DPAC be more effective?
3. In a perfect world, what role would you like your DPAC to play in your district?

## Policy and Governance – October 22, 2015

Lengthy discussion of whistleblower policy. A whistleblower policy is a policy “that outlines a mechanism that allows individuals to communicate their good faith concerns about possible legal or ethical violations and prohibits retaliation against whistleblowers” - should such a policy also apply to parents/volunteers who bring forward good faith concerns? Is there anything that such a policy would apply to that wouldn't be covered by Policy 1170.3, rights and responsibilities of employees?

Minor updates on Suspension of Students deferred to next meeting; also at next meeting may come the long anticipated review of Safer Schools policies (first referred to committee by board September 24, 2013).

## **(Draft of) Presentation to Board – September 29, 2015**

I'm Sarah Holland, from the district parent advisory council.

I'm very pleased to say that we put on a successful parent conference this past weekend, and are now catching up with the rest of our lives.

We have representatives from seven districts - Prince George, Cariboo-Chilcotin, Quesnel, Peace River South, Peace River North, Coast Mountain, and Nechako Lakes. We had 87 in total registered, albeit with a few no-shows.

We did get parents from Mackenzie and Hixon, but missed out on parents from McBride and Valemount, unfortunately. One of these days, we're going to get all of our schools represented at an event – that's trickier to do with volunteers than it is with your staff.

We'd like to acknowledge the financial support, and thank school district 57, the Government of British Columbia, the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, and WorkSafeBC.

I did email the board chair & superintendent about this, but I also wanted publically to express DPAC's appreciation for the speakers we had from the school district. Angela Carter, Linda McGraw, Linda Picton, and Sue Trabant were wonderful, and a true credit to our district.

I had to pass along a comment from an attendee from a different district - that the good things happening in this district give her hope for her district as well.

So thank you for your support, and for allowing us to showcase the excellence of your staff.

It's always nice to be in a position to brag a bit about your district - which isn't to say that there isn't room for improvement. We're by no means perfect.

Funny story there, actually – happened to pick up a brochure on “CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION” at a local school, to check out what it has to say about resolving problems. There's a few more things that might make it simpler and more informative for parents, but had to laugh at the contact list – I'm not too sure how useful contacting Lyn Hall will still be, in regards to the school district.

Speaker of mayors, in reviewing the board agenda package, I note that there is a letter from the municipality of Mackenzie, regarding having a trustee elected from the District of Mackenzie. The question of whether or not there should be a trustee elected from our various areas is a good question - I'm not even going to begin to try to represent a DPAC opinion on that, at this point. However, your letter in response is intriguing, as we can't quite seem to make out what it actually means. It states:

“Please be advised that the Board discussed this issue at its trustee-senior administration information exchange on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

Our Board of Education remains committed to ensuring that all seven trustees represent the interest of the District of Mackenzie and its citizens.”

Is that no, we're not going to meet “for initial discussions to commence the process”?

Is there an actual decision that was reached by the Board on this matter? If so, shouldn't that decision making process be a public matter?

We look forward to possible comment on this matter this evening.

In upcoming DPAC events, we have our regular general meeting on Monday, November 2nd. There is also a DPAC chair summit, planned for Saturday, November 7th, bringing together DPACs from around the province. It's very interesting to hear from different DPACs what they do differently – I was talking to a chair of one who, with other partner groups, can engage in debate at public board meetings. I've talked with other DPAC chairs who've never even been to a school board meeting, let alone meet with partner groups. I look forward to bringing back some interesting ideas from this event, and reporting back on them.

And as repetition never hurts - let's make sure that any upcoming decisions are made with proper forethought, engagement in real consultation, and planning before decisions are made.

Thanks for your time, and let's talk.