



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

Minutes - DPAC General Meeting
Monday June 1st, 2020 @ 6:30p.m.
ZOOM Meeting ID: 827 3743 4510 Password: 317793

Attendance:

DPAC Executive: Andrea Beckett (Chair) Kim Pryschlak (Vice-Chair/Quinson), Trudy Klassen (Volunteer Director), Arlene McKibbin (Treasurer), Amie Thibodeau (Director/Buckhorn), Nicole Laferriere (Director/DPSS), Christa Porter (Director/Glenview)

PAC Representatives or Guests: Lotte Andersen (KRSS), Gillian Burnett (BCCPAC Treasurer)

- 1) Call to order @ 1840hrs by Andrea Beckett (Chair); Minutes being recorded by Christa Porter
- 2) Adoption of Agenda and Adoption of Minutes from previous meeting(s):
 - a) Adoption of the June 2020 Agenda *Motion:* Kim Pryschlak *Second:* Amie Thibodeau
 - b) Adoption of the May 2020 Minutes *Motion:* Kim Pryschlak *Second:* Nicole Laferriere
- 3) PAC Networking and discussion
 - a) Question: What has been everyone's experience with the first day back at school? Answer: (Lotte) Kelly Road – experience where student arrived to a classroom without teacher, not a welcoming, positive environment; harder to schedule/manage secondary classes
 - b) Comment: letters saying your choice/not a big deal, only one letter that said we look forward students return
 - c) Comment: Duchess Park – daughter decided not going to school but appreciated “We miss you” video from teachers
 - d) Discussion: media messaging; BC Gov't and Ministry of Education messages don't provide much assurance or encouragement to return
 - e) Comment: look at the success and strategies around the world, example of Denmark with limited cases
- 4) Executive, Officer, and Committee Reports
 - a) Executive Board Report (Chair and Vice-Chair) – Andrea
 - i. Stakeholder's Meeting – reviewed COVID-19 protocols with all partner groups including DSAC; example: water fountain setups vary, can't close them, but designated stations/staff to refill bottles; students provided feedback about how 6-8 minutes between secondary classes wouldn't allow for cleaning, and need more time to transition to the next class; how to manage split classes, teacher shortages
 - ii. Meeting about feedback on Policies, collaborative solutions on wording, inclusions; draft review on the website until June 6.
ACTION ITEM: Website and Facebook update to remind PAC members that the SD 57 Policies are open for public review until June 6th.

- iii. Hoping to schedule a CKPG News interview next week after students are back and parents have a chance to give feedback on their experiences
 - iv. Gathered bylaws from other DPACs to start our Bylaws review
 - v. Kim – met with Anita/Cindy regarding COVID-19 return-to-school plan, provided email to exec
 - vi. Kim – working with Nusdeh Yoh PAC, need to have a meeting to change their bylaws re: quorum in order to make a motion to change signing authority and move on with re-starting their PAC
 - vii. Kim – connecting with Harwin PAC regarding issues they need help with, they have suggested a phone call
- b) Treasurer’s Report - \$2 withdrawn from the account last month, currently \$20,019.40 minus some pending cheques will leave us with \$17,884.40; Gaming balance remains the same; requesting budget planning meeting to discuss gaming changes, grants, etc.
 - c) Director’s Reports – see #5
 - d) DPAC Policy Review Committee (Gillian, Trudy, Amie) (May 25) interesting meeting, Gillian very prepared, very accurate and well researched; Senior Admin want to collaborate and take suggestions
 - e) DPAC Bylaws Review Committee (Nicole, Andrea, Arlene) – see 4) a) iv.
- 5) Review and Adoption of Advising School District Reports:
- a) Education Programs and Planning Committee (May 19) Amie attended, great group of people, not much to discuss, approved budget for the Board to approve, teachers from College Heights requested approval for Baseball 10; Angela Zummack presented about healthy schools program
 - b) Expanded Committee of the Whole (May 7, 21)
 - i. Nicole - budget presentation, no opportunity for input; over budget by \$850,000 but no feedback from stakeholders about how to cut, just an explanation of what expenses are and how the funding comes in
 - ii. Gillian advises against getting involved in advising about cutbacks except to recommend keeping them away from the classroom and our students; when there is an excess in the budget DPAC has 4 recommendations including: Food Security; Mental Health; Indigenous Relations and after-school programming.
- 6) Unfinished Business
- a) Online FoodSafe – offer a grant to PACs (example of 2 grants for a set amount per year) in order to budget for the cost appropriately and keep it distributed evenly

Partner Groups enter at 1939hrs - Anita Richardson (Superintendent), Cindy Heitman (Deputy Superintendent)

7) Partner Group Presentations

QUESTIONS:

- i. Comment: (Lotte) son was alone in a class with one teacher, uncomfortable and wanted to go home; her daughter only saw one other student all day; not what school should be like, not a welcoming, positive learning environment. She emailed the Principal, but no response yet. Media communicating fear or the preference for students to stay home, but she believes students should go back to school. Also concerned that teenagers isolated in a class with teacher can be traumatic for them
 - a. Answer: (Anita) classes won’t be same as before Spring Break; different for many reasons including 1) many parents choosing not to send students, 2) staff not wanting to push
- ii. Comment: (Nicole) Concern about the teacher being left alone with student which could have negative ramifications for teachers too

- iii. Comment: (Andrea) Tone of communication: neutral or message to negative undertone discouraging participation
- iv. Comment: (Nicole) video from Duchess Park “what is missing is you” was great
- v. Question: percentages on average? Answer: (Anita) 94% of eligible students for the one day down to 30% of the eligible 20% capacity. There is a great variance between schools and between elementary and secondary, which could further vary every day; glitch with transportation
- vi. Question: (Kim) Can District share reasons why parents/caregivers should send kids back? Answer: (Anita) No, we don’t want to apply pressure or risk shaming parents who choose not to, and are following the Ministry’s lead.

a) Review questions and discuss

1. Duchess Park's enrollment in September is 1,000 students which is 100 students above capacity. With COVID-19, unless there is a vaccine, the school cannot realistically operate as usual. Since there is no land available to add portable units, is there a plan yet? Are shifts an option to reduce school occupancy and overcrowding? Or, and this feels like a forever question with that school, look at catchment again?
 - a. Answer: (Anita) Many schools in the province overcapacity regardless of COVID-19 and those issues will still be there. Reducing the density of the regular school capacity 20% works now. Stage 2 at 50% capacity which could happen in September means having to use space wisely, possibly outdoor spaces. Not sure what stage will be in September. Reason for starting in June so students, staff, parents understand the changes and come on board, negotiating their feelings and comfort levels. Address capacity as the time comes.
 - b. Suggestion: (Nicole) Could you set up shifts between morning and afternoon? Answer: (Anita) No shifts due to transportation schedules/costs, but possibly alternate days to do half of the population of the school at a time.
2. There has been a recent Principal shuffle and additions to the Learning Innovations department – could we get some update/clarification on this please?
 - a. Answer: (Anita) shared her screen with an image of the organization chart, explained Vice Principals of Curriculum and Innovations, including one who is incorporating Continuing Education and Distance Learning into his role (rather than Inclusive Education) adding 2 new faces, moving 1 position into a Teacher with Special Responsibility for District Learning Commons (DLC) overseen by Principal of Curriculum and Innovations
 - b. Explained changes to Centre for Learning Alternatives from a school to a program in order to incorporate students into mainstream schools. They have a new Principal coming from Morfee Elementary.
 - c. Shared a screen with a list of Principal appointments; Duchess Park will have new bilingual VP
 - d. Applicants (16) narrowed down to 8 interviews for VP selection pool, successful candidates to be announced.
 - e. There are 2 vacancies: Principal at Morfee Elementary and 2nd VP at PGSS that need to be filled
 - f. Process started with 2 retirements, ending with 2 vacancies (to be filled with new VP pool)

Partner Groups left at 2029hrs

DISCUSSION:

- i. Comment: (Arlene) Optional work, kids choosing not to do it, teachers have autonomy on how to deliver the curriculum, can’t tell them how to teach or what resources to use
 - ii. Teaching Life Skills important during this season including housekeeping, scheduling
- 8) New Business
- a) Centre for Learning Alternatives PAC concerns: Christa willing to attend meeting with PAC to assist
ACTION ITEM: Andrea will follow up with their PAC Chair.

- b) Parent Presentations by BCTF: Christa will reach out to Jenny and see what is available; DPAC possibly help set up and advertise a parent workshop; share sessions from Kathy Buhler too.
- c) SOGI Learning Series for Parents for 2020/2021 School Year
ACTION ITEM: Nicole will phone Lisa Price to discuss and bring information back to DPAC Exec.

9) Other Business

a) PAC and Parent Engagement

Let parents know that DPAC is working through the summer, open up a meeting for August

Keep social media and website active

Keep meetings concise and relevant

b) BCCPAC AGM Membership Fee Reimbursement – agree that Duchess Park to be reimbursed even though they couldn't attend even after several attempts to register. *Motion:* Arlene *Second:* Andrea

c) Executive Meetings – over the summer Andrea will send meeting invites

10) Adjournment 2115hrs - Next meeting **Monday September 14, 2020 @ 6:30pm**