



District Parent Advisory Council No.57 Prince George

sd57dpac.ca / exec@sd57dpac.ca

DPAC Monthly Meeting

Monday Mar 4, 2024 @ 6:30pm at Van Bien Training Centre and on MS Teams

Acknowledging that this meeting is being held on the beautiful unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nations, McLeod Lake Indian Band and the Simpcw First Nation.

Executive: Chair Laura Weller, Vice Chair Christa Porter, Tara Gauthier (DPAC Rep - DP TODD), Gillian Burnett (DPAC Rep - Shas Ti Kelly Road), Rickie Mitchell (DPAC Rep - Blackburn)

PAC Representatives and Parents: Chrissy Wasstrom (Pineview DPAC Rep), Shae Wittig (Ecole College Heights DPAC Rep), Krystin Dubuc (Spruceland CSA DPAC Rep), Andrea Blakeney (Ecole Lac Des Bois Chair), Kelly Prinz (Ecole Lac des Bois), Rebecca (Ecole Lac des Bois), Jodi Wilson (Heritage DPAC Rep), Colton Palsom (Polaris Montessori Treasurer), Cherrisse Reink (Glenview DPAC Rep), Shannon Cochrane (Westwood DPAC Rep), Alyxian (Pinewood), Don Sabo (Community member, previous DPAC executive), Selena and Nik (future Glenview Elementary School parents), Dana Strlikowsky (Quinson DPAC Rep), Isla Jackman (Valemount Elementary)

1. Call to order, Territorial Acknowledgement, Introductions
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from previous DPAC meeting
4. Review and Adoption of Executive Reports
 - a. Executive Board Report
 - b. Treasurer's Report – General \$38,716.04; Gaming \$0
5. PAC and Parent Engagement
 - a. Online Safety Video and FAQ - not posted online yet.
 - b. PAC Cafe – Proceed with date in April - April 27, same time, same menu
6. BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils)
 - a. Parent/Caregiver Advocacy Training – Fri May 3 in-person, trial of the Advocacy training. Will be offered by other methods (on-line) after trial.
 - b. Parent Education Conference (May 3) and AGM (May 4-5) in Richmond – Member \$324 (both) and \$125 (AGM only), early bird Apr 2, 25% discount for more than 2 delegates. Travel subsidies (2) at \$800 each.
7. PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Networking & Discussions (as time allows)

7:00pm – District Representatives join (theme prepared) - **Strategic Plan Presentation**

8. Partner Group Questions/Reports & Discussion – Presentation from Acting Superintendent.
 - a. Senior Administration – Pam Spooner – Responded to parent questions, provided overview of strategic plan, areas of focus.
 - b. Secretary Treasurer - Lynda Minnabarriet - will be conducting meetings with partner groups regarding the district budget.
 - c. School Board Trustee(s) – Erica McLean, Sarah Holland – School Act does list anything about PACs fundraising.
 - d. Prince George Principal and Vice Principals Association – N/A

- e. Prince George District Teachers Association – Daryl Beauregard – importance of parents advocating at government level for increased funding, challenges with staffing, funds for providing extra support.
- f. CUPE 3742 – Paula Bass – Challenge to provide extra support for kindergarten due to additional needs not yet identified. Strong Start is a great option to prep for kindergarten. Retention for CUPE staff is a challenge. The funding model for CUPE support staff is not appropriate. Ministry of Education issue not SD57. Before and after school CUPE staff would provide continuation of care for students, homework help, to alleviate stress at home.

Main points – Engagement sessions are being held by District to review progress, find out what is working and what needs improvement. Linda will be conducting meetings with partner groups regarding budget.

What is working well for parents/students?

Cultural awareness, Indigenous learning, Access to counselor, meeting individual learning needs, Leadership in grade 6/7 - great sense of community. Community Schools Coordinator provides great benefit to the school community. Commitment of staff to making things work in less than ideal situations (staff shortages, space issues, etc.).

Challenges -

Disparity between learning report that shows student doing okay, then find out at parent/teacher interview student is struggling, parents would like to see more communication, more often.

Literacy – translating data into plain language to help parents understand. New report card system is not helpful for students with diverse needs. Hard to identify areas that need attention. Should be in clear, understandable, actionable language.

The new reporting system seems subjective, reports not presented consistently. Communication for children with diverse needs is not always clear on where struggles are, what can be done to assist students in areas they struggle.

Kindergarten – everyone has their own parent network, different catchments, each school does something different. Some schools have open houses, other schools it can be difficult to get into school prior to starting school to visit. Schools release kindergarten gradual entry schedules at different times. Provide information to kindergarten parents in one concise location on website, consistency amongst kindergarten programs. Streamline the process for kindergarten registration. Help new parents register, process seems complicated. How can PACs invite kindergarten parents in earlier?

Numeracy - parents struggle with helping kids with numeracy work. Community sessions to provide resources and support to parents would be beneficial and appreciated.

How, when and where do parents provide feedback that provides results where they need to be seen and is effective. Suggestions - DPAC-BCCPAC, BC School trustees association, Ministry of education, Municipality



What PACs are responsible for, perception that PACs are solely for fundraising. If we continue to have PACs fundraise for items, it won't be viewed as deficit funding area.

Sharing school budget with PACs. Experience of principals, high turnover, is ongoing learning going on. How do we have equity in schools regarding how they are run, communication? PAC and Principal's handbook is being developed. Less experienced administrators = growing pains. How do parents and school staff advocate and work together? Receive complaints because of the disparity between schools. How to advocate in a polite way to bring about change.

Communication was a topic brought up multiple times. If parents need information, it should be easily accessible, want them to know about it need to push it out to them not expect go searching on website. Send out key information at specific, applicable times of the year.

Numeracy - not doing well as a district. What needs worked on, why are we not doing well? Can results be drilled down by schools to target specific areas of need? What can be put in place in each school to bring results up? Parents struggle with helping kids with numeracy work. Community sessions to provide resources and support to parents would be beneficial and appreciated

PACs should be cautious fundraising for things such as equipment, gaps in assessment for diverse learners, but is pac role to advocate and share resources for funding sources, charities

District Representatives and Guests exit the meeting

9. Old Business
 - a. DPAC Banner – renaming banner due to tagline. Executive to review suggestions.

10. New Business
 - a. Nominating Committee Update – Vacant spaces available for interested people. Elections in May.

11. Committee Meetings - DPAC Reps at District Meetings
 - a. Calendar Committee – March 4 3pm and April 15 3pm - no DPAC Rep attending
 - b. Education Committee – April 9th 4pm – March meeting cancelled
 - c. Advisory Committee – April 23rd 4pm – March meeting cancelled
 - d. Board Meeting – April 30th 4pm – No March meeting
 - e. Budget workshops - March 12th 4-6:00 pm Tara and Rickie

Adjournment - **Next meeting is April 8, 2024, with Feeding Futures and Facilities update**