

# **SD40 New Westminster DPAC**

Dec. 15, 2014

Minutes of Meeting

**Attendees:** Beth Ott (Chair), Andrea Mears (Richard McBride), Colette Mondin (Treasurer), Cheryl Greenhalgh (Secretary), Susie Smith (NWSS), Naomi Perks (Herbert Spencer), Tekla Fulton (Qayqayt & EGMS), Heather Lynch (YAC), Scott Brolin (Tweedsmuir), Diane Bondar (McBride), Sup. John Gaipman (SD40), Trustee Jonina Campbell (SD40), Robin Stewart (Community Schools), Drea Owen (Community Schools)

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

## **2. Guest Speakers – Drea Owen and Robin Stewart, District Community School Coordinators:**

- Robin presented an overview of the Community School framework & partnerships
- Drea described their event planned for Feb. 3, 2015 – a parent education night with Barry MacDonald
- Robin and Drea presented some possible options for DPAC to partner on this event.
  - Option 1: DPAC pays for rental of sound equipment (approx \$180.00)
  - Option 2: DPAC pays half of Barry Macdonald's invoice (\$787.50)
  - Option 3: DPAC buys tickets to give to parents at no cost to the parents (\$980)
- Robin and Drea thanked DPAC for the opportunity to visit and looked forward to developing a closer partnership in education with DPAC. Both left the meeting.

## **3. Agenda:**

- Adopt agenda as circulated. m/s/c

## **4. Minutes, General Meeting:**

- Adopt minutes of Nov. 17, 2014 General Meeting minutes as amended. m/s/c
  - Agreement to replace acronyms such as DPA, YAC, NTAC with names.

## **5. Minutes, Executive Meeting:**

- Accept minutes of Oct. 7, 2014 Executive Meeting

## **6. Updates from Schools:**

- **Lord Tweedsmuir: Scott Brolin**
  - Scott reported that Tweedsmuir PAC was supportive of digital citizenship as a DPAC priority.
- **QayQayt/EGMS: Tekla Fulton**
  - No report
- **Richard McBride: Diane Bondar**
  - Diane reported that the holes in the side of the school are being fixed. The parents at McBride are missing having the Christmas play at Massey this year. The PAC is considering paying the costs for Massey (approx \$3,500) to allow for a concert.
- **NWSS: Susie Smith**
  - Susie reported that the Band Auxiliary Fundraiser at Save-on-Foods was very successful.
- **Herbert Spencer: Naomi Perks**
  - No report

## **7. Report from Superintendent and Board Chair: John Gaipman & Jonina Campbell**

- Trustee Campbell reported on the Parent Networking Session held on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and on the upcoming Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Parent Networking Session to be held at NWSS.
- The district is looking at ways to support diverse needs of students – they held a meeting last week with partner groups and are putting together a committee (The Teaching & Learning in Diverse Classrooms Working Group). Janet Grant will be heading information sessions for both parents and staff.

- Jonina reported on her visit to one of the apprenticeship groups (pipe fitting). The school receives more applicants than spaces for the three apprenticeship programs. She pointed out that the 3 apprentice programs are excellent programs of choice for SD40 students.
- As requested by DPAC, Sup. Gaipman reported on Academies of Learning. The district has just made policy changes that would enable Academies to be created.
  - Provincial graduation rates are about 80%, the numbers are higher for girls and lower for boys.
  - Academies of Learning can provide incentive for students to stay in school. Athletics rank high with boys. Sport academies offer a way for students to get the sport all year, receive informal counseling and feel successful about school. These are for kids who want to participate and are not elitist (with the possible exception of hockey which is an expensive sport to outfit).
- The district is also working on dual crediting high school courses with local colleges.
- Q – When is Al Balanik returning?  
A – His retirement will be announced tomorrow.
- Q – Will a new organizational chart be coming out?  
A – Janet Grant (Acting Assistant Superintendent)  
Kevin Lorenz (Acting Secretary Treasurer)  
Chris Nicholson (District VP, replacing Diane Halket)  
Sandra Pace’s portfolio is to be replaced shortly
- Q – Is there an update on the Neighborhood Learning Centre (NLC) at Qayqayt?  
A – The official opening is in February.
- Q – Did they reach their fundraising goal?  
A – Not sure.
- Q – Will there be an NLC in the new Middle School?  
A – Yes, the new Middle and High schools will have NLC spaces.
- Q – Challenges regarding donating to schools/PACs through the Royal City Education Fund (RCEF).  
A – Until the district gets charitable status, donors should donate through the RCEF as per usual.  
Direct questions or problems to Kevin Lorenz.
- Q – NWSS update?  
A – There are 6 items on the ministry’s list of requirements, 3 are done and confirmed. We are moving at a good pace and expect the project to go before the Treasury Board by Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Beth reported out from her meeting with the Superintendent:
  - She clarified that parents would be involved in screening the hiring process of new Principals and VPs, in accordance with current district policy (300.1). Transfers of Principals and VPs do not include formal parent input and are not in the district policy.
  - Discussed the issue of parent supervision on playground (stemming from parent concerns regarding bullying). It will be up to individual schools and administrators to make the decision to allow parent supervision on the playground. The next step will be to describe what this looks like from our perspective. Parent feedback would be welcome in this process. **Action: PACs/parents to send their thoughts to Beth for inclusion in a draft description of the Parent supervision on the playground.** This will need to be brought forward to the district and CUPE local.
- Q – Would parents be involved in the hiring of a new principal?  
A – Yes parents will be involved in new hiring at the screening level to “identify all candidates with the necessary qualifications”, not at the selection level.

## 8. Chair’s Report: Beth Ott

- Beth discussed DPAC priorities identified at the last meeting.
  - Digital citizenship
  - Revision of Constitution and Bylaws – Scott and Naomi are interested in pursuing this. **Action: Scott and Naomi to look at what work we have completed and bring recommendations to the next meeting. Beth to follow up with Maya Russell regarding the last revision draft.**
- Beth reported back on her enquiry as to whether the enrollment process for programs of choice is to be changed. The board is not currently looking at this process for revision other than removing the Academies as one of the Programs of Choice and creating a separate regulation for the Academies.

- Policy regarding use of DPAC email list. PAC's have not commented on the proposed draft policy. **Action: Beth to revise the draft to include violations and send out to PACs. Bring back to January meeting for approval.**
- Parent education plans. Will try to include a parent education component at DPAC meetings.
  - Janet Grant to discuss Universal Design for Learning (maybe February)
  - Steve Cairns – brief presentation to DPAC (possibly January)
  - BCCPAC AGM attendees one meeting
- Special Events:
  - Barry MacDonald – parent education Feb. 3
  - Village of Attachment by Steve Cairns & Bev Olgovie – parent education night early March
  - Digital Citizenship – parent education night in April
  - Special Education sessions – February and April

#### 9. Treasurer's Report: Colette Mondin

- Colette reported that 7 schools have registered for BCCPAC
- Our annual budget is \$6500, we have allowed \$2500 for parent education. Parent education is the only area we can spend gaming grants on. We have \$2400 left in this year's budget to spend on parent ed.

**Motion: To support the Community School Barry MacDonald Parent Night Out proposal with option #1 which is that DPAC pay for the rental of sound equipment (2 lavalier microphones approx \$180.00) and option #3 which is that DPAC buys 98 tickets to give directly to PACs at no cost for a total expense of \$1160.00 m/s/c**

#### 10. Committee Reports:

- **Digital Citizenship Committee:**
  - In the process of looking at digital citizenship, the group members identified that the district policy was out dated. Recommend that DPAC engage with SD40 as to whether an update is needed. Also discussed parent education about Digital Citizenship; committee to contact possible presenters for April event.
- **Youth Advisory Committee (YAC): Andrea Mears via Email**
  - Andrea reported via email as she attended the last YAC meeting on Heather's behalf. There was a presentation on the New West Official Community Plan that is being developed. There was discussion about how people live (ie: apartments or single family homes) and how people get around. The staff member was looking for ideas on public transportation and parks.
- **Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee (NTAC): Cheryl Greenhalgh**
  - No report
- **Calendar Committee: Cheryl Greenhalgh**
  - Beth reported that Cheryl attended the calendar district committee meeting on behalf of DPAC.

#### 11. New Business:

- None

#### 12. Priority Inquiries:

- None

#### 13. Upcoming Events:

- Jan 12 – Learning in the Brain, Richmond
- Mar. 7 – Langley Parent Ed – all day event
- Naomi reported that the New Westminster Police Department's Strategic Plan Public Survey is open until Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. She requested that Beth forward information she has to the DPAC grid; the group agreed that this would be appropriate.

#### 12. Adjourn:

- Motion to adjourn at 9:27 pm m/s/c