

SD40 New Westminster DPAC

February 17, 2014

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees: Beth Ott (Chair), Maya Russell (Vice Chair), Cheryl Greenhalgh (Secretary), Wendy Harris (Past President) John Gaipman (Superintendent) Deborah Garrity, Collette Mondin (Glenbrook) Mark Smith, (Connaught Heights) Susie Smith (NWSS) Marcel Marsolais (CUPE) Jonina Campbell, Al Balanuik (SD40) Sandra Spani (Home Learners) Katrine Ireland (Tweedsmuir) Ronda Field (John Robson PAC) Serena Trachta (John Robson PAC) Maureen Roantree (John Robson parent)

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Agenda:

- Add date of Executive Meeting under minutes received
- Add “nominations” to item #9
- Adopt agenda as circulated and amended. m/s/c

3. Minutes, General Meeting:

- Approve DPAC minutes for January 13, 2014 as circulated and amended. m/s/c
 - Typo under Mayday discussion – “capes” not cakes
 - Add date to item #3
 - Finish action for DPAC Rep on DRC
 - Finish action for Mayday
 - Amend capital project discussion to read 2 years instead of 1 year for construction
- **ACTION: circulate minutes to Dec. 9, 2013 DPAC Executive Meeting when circulating these.**

4. Minutes, DPAC Executive:

- Accept DPAC Executive Minutes for January 8, 2014 as circulated. m/s/c

5. Chair’s Report: Beth Ott

- a) **Candidate interviews for superintendent:** Beth reported that interviews are coming up on April 16 and that there will be reps from each stakeholder group included. Discussion around best choice for DPAC/parent rep.

MOTION: that Beth Ott be the parent representative on the interview panel. m/s/c

ACTION: Beth will ask Ron Pound if she can bring forward questions from parents in the interviews. Beth will canvass PACS for input

b) PAC Priorities:

- **Budget & funding** – DPAC Executive has proposed BCCPAC resolution on this topic.
- **Playground funding** – DPAC Executive has proposed BCCPAC resolution on this topic.
- **Special Needs** – The parent consultation meetings are going ahead in partnership with the school district. The policy consultation has been extended until May. The intention is to write a plain language parent guide. Issues will be taken forward to the policy consultation. Suggestion to forward meeting invitations to the local media. **ACTION: Maya to follow up on getting the word out.**
- **Traffic** – The city has proposed a truck route. Beth attended the recent open house on the issue. Beth is willing to write a letter to Translink supporting the proposed truck route. Discussion that input from PACS on this issue would be helpful. Suggestion that Traffic becomes the next action issue for DPAC when the Special Education Consultation is concluded. **ACTION: Beth will contact the Chairs at Howay and NWSS PACs for input and send out a link to the city’s survey. BF issue to next meeting.**

- **Anti-bullying/Safe & Inclusive Schools** – nothing to report
 - Report of some inappropriate social media use at Tweedsmuir. The school has been visited by the police liaison with recommendations.
 - Katrine will ask Patty Ferris to forward information from the Constable to DPAC.

6. Old Business:

- **Resolutions submitted by Wendy Harris for BCCPAC:**

MOTION: THAT the New Westminster DPAC request the Board of Education to keep a record and report all district student suspensions and permanent expulsions from school or district and provide this information on a regular basis to the DPAC, PACs, the District Achievement Committee and School Planning Councils.

Reporting will be categorized by school, number of actual students, length of suspension, reason for suspension, number of permanent expulsions from a school or the district, and total number of suspension days per month. m/s/c

MOTION: THAT the New Westminster DPAC request BCCPAC to follow up on the Ministry of Education response to resolution 2012.10 Reporting on Student Suspensions and Expulsions.
m/s/c

7. Report from Superintendent/Board: John Gaipman, Jonina Campbell & Al Balanuik

- **Jonina** welcomed John Gaipman to the position of Superintendent and explained that while the search process is continuing, John is acting in full capacity so the term *Interim* will not be used.
 - Q - Does Mr Gaipman not want to stay permanently?
 - A – Mr Gaipman does not have to apply for the job and is the Superintendent until he is replaced.
 - Q – The Newsleader article reported the title as CFO & Superintendent
 - A – The author was mistaken and a correction is coming. In Victoria, he held the CEO position but that is different than CFO.
 - Q – Do you have business and accounting background?
 - A – Yes.
- **Jonina** reported that the construction is proceeding.
 - Q – Are portables going into the Robson lower field?
 - A – Yes. There was a miscommunication regarding the consultation. Parents were not to be consulted as to whether portables should be placed but how to mitigate the placement of the portables.
 - Comments and discussion about safety for the students (bathroom visits identified). Parents directed to raise any concerns with the staff.
 - Q – Is the Community Garden staying?
 - A – For now, the garden will stay but more information is needed before can make a long-term plan.
- **Al Balanuik** reported on the on-going Budget Process.
 - Wanted to draw attention to the two remaining input sessions. Will return to March 10 DPAC with a report.
 - Q – How many have attended the meetings so far?
 - A – Numbers have not been high, less than 6 per meeting.
 - Q – Asked for dollar amounts to be reported rather than histograms and trends at previous DPAC meeting.
 - A – Yes
 - Q – Is this consultative or informative?
 - A – It is a back and forth and both is being done. The input will be summarized and provided to the board.
 - Q – Is there a reply from the Ministry as to the repayment plan?
 - A – They have not answered but have indicated that they are considering our proposal.

- Q – Can we assume strategic plan will continue with the change of leadership?
- A – Cannot answer that right now.

8. Treasurer’s Report: Beth Ott (Heather Burke absent)

a) Beth reported that the DPAC budget has money allocated to support two DPAC Executive attend BCCPAC as well to cost share with PACs. Last year DPAC offered to pay \$100 per PAC towards fees but there was not uptake. The offer will be repeated this year.

ACTION: Beth to advertise the subsidy to PACS.

b) Beth reported that the Executive looked at the DPAC budget and there is no room to subsidize the cost of purchasing May Day capes, pins and charms for PACs.

- Discussion about the past practice – DPAC ordered the supplies and then recouped the costs from the PACs. DPAC made the decision to remove themselves from the process. DPAC paid for the items for the final year (last year).
- Reported that this year the capes will be borrowed from past participants so the cost will be lower than past.
- There was a discussion when we voted to remove DPAC from the process that someone else would be needed to take over the process.
- Al Balanuik explained that there is a May Day Committee composed of many representatives whose mandate is to put May Day into place. Al is the Chair of the Committee. The new mandate is to unfold May Day as cost effectively as possible. “We will come up with a wonderful day that we can afford”.

ACTION: Al Balanuik will quietly approach PACs to discuss if they choose to fund the pins and charms. (If not, no pressure will be applied).

c) Beth reported that the Executive approved \$300 towards funding of child minding at the Special Needs Education Meetings.

9. New Business:

a) BCCPAC Resolutions:

Beth presented two resolutions prepared by DPAC Executive for consideration to send to the BCCPAC conference.

MOTION: Therefore Be it Resolved that BCCPAC call on the provincial government to fund BC public schools to meet the Canadian national average at a minimum.

MOTION: Therefore Be it Resolved that BCCPAC call on the provincial government to change school construction policy to cover the full cost of accessible outdoor play equipment for new and replacement schools.

- New deadline for resolutions to be published in BCCPAC resolution booklet is Feb. 28
- Suggestion that the 2nd resolution include unsafe or outdated playground equipment. Questioned whether the Board has any resolutions on playgrounds **ACTION: Jonina will look into this.**
- Comment that it should not just be about funding playgrounds but funding schools period.
- Comment that the resolutions are not in the correct format for BCCPAC.
- Will continue to go forward to PACS for their feedback on the intent of the resolutions. **ACTION: Maya will revise the resolutions to reflect the discussion.**

b) Playground Funding Letter:

The DPAC has been drafting a letter for the Ministry of Education.

MOTION: That the DPAC send a letter to the Ministry on behalf of supporting adequate playground equipment and to send a copy of the letter to PAC Presidents. m/s/c

c) Nominations:

Wendy Harris reported that she is seeking nomination to the BCCPAC Executive. She currently sits as the Secretary Director for BCCPAC and sits on the Special Education Committee. Wendy is seeking the support of her DPAC.

- Comments that the BCCPAC do not communicate well with DPACs and questions as to their role.
- Wendy replied that she is interested in increasing communication & education and reducing waste of funds.

MOTION: That the DPAC support Wendy Harris' nomination to the BCCPAC Executive. m/s/c

10. Prioritization of DPAC Enquiries to Sr. Administration:

- Beth asked if there are any emergent issues.
 - Q – Has there been a response on the parent volunteers on playgrounds issue?
 - A – The last word was that Dr Woudzia would look into the issue but there has not been a report back yet.
 - Comment that this came up as a question but perhaps we need to be asking about having more paid staff to do that.
 - Comments that we should not step in to fund or cover core services as they then become offloaded to us.
 - Comments that some not comfortable that parents would be qualified to provide adequate supervision.
 - Maya wanted it noted that she felt strongly this is an issue we should not pursue.
 - Comment that lots of districts augment staff with parent supervision.
 - Decision that there is enough interest in this topic to pursue an answer to the question.

11. Upcoming Events:

- Beth reported on the 1st Annual Parent Network Conference – March 8 in Langley, \$50
- Community Consultation on Programs of Choice ongoing – see SD40 website for details
- Final Budget Consultation Meeting at NWSS Feb. 24 at 7:00
- Deborah listed off many upcoming events and conferences and offered to forward the information for each to the distribution list.

12. Updates from School Reps:

- **NWSS** reported that parents want to know what the next year's budget will be. (A – the consultation process is not complete so unable to report).
- Discussion from **NWSS** parent that students with Educational Assistants are having to head back to their lockers early so that the EA can leave on time – this cuts into their learning time. Mr Gaipman asked parent to first bring issue to the attention of the school administration.
- **John Robson** – the name of the new Middle School is not popular with parents. Jonina suggested that parents bring convincing statements to the board and it would likely be readdressed.

13. Adjourn:

- Next meeting at EGMS March 10. 2014
- Adjourn at 9:45 m/s/c