

# SD40 New Westminster DPAC

Oct 20, 2014

Minutes of Meeting

**Attendees:** Beth Ott (Chair), Andrea Mears (Richard McBride), Cheryl Greenhalgh (Secretary), Susie Smith (NWSS), Naomi Perks (Herbert Spencer), Tekla Fulton (Qayqayt & EGMS), Lynsay Orozco (Lord Kelvin), Colette Mondin (Treasurer), Mark Smith (Connaught Heights), Scott Brolin (Lord Tweedsmuir), Jonina Campbell (Board Chair), Sup. John Gaipman (SD40), Deborah Garrity (member)

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

## 2. Agenda:

- **Motion to adopt distributed agenda as amended: m/s/c**
  - add Distribution of minutes and agenda under New Business.

## 3. Minutes, General Meeting Sept. 15, 2014:

- **Motion adopt Sept 15, 2014 General Meeting Minutes as amended: m/s/c**
  - Missing complete word "information" under 1<sup>st</sup> bullet Chair's report
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> to last bullet Chair's report missing "and will call out to members for donations"
  - 1<sup>st</sup> bullet of Item 9, should read "by-laws" rather than "constitution"
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet of Qayqayt report should be "and" rather than "as".

## 4. Chair's Report: Beth Ott

- DPAC Priorities 2014-2015:
  - We have not received any suggestions from PACs regarding DPAC Priorities 2014-2015. Beth may compile the results of last year's survey and bring to the group for discussion. **Action:** PAC Reps to solicit input from PACs.
  - Suggestion that some schools would benefit from orientation to Middle School model and the transfer protocol. Sup. Gaipman responded that this is planned to start in the new year.
- Appointment of Vice Chair:
  - Maya Russell has resigned her position as Vice Chair due to a recent change in work. She wished to acknowledge the parents that she worked with on DPAC.
  - The By-Laws allow for the DPAC Executive to appoint to fill vacancies. Andrea Mears has accepted her appointment as Vice Chair. Beth expressed her appreciation for Andrea's willingness to step in. Andrea is particularly interested in youth involvement.
- Update re: Village of Attachment:
  - Steve Cairns requested that Senior Admin be included in the process. Janet Grant was supportive and recommended that it would be beneficial to have Steve present to the Senior Admin and educators prior to parent presentation to facilitate "buy-in" from Admin.
  - Beth, Janet & Steve will meet next week to start planning and determine dates
  - Comment that some parents could be invited to the "academic" session.
- Board of Trustee Candidate's Meeting:
  - DPAC Executive has started planning event – booked in NWSS Library Nov. 5 7:00-9:00 pm.
  - If PAC's have suggestions for questions to ask, please forward to Beth.
- Laptop Purchase:
  - Beth has purchased her own computer and this is no longer a DPAC request.
- May Day DPAC Rep:
  - No one has yet expressed an interest in participating on this committee for DPAC. The first meeting is in November. Note, this is a working committee and a DPAC rep would be expected to participate in the work of the committee.
- NTAC DPAC Rep:
  - We have just learned that the applications for 2015 reps are due Nov. 14. Recommend that we re-appoint Cheryl as she just was appointed in February.
  - **Motion: to appoint Cheryl Greenhalgh as the DPAC Rep to the 2015 NTAC. m/s/c**
- Media Policy:

- Our by-laws describe that the Chairperson *may* be the only spokesperson or *may* appoint a spokesperson. The by-laws do not say “*must*” in this regard.
- Beth does not appreciate the suggestion that she is not doing her job.
- In the past, some have spoken off the cuff to media and this caused members to feel alienated.
- Beth reiterated that she will only speak to media on topics that have been canvassed by DPAC. Questions about particular schools are referred back to school chairs.
- Beth posed whether we have interest from members in participating in a media committee?
- BCCPAC Fall Leadership Conference (Nov. 21-23):
  - We have \$875 set aside in the budget to cover conference fees. The early bird fee is \$150 and we agree in principle to pay for the conference fee for any interested PAC members.
  - **Action:** that we will support all PAC’s to register and will fund first 6 parents who register as early birds.

## 5. Updates From Schools:

- QayQayt: Tekla Fulton
  - QQ has 465 students, 370 families. Resource teachers have been reduced from 4.5 FTE to 2.0 and SEAs from 16 to 12.
  - Tekla described great frustrations about the school opening unfinished and the great delay in playground field access due to a decision to seed the field rather than use sod. The gym is not yet completed and the only active play area is a gravel field.
  - There are still many unresolved problems with traffic, speed limits, crossings and parking.
  - Significant fundraising for playground equipment continues and parents are suffering volunteer fatigue.
  - QQ parents are concerned about the readiness of the middle school for fall 2015. It is hoped that many of the stressors experienced at QQ will not be repeated at the middle school.
- NWSS: Susie Smith
  - The music dept Bandathon Blitz will take place on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> to raise funds.
  - Students are hosting a candidate’s meeting on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>
  - NWSS has 2100 students, 200 international students, staffing levels are down and reporting class sizes are higher (30’s). Sup. Gaipman responded that the average is 23.5 so there must be some classes smaller as well.
  - Due to the late start some sports teams did not get a teacher sponsor resulting in no teams in some sports this year. Sup. Gaipman explained that schools may allow parents to sponsor a sports team but the decision to require a teacher sponsor is an individual school decision.

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

- Report from the Superintendent was emailed earlier, JG and JC accepted questions:
  - Comments that hoping the challenges opening QQ will inform the opening of the new MS. JG – schools are built by “Design-Build now essentially meaning that the lowest bid will get the contract and reality is that there is not a requirement for an on-time completion. The city issued the occupancy permit. It is possible that similar circumstances will be encountered again. The timeline for QQ and middle school have been pushed to facilitate the NWSS project. The city failed with regards to traffic issues and the PAC has attempted to facilitate a resolution.
  - Questions about NWSS. JG – Due to a recent request from the Ministry, NWSS is in the process of getting another seismic assessment which should be completed in two months. High risk (poor seismic assessment) schools are the only ones being rebuilt in BC. In 2012, NWSS was labeled as a moderate risk but we believe they did not do due diligence on seismic assessment as the school was projected for replacement. To date in BC, the most expensive new school projects have been \$65M and this one will be \$110M. The Ministry of Education ultimately does not make the decision – that is made by Treasury. The government pays for the risk factor and NWSS has a huge risk factor with the underground anomalies.
  - Are any other NW schools to get seismic assessment? JG – no, it has been done.
  - What can parents do to help speed up process?

JC – Parents can write letters and get involved. SD40 has met every requirement asked by Gov't and has met twice with the Minister of Education. Parents can appeal to the Gov't that they have been waiting since 2003 and that this is the only school approved in that era not yet funded.

- Is there an update on the final budget YTD for 2013-14?

JG – The Board released audited statement at last board meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings of the Board.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report:** Colette Mondin

- Colette presented the updated budget reflecting the changes made at the September meeting. Action: Beth will send a reminder to all PAC's to register on-line for membership for BCCPAC by the end of November and DPAC will pay the fee. In order for PACs to send and vote on Resolutions at the BCCPAC AGM in the spring, they must pay their membership by December 15. Parents wishing to go to BCCPAC conference can register under the DPAC.

#### **8. Reports from DPAC Reps to YAC and NTAC:**

- YAC - no report
- NTAC – Cheryl reported that she had participated in a walk around at Qayqayt (organized by Downtown RA rep). QQ issues are continuing to be brought up at NTAC. In September NTAC passed a motion asking city council to fund a study of air and noise pollution caused by truck traffic near QQ and EGMS schools. Cheryl will notify PACs when this motion is to go before council.

#### **9. New Business:**

- Meeting dates for DPAC:
  - Nov. 17, 2014
  - Dec. 15, 2014
  - Jan. 19, 2015
  - Feb. 16, 2015
  - Apr. 20, 2015
  - May 11, 2015
  - Jun. 15, 2015 \*AGM
- Distribution of minutes and agenda:
  - Requested that minutes be distributed at least one week prior to meetings. (Secretary promises to try!)
  - Requested that a call go out for agenda items.
- Discussion about process to send an alternate to DPAC meetings if unable to attend. Suggestion that some may choose to share the job between two people. If unable to attend, a member may send an alternate but that alternate does need 2 signatures recognizing them as a designate by their PAC Executive.
- Discussion that the DPAC by-laws are inconsistent with the school act and in need of revision.

#### **10. DPAC Priority inquires to Senior Admin:**

- Items discussed were:
  - Parent volunteers and the middle school build.
  - PACs are encouraged to discuss the priorities for DPAC and let the chair know.

#### **11. Upcoming Events:**

- Transitioning special needs children to life after school - there are two events coming up October 29th and November 27. PACs are asked to let families know.

#### **12. Adjourn:**

- **Motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm** m/s/c