

SD40 DPAC MEETING MINUTES

MAY 14TH, 2018

held at: ECOLE TWEEDSMUIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE: Hilla Avidan-Shavit (New Westminster Home Learners) Kathleen Carlsen (DPAC Vice-Chair, Richard McBride), Sandra Coll (DPAC Treasurer, NWSS), Sloane Drennan, (Ecole Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary), Janet Grant (acting Principle, ELTE) Beth Ott (Ecole Glenbrook Middle School), Roya Sarwary (Queen Elizabeth Elementary & QMS), Garry Self (F.W. Howay Elementary), Jude Talbot (FWH), Karon Trenaman (DPAC Chair, ELT), Charmaine Urbano (ELT)

REGRETS: Tracie Berg, Alexandra Kostadinov

CALL TO ORDER: Karon called meeting to order at 7:05pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Karon acknowledged the meeting being held on QQ Nation and Coast Salish Peoples territory.

MOTION: to accept AGENDA set for this meeting.

Moved by : Kathleen

Seconded by: Sandra

CARRIED

MOTION: to accept the amended MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2018 meeting

Moved by : Beth

Seconded by: Sandra

CARRIED

PRESENTATION: the PAC was taken outside to see the outside learning space and outdoor garden. It was a lovely sunny evening; we all enjoyed the tour and were impressed that every child in the school participated in some way and every class in the school has their own garden box / planter. The garden, which the staff has spent many hours on is still under a bit of construction, with hopes to be finished by the end of the year. Wonderful to know the out-of-school care staff and students will look after the garden in the summer.

UPDATES FROM SD40 PACS

ECOLE GLENBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- The school will be holding it's Silly Olympics Wednesday, May 16th from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. They are hoping to have this an annual event

- Discussion re: there were no events in December, so hoping this event which includes a BBQ, olympics, fun games such as “Pie in your Face” will get much support. Beth to report back in June
- A few people who have been instrumental in the PAC will be leaving this year (as their children will be moving onto the high school).
- They are looking forward to seeing new faces and working together as a new PAC
- Fundraiser coming up that makes good profit: Shopping Cards. People purchase shopping cards through the school with each company giving a percentage back to the school. Company name: Progressive Fundraising Inc

ECOLE LORD TWEEDSMUIR ELEMENTARY:

- The AGM will be held Wednesday, May 16th
- There are some big changes coming up for the school with the seismic updates starting in the Summer; the gym will be out of commission while the upgrades are being done / no outside rentals will take place / the updates will start in the gym but will go through the whole school
- 5 portables will be brought here - one will be the library / other 4 will be classrooms that rotate as the work is being done / work has already started as back rooms and book rooms have all had to be packed up / office will have to be packed up before the end of the school year / this will affect the daycare as well / will move on a temporary basis to the Maker-Space / music room downstairs
- The leaving ceremony is organized for the grade 5's / field trips are taking place
- No Child Without - medic alert program: the school district is registered, so now each school can be registered - this will have to come from the administration / this is a subsidized program / Pat Duncan signed up the District, now principals are to sign up their individual schools. What this means is going forward, families who have a child who requires a medic alert bracelet would not have to pay for their own membership - this would be paid for by No Child Without. This is a Canada Wide charity program. Brochures will be sent to schools.

F.W. HOWAY ELEMENTARY:

- The school just finished it's First Nations Week where the students did great artwork and finished with a fantastic Salmon BBQ.
- The big fundraiser at this school is the Kilometre Club which has been renamed to Fitness Fridays. Always a lot of participation and money made.
- The Craft Fair at the River Market on April 15th was a great success! It was wonderful to see so many of the teachers come out and support this event. The profit was approximately \$600 and the children did very well with their tables of home made wares too. A great day for all.

- The new Nice Principal, Ms. Tu Loan is fantastic; she goes above and beyond and is greatly appreciated by the PAC.
- Howay has Questions about the Safety Together Group as they are hoping to host them in the fall.

NEW WESTMINSTER HOME LEARNERS SCHOOL:

- They just had their annual camp at Sasamat. It was a successful 2 night, 3 day camp with all children who participated having a great time!
- There are many new members of the PAC this year - actually all are new except for Hilla who will stay on as the DPAC rep. The members of last years PAC are willing to help out and support the new leaders as they learn the ropes.

NEW WESTMINSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL:

- Jessie Miller will be coming to do sessions with the students and the parents. The parent session will be held in the evening at the PAC meeting on May 24th
- 6 members of PAC will be leaving as their children are graduating. NWSS looks forward to seeing new faces lead the PAC
- No actual school fundraisers have been happening, but many Dry Grad fundraisers have taken place.
- The Pub-night fundraiser was quite successful, \$3,300 from the liquor board came in (from donation jars set up at liquor stores in New Westminster).
- Discussed that although the bottle drive was successful, it was a lot of work, needed a lot of parent volunteers, took a lot of time and raised \$2900

QUEEN ELIZABETH ELEMENTARY:

- The school is getting 2 new portables. There is much concern as none of the portables will have bathrooms due to grounds / piping / sewage problems & costs. Concerns for students having to go to the bathroom - it's a long way to go from the portables to the main school / especially with the children being so young.
- Modular homes (which will home troubled / homeless women) proposed to be built on Queensborough landing - very near the school; causes more concern about children being outside near the same area & having to go by this area to reach a bathroom.

Beth suggested QEE go through district level as this was discussed at the BCCPAC conference.

ACTION: Janet Grant will ask the District if or why there are no washrooms planned for the portables at this school and will report back.

- The Open house held at the community centre re: Modular homes was open to the public. The next meeting which Queensborough residents are invited to attend will take place at city hall. Unfortunately many from Queensborough will not be able to make it due to the time of the meeting.

- PAC continues to have their regular pizza days / they had popsicle day last Friday / teacher appreciation day was May 10th - teachers were treated to a breakfast / brunch
- May Day is coming up; children are looking forward to participating
- The school may get the back door electronically fobbed for easy access to the school during school hours

RICHARD MCBRIDE ELEMENTARY:

- Readathon a big success - raised \$4434
- Coin Drive coming up May 28-June 1
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch coming up on June 13
- AGM this week and we are looking forward to a few new faces as we plan for succession for the end of next school year. Focus is on ensuring things get passed on to the next wave and they don't need to spend months just getting on board.
- Charitable status so far hasn't done much for us. It actually presents some challenges for accounting we hadn't anticipated. Will review and reassess at the end of the next year
- Freezee Friday a super hit - raised \$300+ in 20 minutes and underestimated the amount that students / families would buy

Updates from DPAC Social

COMMUNICATIONS: reported by Beth Ott

- There were many types of communications discussed. (ie: PACs to parents, PACs to DPAC, PACs & DPACs to Board & Trustees)
- breakdowns happen at different levels
- Discussed what different schools were doing to improve communication with administrators
- translation was an issue / some feel minutes are not being read. Question asked: could these be translated to common languages? Money is an impediment / maybe parents could translate for others.
- how do we make sure parents are engaged in getting info from PACs? Suggestions: have bright coloured notices, send emails, QQ had chip mail - where parents get alert
- Suggestion for PACs & DPACs - send fewer emails and more targeted emails.
- HOT TOPIC: how to pull people in: At the District level - positive change has happened the last few years: getting more trustees to come to meetings / try to get a communications co-ordinator at the DPAC level. At the School level - have class reps who forward info from PAC / DPAC / BOT to each family / have a visible PAC Community Board at each school / student agendas
- Suggest a newsletter from PAC's to parents / or a school website / DPAC facebook page / Ask parents what is important to them at the beginning of the year

- Suggest DPAC conduct an audit: what is working for communications to each PAC / maybe a form letter / invitation could be developed inviting BOT to attend PAC meetings and events.
- Inviting BOT: new PAC executive may not feel comfortable inviting trustees - if trustees were invited to all mtgs and events it would make it easier for the new PAC members to engage with their trustee.
- Childminding available at all PAC meetings? This has made a big change at Howay
- Discussion: common concern of parents going to PAC meetings: many don't go as they feel they will be asked to do more fundraising or take on a job. Good idea for PACs to educate parents re: what goes on at these meetings. Let them know you plan for events, have a say in what is going on in their child's school, create unique learning experiences. Suggest bring a friend for parent attendance to activities.

Questions re: email:

1. about school calendars and when we receive them. District will send out 2 years at a time
2. Significant concern over poor communication at NWSS re: there were huge IP problems at the beginning of the year - many still not receiving email notices from the school. Discussed: communication is a 2 way street, if not getting any info, go in and let them know. Conversion to Cinder Voice may be an option
3. Glenbrook asked SB about timeline with getting info from the councillors, IEP's, - no responses to families / staffing issues / administrative issue. They would like to know what the timelines are for answering questions and what the options are for parents if their emails and calls are not being returned.

Discussion as to meeting at the beginning of the year to address the above issues

FINANCE: reported by Sandra Coll

Discussed the primary uses of funds raised by schools: field trips, classroom supplies / school equipment (average was \$150 - \$200 per classroom), playground equipment, special events (ie: speakers, celebrations, outside instructors), school concerts, camp.

Questions: how much do PACs raise for field trips - every school and PAC are different, teachers request and PACs do what they can

-Are teachers given an allowance - yes, teachers use this to buy paper, arts & crafts, in addition to school supplies (ie: mothers day & fathers day gifts, 100 day celebration stuff, nothing curriculum-based). In 2016 this was \$52 per student

In 2017 - much larger fund / quite substantial amount went into the classrooms - called the classroom enhancement fund or new classroom fund

- The new government may increase this. Discussion: is this helping the teachers - aren't funds from government to reduce burden to parents

- why are there School fee calendars (ie: \$20 multicultural fee for kindergarten students). It makes sense for Sports fees to be charged to be part of a team
Janet says it has to fall into the system

- Is funding for classrooms ever going to catch up - we don't know
Discussion 1: would be nice if parents did not have to continue to pay extra funds.

Discussion 2: complaints about textbooks not being returned / it costs money to replace these / hopefully it will get better now with more parents understanding

Playgrounds / funding - could we bring together info / most schools have playground / but could DPAC help with this.

Discussion: At the BCCPAC conference it was stated the province will help to provide up to \$5 million each year to replace or rebuild playgrounds.

Each district to give the top 3 schools that are requesting playground help / at this point they are doing one per district

EVENTS, SPEAKERS, FUNDRAISERS & IDEAS: reported by Kathleen Carlsen

Discussed the school EVENTS that were brought up at the social, such as carnivals, winter concerts, etc. These will be put together in a booklet / file by date. This will then go on the website so schools can try to avoid having events on the same day. We hope to have this done for the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

FUNDRAISERS that were discussed at social as good for individual schools will be put together to again go on the website. Some that were discussed were: Purdy's chocolate sales, Run-a-thons, bottle drives, pancake breakfasts, and school artwork. Once all schools have contributed their ideas and suggestions, Kathleen will contact individual companies to try and get a discount for SD40 PACs.

Some schools have had successful SPEAKERS in and a list did get started that night. These include Marnie Goldberg (sexplainer), and Teddy Anderson (First Nations Workshop). Kathleen has received a number of others from people she's spoken to after the event. We will also look into the BCTF's list of free speakers. No one at the social had used that list before.

ACTION: Kathleen has sent out a questionnaire to all PAC chairs asking for them to fill out and send in by today's date. Questions asked were about large scale events and dates they are usually held, successful fundraisers and vendors that your school has used, speakers your school has had in and would suggest. Kathleen thanked the 2 schools who have sent this information in (Howay and McBride) and asks others to PLEASE send

these in as the information shared and posted is only as good as the information sent in by ALL schools.

Discussion: Schools will need to fill out a rating for the speakers DPAC helps to fund. We should maybe have a list of those recommended and also those not recommended (and the reason why). This may encourage more PACs to bring in speakers. (basically if much of the work is already done, more participation is likely to happen)

A large part of one groups discussion with Kathleen at the social was Safety in regards to Traffic / Road Safety and students safety because of lack of educated drivers.

ACTION: Karen spoke to the Superintendent, Karim Hatchlaf who in turn, went to the Traffic Advisory committer. He is now awaiting a response from Karen Catherwood and / or Jen Richter.

Report Sent in from Karim Hatchlaf

Parent Speaker Series: we will be hosting a number of speakers throughout the 2018/19 school year for parents – the events will be hosted at different schools and will be free of charge. We do have an upcoming Guest speaker, sponsored by the Ministry of Education, taking place on May 30th at 6:30pm hosted at McBride. The session is called “Raising Digitally Responsible Youth.”

May Day: there has been a lot of discussion on this topic and the role the school district plays in this event. A particular area of concern noted by the May Day Task Force and staff (via staff survey) is the loss of instructional time with all the preparation required prior to the actual event itself. The school district recognizes this is an important event for the community and I would like to know if the DPAC has a collective viewpoint or position as we consider various options looking ahead to the 2018/19 school year pertaining to the school district’s involvement.

DISCUSSION followed. It was decided we cannot make a decision for all parents and PAC members at this meeting. If people want their opinions heard, they need to fill out the questionnaires when they come out, get more involved, come to the BOT meetings when this is being discussed and voice their opinions there.

Staffing: The preliminary staffing projections look good with enrolment numbers remaining steady. We do, however, have a decrease in enrolment for our alternate POWER and RCAP programs. As for the senior management team, we have announced Kim Morris as our new Secretary Treasurer and are in the process of hiring for our Director of Learning Services and Director of Programs of Planning along with the Associate Superintendent position. These announcements will come out in early June.

BCCPAC RESOLUTIONS:

Kathleen and Beth attended the BCCPAC conference and held 4 proxy votes for DPAC and 3 other schools. The 7 resolutions that were discussed with the PACs were:
#5 Advocacy for Revision of Area Standards - this was amended to read: b) require space allocation in elementary schools for “not for profit” licensed out-of-school childcare programs. PASSED

#6 - Advocacy for Protection of Non-Enrolling Classrooms and Out-of-School Care Spaces - PASSED

#10 - Best practises for Lunch Times - PASSED

#11 Universal Arts Programming by Specialist Teachers - PASSED

- there was clarification that an arts specialist does not have to be a teacher

#12 Resource Teachers as an Essential Service - changed to read: define the Resource Teacher as a protected position that should not be assigned to other duties - PASSED

#15 - Fund Full Cost of Special Needs Students - PASSED

#18 - Randomized Standard Testing - NOT PASSED

For a full list of all resolutions you may go to the website at: <https://www.bccpac.bc.ca/>

TREASURER’S REPORT: Sandra Coll

The Draft Budget for 2018-2019 was circulated for information; questions were asked and answered. The budget will be presented at the June meeting for approval.

We are still looking for nominations for the DPAC Treasurer’s position for next year.

PNO: Kathleen Carlsen - There are no events planned so far. Next meeting in June.

NTAC: Tracie was not at this meeting to give a report.

YAC: Donella was not at this meeting to give a report.

NEW BUSINESS: We are always encouraging people to come to the DPAC meetings, to get involved and to become an executive member.

We are also looking for host schools for next years meetings.

Karon will send out dates for the 2018-2019 DPAC meetings, so PAC chairs can check with their school administrators and let us know if they are able to host a meeting next year.

Next meeting June 18th is the AGM.

This will be held at F. W. Howay School at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned 9:27pm