

SD40 DPAC MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 15TH, 2018

held at: HERERT SPENCER SCHOOL

Attendance: Hilla Avidan-Shavit (Hume Park Home Learners), Kathleen Carlsen (DPAC Vice-Chair, Richard McBride), Sandra Coll (DPAC Treasurer, NWSS), Renice Edmison (Herbert Spencer), Maya Russell (Richard McBride), Roya Sarwary (Queen Elizabeth Elementary), Karon Trenaman (DPAC Chair, Lord Tweedsmuir)

Regrets: Christina Black (Glenbrook MS), Beth Ott, (DPAC Member at Large, Glenbrook MS), Jude Talbot (Howay)

Call to order: Karon called meeting to order at 7:10pm
Thank you Renice and Kathleen for the home made treats.

Acknowledgement: Karon acknowledged the meeting being held on QQ Nation and Coast Salish Peoples territory.
Thanked Renice and Herbert Spencer for hosting the meeting

Motion: to accept agenda set for this meeting.

Moved by : Sandra

Seconded by: Hilla

CARRIED

Approval of minutes of November 29th, 2017 - will be deferred to February meeting to allow everyone time to look through and make any changes.

Update from President's Circle: Karon had nothing to report

Updates from SD40 PACs

Herbert Spencer Elementary: lots went on in the fall; the Craft Fair which exceeded financial expectations, hot lunch twice a month - big selection once monthly of sub, sushi, pasta or pizza, Christmas hampers- students brought in themed items each week in December (baby supplies / warm clothes / toys / etc) resulting in large gift baskets being dropped off by the principal to HS families in need.

Working now on a buddy bench, the card project - children's individual art work turned into greeting cards, and a sports day for the spring instead of Fun Day. Much discussion at the PAC meeting about dates for the Winter break, how can we change this so families have more time together before Christmas instead of afterwards.

Discussion: the decision for school breaks is decided by the school board and the Superintendent. This is usually done at least 2 years in advance. Rationale for the dates is basically so teachers who have children in other districts have the same holidays as their children. New West is a smaller district & therefore sets their calendars to align with other jurisdictions. If this is something the PAC feels strongly about, you are encouraged to send your letters to the SD40 Superintendent, or you may wish to bring it to any DPAC executive who will then forward it on your school's behalf.

Hume Park Home Learners: school started this past Thursday, the older group went on a field trip to the MakerSpace at FRMS (a hands-on, creative way to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent as they engage in science, engineering and tinkering) - this was the first of 3 trips planned, the bottle drive was successful - asking all families to keep their recyclables during the break and returning them for fundraising money for the school. HPHL is always looking for new ways to raise funds and is looking forward to the sharing of many ideas within the DPAC - such as the speaker list, the items list, and other PAC's experiences and ideas.

Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary: Hot lunch has been successful - using wok box this time / Christmas concert was great / Carnival is coming up February 16th with face painting, games and winter celebrations.

NWSS: Unfortunately communication at this school is still a challenge - no newsletters, very few emails, makes it difficult for parents to get information. Upcoming musical - tickets available at the Massey Box Office. The Arts, Music, Drama and Dance programs at NWSS are fantastic - the students are very lucky to have such dedicated teachers.

A letter from the principal went home regarding classroom planning (ie: not wanting Grade 12 students to be able to take more than one spare block per semester). The problem: the classes these dedicated students need, to go into their desired after grad programs, are often all filled and therefore not available. So, if the classes are not available, should the students take other classes just to fill their time? Again

better communication at the administrative level may lead to problem solving in this situation.

Queen Elizabeth Elementary: last PAC meeting was a short one, went through the fundraisers held in the fall. There will be a lot of fundraising coming up as they are working on funding for a new playground. 50-50's at the school concerts, Purdy's chocolates, sugar cookies, treat day, hot meals - 2x month - looking at other options for hot lunches (any suggestions welcomed - as samosa's too spicy, sushi - can't be kept cold enough long enough). QE is asking DPAC and other PACs to share their knowledge about resources and grants available for new playgrounds. Upcoming: book fair, magic show, family days, new hip hop classes.

Question: does DPAC fund for school buses for field trips

Answer: DPAC cannot use gaming funds, although PAC's may use their gaming funds for field trip buses. This is something that should be brought up with the school principal - ask administration about the school budget.

Queen Elizabeth Middle School: the school PAC did not have a December meeting and has not had their first PAC meeting of 2018 yet (it will be held next week), therefore nothing to report at this time.

Richard McBride Elementary: Christmas concert at Massey Theatre was fabulous 'Arf on the Housetop'. An expensive production to put on so PAC worked hard to fundraise with a 50-50, treats & warm apple cider sold in lobby and lots of parental support with donation buckets set up around the theatre.

The SB meeting was held at RM last Tuesday where the school's well known choir: High Notes performed 3 songs under the direction of Ms. Lang & Ms. Shamley. The principal, along with help from the "Kindness Captains" went into detail about the School's new Charter - each person entering the school deserves to feel safe, joyous and happy; much effort has gone into what that means and how to achieve this - with each student, teacher & adult in the school involved - a huge amount of work - which was well showcased at the meeting. The school is also involved in MDI (Middle years Development Instrument) which is a self report completed by children in grade 4 & 7 which asks how they feel about their experiences both inside and outside of school. Research for MDI is being done at UBC.

Update from BCCPAC Summit - this will be deferred to the February meeting as Beth Ott is not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Chair Report & Business Arising:

1. Parent Education Funding Application - DPAC circulated a draft form and asked for input from those at the meeting. Many great suggestions were made and lots of positive discussion followed. The executive will work together to include some of these suggestions and Kathleen will have final form available at the February meeting.

2. The DPAC social has been moved to February 6th at 6:30 at the Paddlewheeler Pub. Kathleen will book the venue and send out an email invitation within the week. We will use the World Cafe Format and focus on the following topics: Budget / Communications - including marketing, promotion, both inside & outside the schools, and between PAC's and DPAC / Events - including speakers, carnivals, individual school events.

Discussion: this is a brainstorming evening - the DPAC executive would like to collaborate with other PAC members, share questions, concerns, suggestions. DPAC will cover the cost of one drink and some appies for up to 3 members of each PAC. We hope to have the Chair, DPAC rep and any other interested PAC member attend to share ideas and suggestions.

3. NWSS scholarships - DPAC has agreed to again provide \$1500 for at least 3 scholarships to graduating students from NWSS. The scholarships are divided into three categories: Arts / Humanity / Alternatives.

4. Gift to Pat Duncan - Karon purchased a gift card so Pat could purchase the type of Whiskey he prefers. Pat was very moved by the gift, but more so by the card and written words.

5. School Board Superintendent search and interim - The Interim Superintendent is Bev Rendell, from Vernon. She has experience opening a new school as she was the principal of a new high school in Mission; it will be good to have her here during the ground breaking of the new High School.

The search for a permanent Superintendent has started. The head hunting crew met with Karon, as well as with members from CUPE, and two local principals to discuss their perception of what was important for a Superintendent. We thank Karon for taking the time to meet with them and discuss DPAC's thoughts, hopes, challenges and visions.

DPAC has been told they may again be included in the interview step of the short listed candidates -this should be around April, with the plan for the new Superintendent to be chosen by June so they can start the school year in September. More info when it becomes available.

Discussion: those in attendance felt it was important for the Superintendent & / or the School Board Chair to attend a DPAC meeting at least once per term. They use to attend regularly and shared much knowledge, answered many questions and had more parents involved. Karon will look into this.

6. New High School - the ink was signed! The big event at the SD40 office with the official announcement happened in December. Newly appointed SB chair, Mark Gifford, along with Vice Chair Kelly Slade Kerr were there to discuss some details.

7. June DPAC host - DPAC is still looking for a host for the June 2018 meeting. Next month (February 19th) will be held at McBride. All DPAC reps should be going to their school administration to ask when they can host meetings for the 2018-2019 school year. The list of all meetings for the following year needs to be completed and out in June.

DAPC Treasurer's Report - January 2018:

BANK BALANCES (as at December 31, 2017)

Operating	\$9, 535.94
Gaming	\$ 2,553.80
TOTAL	<u>\$12, 089.74</u>

Recent Disbursements:

November 2017 (Gaming Account)

Ch# 89	\$324.45	Refreshments for Parent Ed seminar
Ch# 90	\$200.00	funding for GMS Parent Ed seminar

Not yet cleared: (Operating Account)

Ch #399	\$750.00	BCCPAC membership fees
Ch #400	\$ 75.00	BCCPAC membership fee
Ch #601	\$150.00	BCCPAC membership fee
Ch# 602	\$100.00	Retirement gift for P. Duncan, Superintendent

ADJUSTED OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE: \$ 8460.94

Report from Committees

NTAC: (Neighbourhood Traffic Advisory Committee) - there have been no meetings announced for the new year yet. Tracie Berg will be representing DPAC

YAC: (Youth Advisory Committee) - there have been no meetings announced for the new year yet. Donna Prasad will be representing DPAC

PNO: (Parent's Night Out) - the next event is March 1st, from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Dr. Kristin Buhr, director of the North Shore Stress & Anxiety Clinic, will speak about youth and the challenges of anxiety. She will provide explanations and tools to support children who struggle with anxiety and will help parents develop a better understanding of anxiety in children and youth. Get tips on helping your child develop a healthy foundation, deal with difficult emotions, face challenging situations, learn to tolerate uncertainty, and build resilience. Registration is through eventbrite.

Discussion: many free events are advertised through eventbrite. Most of these events have at least 30% of those who signed up not actually attending the workshop / event. We would like to see everyone come to this event, so even if eventbrite says it is sold out, please encourage people to come anyway - there will be seats available.

Discussion: There are many local groups who are all advocating for children and youth in New Westminster. LAT (Local Action Team), Youth Groups, PNO, and others - it may be a good idea to pool our resources, work together and put on one or two fantastic & successful events yearly instead of having many small events all trying to be organized for the same audience. Karon will follow up on this and see what groups are open to working together.

Motion: to adjourn at 9:10pm.

Moved by : Kathleen

Seconded by: Maya

CARRIED