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New Westminster DPAC

School District 40

Date: October 17, 2019

Location: Queen Elizabeth Elementary School

Time: 19:00 - 21:30

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair: Kathleen Carlsen

Minute Taker: Cyrus Sy (Secretary)

Executive: Beth Ott (Co-Chair), Brennan Anstey (Treasurer, Richard McBride)

Parents/Guardians: Fatema Chowdry (Connaught Heights Elementary), Ronda Field (NWSS), Vidhya Ganesan (Qayqayt Elementary), Susan Kenny (Queen Elizabeth Elementary), Dai Martin (Herbert Spencer), Michelle Pastro (Queensborough Middle School),

SD40: Bruce Cummings (SD40), Quirina Gamblen (SD40)

1. Standing Items

1.1. **Introductions & Acknowledgement**

1.2. **Adoption of Agenda**

MOTION: Accept agenda as set for this meeting.

MOVED: Ronda

SECONDED: Michelle

CARRIED

3.1. **Guest Speaker - Quirina Gamblin & Bruce Cummings (7:13-7:45pm)**

- **See attached for the presentation**
- **SIGMA vs. POWER**
 - SIGMA is within the school, POWER is more individualized outside of the school
 - Parents can talk to counsellors if they think their child needs support and could get a referral to SIGMA or POWER
- **EA Training Program - Part Time program, 29 students; Sept.2019 - June 2020**
- **Bruce is chair of Special Education Advisory Group**
 - Hired 3 consultants to help improve engagement
 - Input from Focus Groups, Thought Exchange, Interviews, E-Mail,
 - Will be looking for Parent volunteers to participate in focus groups.
- **Quirina - Programs & Planning**
 - School & District Programs of Choice (Montessori, FI and Home Learners)
 - District Careers and Apprenticeship is growing
 - Looking to improve communication to parents on how to access programs of choice (next Spring)
 - 7,372 students for 2019-2020
 - Home Learners enrollment is going down, Distributed Learning (Online Learning)
 - Continuing Education is great for immigrants
 - International Students (approx 230)
 - Added Parent and Public Resources section on website: Parents Night Out, Vaping Resources

3.2. **District Update**

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- No report
- 3.3. **Trustee Update**
 - A request for a trustee rep has been submitted.
- 3.4. **Officer Reports (7:45-8:05pm)**
 - Chair - reported in New Business.
 - Treasurer - nothing new to report
- 3.5. **Committee / Working Group Reports (8:05-8:35pm)**
 - BCCPAC
 - BCCPAC Summit will be held on Nov 15-16. DPAC Exec will attend. Topics to be covered: Rob Fleming to give MoE update, SOGI, Funding Model
 - PAC Membership with BCCPAC: DPAC executive has paid for all SD40 PACs to be members of BCCPAC. Voting is only granted when individual schools register. The Executive still does not have all current PAC Exec contacts.

ACTION: Fatema will get contact info for 2 remaining schools so we can contact them to register for BCCPAC (Lord Kelvin, Home Learners)
 - PNO (Parents Night Out)
 - October 22 : 6:30-8:30pm
 - Registration is low right now
 - Jan 30, 2020 - How to Handle Stress
 - Mar 3 - No Topics TBD
 - Apr 30 - No Topics TBD
 - NTAC (10min)
 - Created online survey (164 responses) which was “smashing success” via social media.
 - Survey information was delivered to NTAC
 - Themes: More police enforcement, more signage
 - ACTION: Kathleen to send out link for survey to go out to all DPAC reps, and get additional responses
 - YAC (Youth Advisory Committee)
 - City Website needs to be updated as its over a year old; no DPAC rep.
 - Special Education Advisory Committee - 5min
 - Alejandro Diaz, Debbie Blount are the reps
 - First meeting was held / intro / will start to survey parents soon
- 3.6. **Communications**
 - DPAC Facebook, Twitter accounts have been set up
 - Acknowledged that not all parents are on social media (FB, twitter) and need to continue with e-mails where possible (eg. traffic survey)
- 3.7. **Parent Education**
 - Michelle Wright, the new NW Police school liaison will be coming to the November meeting as a guest speaker
 - Would like input from PACs for more speakers &/or topics
- 3.8. **School Reports (8:35-8:45pm)**
 - Richard McBride Elementary (Brennan):

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- Challenge - Traffic concerns in multiple places around the school. Traffic advocacy sub committee / group formed to address issues - discussed with NWPD traffic liaison and chief, using see/click/fix for parking violations.
- Working well - Communication from PAC to Parents via School Email List (via Principal)
- Has anyone used the new food fundraiser? Did they do pizza or regular menu items? Did it work well?
- Things available to share: Pilinko, Vendors: Bounce Inflatables
- Queensborough Middle School (Michelle):
 - Grade 7 and 8 leaders run our assemblies and morning announcements.
 - On Oct 16th the grade 7 and 8 leaders put on an assembly for the Scare Hunger Kick Off. They read a book on families that are struggling.
 - The leaders are asking students what they would like to see?
 - In September the leaders asked all staff, including all support staff, questions about how long they have worked in the district and what their hobbies and interests were. They introduced them as the QMS All Stars.
 - We have no failures but we have learning moments.
 - Nov 28th at QMS, the gym is open to everyone - the topic is anti bullying; what to look for / what are the signs?
 - Details about the presenter are still being ironed out. Start time will be at 6:30pm.
- Queen Elizabeth Elementary (Sue):
 - Challenge: At the moment our school still continues to struggle with communication to parents. New kindergarten parents have the same questions parents had last year. It seems the issues continue and that communication needs to be addressed and improved. Our principle was very open to the idea of a shared google calendar that parents could "subscribe to". We look forward to any new information regarding how to set this up & would appreciate any help the DPAC could give.
 - What's working/worked well: our volunteer solicitation has worked well compared to previous years. We had 33 people sign up (using a hard copy sign up sheet, at the Back to School Bbq and our online form). The google doc that has amalgamated the information is excellent. All volunteers are listed with: names, phone numbers, emails and preferred way of contact. We were able to have a treat day this week with ZERO volunteer call out through FB or school email. We had a group that had signed up for this committee and they were contacted. It worked very well.
- ACTION: Sue to send google volunteer form to share**
- Connaught Heights Elementary (Fatema) - thanked Spencer for sharing Ice Cream, then shared it with another school; Family Night is Oct 24th: the City Mayor is coming and it's open to the public;
 - Things available to share: BBQ
 - School district lunch program was started and looks like it is well accepted. The portion size is great for little kids (K to grade 2), Older kids may need to order additional items.
 - The Family night is October 24th (5:30 to 8:00 pm). We are trying to arrange it with the newly renovated playground opening by the city Mayor.

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■ Qayqayt Elementary (Vidyha) -

- We had a successful back to school event; used google calendar for volunteers; served 800 parents, made 1000 hot dogs;
- Challenges are: getting license for movie nights, getting people to come to PAC meetings
- We would like to know if other PACs have ideas for field trips for grade 3/4/5
- Equipment to share: popcorn maker

■ Herbert Spencer Elementary (Dai):

- The Fuel Up Lunch program has started and seems to be well received so far.
- Halloween Howl Event taking place October 24th (Dance, Crafts, Bowling, Scavenger Hunt)
- First Light taking place November 27th - open to the community
- No real challenges :)
- Suggestions for speakers: Marine Goldberg (Sexplainer)
- Would like to see a topic on managing anxiety for kids
- GreenThumb Theater

ACTION: Beth to send out info on getting license for movies

■ **ACTION: Dai (Spencer) to provide name of supplier of drop-off signs**

■ New Westminster Secondary School (Ronda):

- NWSS PAC is considering moving accounts from HSBC to one of the local Credit Unions to reduce fees and improve access to services such as online banking (VanCity, Westminster Savings and GFFG are used by other PACs)
- Dry Grad was held at Queensborough CC after the Grad ceremony at Queens Park in June. The event was 'phenomenal' – started at approx. 9pm Thurs night and ended at approx. 4am Fri am. Event was staffed by Grade 11 parent volunteers and events included inflatables (Houle Games), mechanical bull, a 'casino' for raffle entries, raffle with donated prizes, food, a Tim Horton's Iced Capp / lemonade bar and a hypnotist show (Hank Stone). Approximately 300 students were in attendance and they were well behaved, respectful and thankful to the volunteers. The timing worked well – in previous years some felt the event was too short, but this year worked well. There was a surplus of funds raised so a \$1000 donation was made to Wear It Well, and students were also encouraged to donate their dresses if not planning to reuse them.
Biggest challenge is communication to parents. Mr McLeod, the new principal, is committed to sending out information as needed.
- The Gaming Funds application process has been greatly streamlined this year – there is now a fillable/ printable PDF that is mainly tick-box to ensure request meets the criteria for use of gaming funds, and a sample application is included. The applications are being logged into a Google spreadsheet as they are received to facilitate the process and tracking year-to-year.
- BCCPAC application was completed and submitted by Colleen
- Successes – Dry Grad, new gaming funds application process, and student schedules were ready before the first day of school.

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- Concerns include Vaping (and the apparent lack of awareness of the harmful effects thereof) and the ongoing challenges of communication to the parents
- Topics / Speakers we are interested in: include Vaping (possibly invite the SD40 Drug Counsellor), Parents as Career Coaches (currently offered by SD41) and education for parents on the new curriculum and how the new school will support it
- DPAC is investigating the possibility of communal storage space for PACs to use. Also planning to ask if the District could host a DPAC web page and develop a process to facilitate communication to parents
- Ecole Glenbrook Middle School (Cyrus):
 - Back to school BBQ was successful, 400 hot dogs served
 - Photo Night coming up Oct 22/23
 - Entrepreneurial fair is going to happen in February
 - Main concern is overcrowding and vaping
 - Teacher-Librarian Carmen Woo is next guest speaker: new peer tutoring program

4. Old Business

4.1. Nominations and Elections of Members-at-Large (MALs)

MOTION: Appoint Ronda Field to MAL

MOVED: Dai **SECONDED:** Michelle **CARRIED**

5.1. Changes to Bylaws

- Beth presented a hand out and reminded everyone about the rationale for making a change in the number of PAC members (DPAC reps) required for a quorum. This was first presented at the September meeting.

Current Bylaw:

“A quorum for general meetings will be fifty percent of the voting members as defined below.” (each member PAC and each executive has one vote)

Proposed Bylaw:

“A quorum for general meetings will be 5 voting PAC members as defined below.”

MOTION: To change the bylaw as published

MOVED: Ronda **SECONDED:** Dai **CARRIED**

7.1. President's Council - Format

- Communication with parents
- DPAC reps will bring forward the main concerns discussed here: Overcrowding & Vaping

7.2. Speakers and Vendor Recommendations

- See school reports

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8. New Business

8.1. Childminding Discussion

- due to time, tabled to next meeting

8.2. School Board Meetings (add location of where they are)

- See list of upcoming school board meetings
 - <https://newwestschools.ca/our-board/meeting-agendas-minutes-motions/2019-20-board-meeting-agenda-minutes/>

8.3. Strategic Planning - Priorities

- DPAC seeking input from other PACs on strategic priorities for the next year

8.4. Q&A

- No questions/answers

Adjournment - 9:51pm

Next Meetings:

General: November 21, 2019

At: Ecole Glenbrook Middle School

701 Park Crescent

Start time: 7:00pm