

Date: November 18, 2021

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Time: 7-9 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Kathleen Carlsen (Ecole Glenbrook Middle School) **Minute Taker:** Cyrus Sy (Secretary, EGMS)

Executive: Renee Mosi (Treasurer, New Westminster Secondary School), Laura Kwong (MAL, Ecole Qayqayt Elementary), Anne Whitmore (Vice-Chair, EQS)

Guests: Karim Hachlaf (Superintendent), Dee Beattie (Board Chair)

Parents/Guardians (via Zoom): Anne Whitmore (EQE), Tanya Maglio (EQE), Carla Willems (Connaught Elementary School), Laura Le (EQE), Akbar Merchant (Lord Kelvin), Jennifer Flasko (Lord Tweedsmuir), Aya Ritchie (EQE), Larisa Ciprian (Skwo:wech Elementary School), Lan Dao (Herbert Spencer Elementary School & EGMS), Leanne II (Hume Park Home Learners), Michelle Kennedy (EQE), Sue Kenny (Queen Elizabeth Elementary), Marlayne Metzker (HS, EGMS), Glen Murray (EQE), Jen Knight (SK), Chelle Ostlund (HPhL), Doug Herasymuik (FW Howay Elementary School), Ali Elman (HS and EGMS), Marti Longstaff (HS), Teresa Watson (Fraser River Middle School), Gabriela Maciel-Jobb (EQE), Karon Trenaman (FRMS), Stacey Cheverie (HS), Barbarah Senez (EQE), Winnie Chau (FRMS & EQE)

Regrets: None.

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Standing Items

1.1. Welcome

1.2. Call to Order & Acknowledgement

1.3. Attendees

1.4. Approval of October 21, 2021 Minutes

Moved by Anne Whitmore, Second by Doug Herasymuik, **CARRIED**

1.5. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Laura Kwong, Second by Marti Longstaff, **CARRIED**

1.6. Chair Report: Kathleen

- Thank you to all parents for continuing to share your thoughts and concerns with the DPAC executive, to the School District Superintendent who attends all of our meetings, gives updates & answers so many of our questions and to the School Board Trustees for allowing us to report at their monthly meetings and sending a representative to our monthly meetings so we can all work together for the students in our district.
- We may advocate on different issues, may not always agree or like the answers given, but we are all working for the same cause - we are here for our children - all children of New Westminster
- Remember that Parent Advocacy does matter and does make a difference and your DPAC executive is listening to you. (check out Old Business for more

on this). If you would like support or have questions regarding your PAC, please reach out to a DPAC executive member.

- As a result of our advocacy, we have secured 2 guest speakers / presenters for our January meeting. BCCPAC President, Andrea Sinclair will be giving a PAC 101 presentation where we will all learn a lot and will hopefully walk away with some great information to help improve our PAC experiences.
- We also have Mayor Jonathon Cote and Kyle Rosenke (Translink Representative) who will be speaking about transportation and answering some questions from the floor.
- During the meetings we encourage respectful engagement both verbally and in the Chat. Thank you - it's wonderful to be part of a community that is open to all voices and to have a great working relationship at all levels.

1.7. Treasurer's Report - Renee Mosi

- We received gaming grant for \$2500
- DPAC provides funding for any up to \$250 per school for educational speakers, workshops
- Reach out to DPAC chair email to get reimbursement after submitting invoice

1.8. Superintendent Report - District Update - Karim Hachlaf

- Thank You to all schools for In-Person and Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremonies (Virtual at QB, 4 separate assemblies at NWSS)
- January 11, 2022 - Discover New Westminster Schools Virtual Event - Provides an opportunity to learn about different programs and offerings from K-12. More information on the District Website.
- Anti-Racism/Equity - Consultant Report and data will be presented at the next board meeting.
- COVID-19 Update
 - 1100 employees in school district
 - 50-100 employees (5-10%)
 - Had fewer than 5 cases that impacted adults
 - Currently having challenges with absenteeism; not enough TTOCs. Already having serious challenges filling absent teachers which would be compounded by a vaccine mandate
 - Our data for COVID cases shows very low case count
 - Less than 2.5% of staff affected
 - Unlike health-care we are not at the brink of the system breaking down.
 - District is using priority TTOCs to secure more staff, doing more recruitment (just received 10)
 - We have operating funds to acquire more teachers or priority TTOCs
 - Lack of replacement staff is the issue, but funding is not the issue in filling positions.

- Question: Is there a requirement for Teachers to disclose vaccination status to parents (Answer: No)
- Question: Possibility for a crossing guard at Merivale/Agnes (Answer: this question will go to the Transportation Manager, Mark and then back to principal)
- Question: How is it possible to project shortage when vaccination data is not known? (Answer: Projected shortage is NOT the sole reason for not proceeding with mandate)

1.9. School Board Trustee Update - Dee Beattie

- Standing presentation from DPAC at the board meeting is helpful
- Next board meeting will have elections for chair and vice-chair, BCSTA reps
- Thanks you to parents for having us
- Dee had to leave early and was unable to take questions

1.10. School Reports - Kathleen

- Herbert Spencer - Held first in-person event: an Outdoor Pumpkin Patch (very successful, working to set up speakers for the new year), continuing to fundraise.
- F.W Howay - Booked Salema Noon to speak on Sexual Health and do In-Person sessions
- Qayqayt - couple of speakers lined up (Nicola Daughty, Navigating Technology for Kids), Body Positivity (Jan 19th); Parent Survey going out (re: fundraising and advocacy efforts)
- Fraser River - Successful Spirit Week, Spirit Wear Sales are very popular; Looking forward to our band concert on Nov 14th
- NWSS - 35 Applications to distribute Gaming Grant for Variety Clubs; Also pleased with the Remembrance day ceremony; Grad Committee is doing many fundraisers
- EGMS - Grade 8 Grad Fundraiser School Store, Fun Lunch, Purdy's Fundraiser, One program happening at a school level- next phase to do a pilot program for bring your own device (BYOD).
- Skwo:wech (Larisa Ciprian) - Planning to move into new school during the break; Name change to Skwo:wech; Attended no-stone left alone event with Herbert Spencer, Looking for help about fundraising for playgrounds

Old Business

1.11. Bus Transportation

- Letter has been written and sent to MLA, and posted to website (nwdpac.ca) and Facebook.
- Request that Queenborough Reps circulate to parents

1.12. Capital Plan

- Letter has also been written and sent to MLA Jennifer Whiteside.
- Also posted to website/social media (nwdpac.ca)

New Business

1.1. Request for information on how needs-based model in child youth and special needs will affect education

Motion: That SD40 DPAC write a letter to SD40 Trustees and Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside, and Minister of Children and Family Development Mitzi Dean to request information on how the new needs-based model supporting child youth and special needs will impact both support and designation for students in our district (as current designations are diagnosis based).

Moved by: Laura Seconded by : Doug Herasymuik , **CARRIED**

The province initiated a public education funding review which was stalled in 2019 and now re-emerging. If you are interested ... this link provides the review and reports to date:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/resource-management/k-12-funding-and-allocation/funding-model#nextsteps>

1.13. Parent Survey Results

- 346 responses; DPAC will be working to review the open-ended responses to summarize and share out with parents.

1.14. COVID-19 Letter

- Stacey Cheverie read Letter to School Board, PHO, Ministry of Education requesting vaccine mandate for school staff
- Recommend to send to NWTU

Motion: That DPAC share the online petition and letter with PAC members created by Ali Elman and Stacey Cheverie.

- **Moved by:** Anne Whitmore **Seconded By:** Sue Kenny **CARRIED**

Adjournment: 9:30 pm, Moved by Anne Whitmore

Next Meeting - January 20 , 2021, 7pm

At: Virtual Zoom