

DPAC Meeting Minutes November 21st 2016

Meeting commended: 7:05PM

Meeting Facilitator: Cyndi Polovina; Welcomed everyone.

Attendees Present: (See Far Bottom)

Regrets:

Rick McKamey

Shelley Carter, Trustee

Nikki Hawes, Past Chair

Tour by Melinda Dempster, principal of Edwin S. Richards School.

Guest Speaker:

Annie Charker, a Settlement and Integration Worker with Mission Community Services Society

- ❖ Integrated team who looks over the community, school and refugees.
- ❖ Mandate is to make sure that all the kids who arrive in the school district are able to find a place in the school and their parents get connected with outside agencies for help.
- ❖ Help for renting tenant's resource and advisory from Burnaby on how to deal with a landlord
- ❖ Refugee settlement is the biggest change and need (many before Syrian crisis who still have refugee status and are awaiting their permanent status)
- ❖ Currently 24 "new" people in Mission
- ❖ "Full" in capacity for houses and schools
- ❖ Government funded families --> we can support 5 families at this time
- ❖ After a year of federal funding it drops to provincial funding --> goal is to make the families as self-sufficient as possible

Adoption of minutes:

- ❖ Motion to accept amendments and pass October minutes as amended: Dionne motions, Karah seconds; Motion Passed

Adoption of Agenda

- ❖ Motion to adopt: Laurie, Sheneal seconds; Motion passed

Correspondence

- ❖ Cheques for HOC Movies have been forwarded
- ❖ Free money for some families: kids born after 2006 \$1200 Savings grant
- ❖ Enrolment summary for Sept; enrolment has settled, getting final numbers
- ❖ Teacher Magazine available for all DPAC members to read/use

Superintendent's Report: (See Attached)

- ❖ New Principal appointments at Windebank & Silverdale.
- ❖ Policy review is a big project this year, and will be ongoing to keep our District policies current.
- ❖ The most problematic item is that the language around "special needs students" in 2002 was inconsistent from District to District, therefore it is not a simple formula to 'simply' impose, but rather needs to be re-defined and re-negotiated with the BCTF. The changes will not happen overnight. Changes to class sizes will necessitate more classrooms, which for many schools means portables.
- ❖ District safety procedures being reviewed (i.e. Lockdown procedures), and noting that it is a balancing act to keep students safe without making our schools fortresses, which would not be good for students' mental health.

Chair's Report: (Full Report attached)

- ❖ Cyndi reported her notes from the BCCPAC Summit which she attended in Richmond on November 18/19. Present at the Summit were DPAC Chairs from around the province, as well

as several staff members from the BC Ministry of Education, including Minister Mike Bernier and Deputy Minister Dave Byng.

- ❖ About 1 in 3 children, or about 14,000 kindergarten students in the province, are starting school with vulnerabilities in one or more areas that are critical to their healthy development. Child vulnerability in the province has meaningfully increased over the last decade. Early diagnosis and intervention is critical to get the best results for vulnerable students.
- ❖ Many parents have completed the online survey at: engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress with regards to student report card changes that will come with the implementation of the new curriculum. Please complete the survey or attend the Open House forum for in-person feedback on the same topic on January 17, 2017 in Abbotsford.
- ❖ Support safe, inclusive, supportive schools. A culture of belonging and acceptance must be cultivated for students to thrive. Inclusiveness starts with us (modelling behaviour).
- ❖ PACs are not merely tasked with fundraising. The role of PAC is to inform and empower parents as the best advocates for their students.
- ❖ Mental Health: Emerging Trends in Schools: Screen time is a reward / privilege. Less than 2 hours per day is good practice. No cell phones in bedrooms at night!!! Sleep deprivation harms emotional as well as physical well-being and most “problem” activities occur between 3 and 5 am. While the system we have isn't “everything for everyone”, the Ministry recognizes that more supports in the classrooms in the early years will be the foundation to success in later years. They know that 50% of mental health concerns take root by the age of 15 and 75% by age 24.

Treasurer's Report:

- ❖ \$2664.23 in general, \$3,674.08 in gaming.
- ❖ We are still following up to see why we have not yet received our gaming grant.

Communications Report:

- ❖ Our Facebook page is Mission District Parent Advisory Council

Education Committee Report:

- ❖ Nov 01st was on policy review
 - Draft policy manual structure to make it easier for the public
 - physical restraint and seclusion policy being developed and this is now available to the public
 - Draft policy for catchment area/cross boundary (already is a policy)(make it shorter to understand); adding in a sibling clause
- ❖ Curriculum update: teachers had the Oct development day and discussed assessment : another day for this in MAY
- ❖ Amber: teachers are working on self-assessment and are applying the new curriculum.
- ❖ ****survey online engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress
- ❖ Student transportation funding: \$100000 reimbursement to the parents who paid for their bus fees.
- ❖ BS STA Events coming up in the community:
 - Leadership students: Christmas dinner
 - (families & individuals who don't have an XMAS dinner to go to usually)
 - Child and youth mental health
 - Homeless count
- ❖ Port Alberni: Aboriginal Ceremony presented to students; a complaint was lodged by a parent
- ❖ Indigenous education is to be integrated into the new curriculum

Ongoing Items:

Movie Committee:

- ❖ Raymond's Computer failed and the back-ups could not successfully recover his data, so most of the information he had is lost. We will attempt to piece it together from our copies of emails.
- ❖ All schools that were active last year are still giving cheques, needs to double check and confirm those who are adding their schools into the District license
- ❖ There is a price change – he will elaborate when he deals with computer issue
- ❖ PACs will be emailed about this movie discount
- ❖ Most of the Good Dinosaurs cheques have been resubmitted – most stale dated cheques are caught up

New Business:

- ❖ Parents request that Parent teacher conferences for the middle school and high school not be held on the same evening. Angus will investigate this.
- ❖ Event on January 18, 2017: “Calm, Alert, and Learning: An Introduction to the Self-Regulation Theory.” This will be a presentation by Paula Jurczak of the MEHRIT centre. Decades of research have shown that self-regulation is the foundation of healthy human development, adaptive coping skills, positive parenting, learning, safe and caring schools and vibrant communities.

Draw: Ilona Schmidt was the winner of our draw.

Meeting Adjournment: Destiny, Crystal seconds; Motion passed at 8:24PM

Upcoming events:

Parent Education Event at the Clarke Theatre January 18, 2017 at 7 pm
School Board Meeting: December 13, 2016 at 6:30 at Hatzic Elementary
Next DPAC meeting: December 12, 2016 at 7 pm at Hillside Traditional Academy

Executive:

Past President: Nikki Hawes
Vice Chair: Trisha Hansen-Bell
Treasurer: Jessica Weismiller

Chair: Cyndi Polovina DPAC@mpsd.ca
Secretary: Karah McLean
Communications: Clare Seeley

Members at Large: Sheneal Anthony, Destiny Cunningham, Raymond Kwong

Attendance:

Hillside: Jessica Weismiller, Cyndi Polovina(PAC), Justin Wagner(PAC); Riverside: Laura Wilson; Hatzic Middle School: Dionne Moirsire, Lori McComish (MSS&HMS); Mission Secondary: Clare Seeley, Emma Johnston (MSS&HPMS); Windebank: Michelle Masse (PAC); ESR: Laurena Gagno(PAC), Sheneal Anthony(PAC), Raymond Kwong, Melinda Dempster; Dewdney: Destiny Cunningham(PAC), Raven Arcand(PAC) ; Deroche: Chrystal McCallum(PAC); Cherry Hill: David Mathisen(PAC), Jen Mathisen(PAC); West Heights: Ilona Schmidt(PAC), Elisa Williams(PAC); McMahan: Niki Rosche, Kristine Matthysen(PAC); Heritage Park: Karah McLean(PAC) ; Mission Central: Trisha Hansen-Bell(PAC); Special Guests: Angus Wilson (Super), Annie Charker