



# Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting date: **April 25, 2013** Started: **6:00 PM** Ended: **9:30 PM**

Location: Vancouver School Board

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Colin Redfern

Minutes rec. by: Claudia Ferris

## Attendance:

Present: Steve Baker, Claudia Ferris, Iraj Khabazian, Ivy Leung, Monica Moberg, Colin Redfern, Jim Smith, Mabel Sun

Regrets: Diana Day

Absent: Melanie Antweiler, Stefanie Gajdecki

Late:

## Guests:

Sarina Auriel (regrets), Brent Boyd (CUPE 407) (present), Tim Chester (IUOE 963) (present), Charlene Derzak (CUPE 407) (present), Antoinette DiGiacomo (IUOE) (present), Perveen Engineer (CUPE 15) (present), Jennifer West (absent), Warren Williams (CUPE 15) (present)

## Meeting Documents:

- Stakeholders meeting April 25 13.pdf

## Meeting Minutes:

### 1. Committee Business

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#### 1.1. Meeting with Support Staff Unions

Colin Redfern

#### Report:

Status: Completed

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#### 1.2. Review Agenda

Colin Redfern

The agenda may be adjusted to provide for priority items and new items added. Once the agenda is accepted with changes, this will be the order of the business for the meeting.

#### Minutes:

Add Professional Development, Workshops and Conferences and Swiss Report to the agenda

Motion Iraj, seconded by Monica – all approved

#### Report:

The first hour is scheduled to meet representatives from the Operating Engineers and CUPE Locals 15 and 407. The expectation is this will be a "dinner" and conversation without any "business". Colin plans to close this part of the discussion off shortly after 7:00 PM and we will carry on with the balance of the agenda.

Status: Completed

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#### 1.3. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Colin Redfern

Minutes or notes previously distributed are considered approved once presented. Any changes to the minutes are to be addressed in this section. Should there be any changes, the minutes or notes are considered approved with majority vote.

#### Minutes:

Motion to accept the minutes – Mabel, seconded by Jim – all approved

Resolution #: 1



**Moved by:** Monica Moberg  
**Seconded by:** Iraj Khabazian

**Status:** Carried

**Vote:**

**Report:**

Move adoption of the Minutes from the April 11, 2013 meeting.

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#### 1.4. Norquay PAC

Colin Redfern

Guest Barb Lee – DPAC Mandarin sub-committee representative on Modern Language Program – from Norquay school with issues. Iraj is the Norquay Rep. Norquay just brought in early Mandarin, done on a lottery so there are many parents outside the catchment area. Barb has a background in curriculum development and works in the financial field and is the President of the Asian Film Festival.

The parents are very thankful to have the program, the success is on the back of the teachers right now. Kindergarten, grade one and grade two – 4 teachers and the ratio is 50/50. 100 students out of the 150 applying, with sibling preference. 600 total population, could be a total of 800. There are no ELL in the immersion program.

The EMB parents are active on the PAC and are keen to fundraise for a playground. As the kids move on they need to hire more teachers for the higher grades and it is pretty hard without a curriculum to do this.

Highlighting some of the concerns – we are not getting support and admin and there is no curriculum. Last year the continuing education department funded free Mandarin course and they can't do it this year.

Background, was spearheaded by Parents for Mandarin group. In Coquitlam they do two classes for each grade so that there is an English teacher in the morning and a Mandarin teacher in the afternoon.

Jameson does late immersion – 1 hour per day, whereas Norquay is 50/50.

We are getting \$25K per year for resources and teaching materials. 6 ipads were recommended last year and the kids have gone two years without the resources. It has been difficult to get information from the administration. Norquay is the third largest elementary school in the district and is very complex with a district Mandarin program, a special needs program and aboriginal programs.

**Minutes:**

Colin to follow up with the Beaconsfield after school program and perhaps they could access the Cedar Cottage program with buses.

Monica and Colin will bring up the issue with inexperienced principals may not be a good fit in complex schools with senior management 4X4. Funding and transparency issues will be followed up by Monica discretely. Ivy will bring up at Ctte 3 that DPAC would like to support the development of the Mandarin curriculum and that it needs to be delivered as promised.

**Report:**

**Status:** Completed

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#### 1.5. Report from Chair

Colin Redfern

The chair will provide an update on any business attended to between meetings and provide a brief summary of activities. Where possible, the chair will include a written report in this section prior to the in-person meeting.

**Minutes:**

**Report:**

Chair report – coming up to sixth meeting on the budget.

Budget Issues:

- Wellness issue, there may be some duplication.
- AV department gets 1000 withdrawals per month of the local media – 8000 in 8 months, they want to shut it down so people can't withdraw media because they are proposing to stream all the content. DPAC is opposed to this.
- Printing strategy – recommendation that they look at a hardware strategy and look at the leases and they may be able to save money..
- Catering – they want to cut \$25K out of the \$130K current budget.



- Year end purchase review to consolidate resources around central booking system so resources are pooled and shared for purchase, with one person buying for all schools and DPAC supports this.
- Cafeteria – will ask which ones are instructional cafeterias and how much is related to delivery of curriculum? DPAC will not support instructional cafeteria cuts.
- Secondary office support cuts
- Fleet vehicles
- Cutting consultant fees fine as they are not downloaded onto parents.
- Furniture and equipment replacement cut this year but will maybe be returned next year. Replace only what you have to fix.
- Adult education is separated from continuing education. If it is a VSB continuing education program it will be cut. The only summer school program that will be run are the remedial. Since this will impact children, we are against this.
- Britannia School – we are not opposed.
- Facility, maintenance we do not support the cuts. Getting rid of 4 trades. This is silly because they will just lay off the people with the least seniority and contracting out last time resulted in all the glaziers being laid off and increased costs in contracting out window replacement.
- Rentals – agreed – but open up the bathrooms and maintain the fields.
- Local capital reserve yes
- Holdback funds yes
- International education program – want to take \$485K for this if it is cost recoverable and DPAC's position is that not one penny should come out of our children's education dollar
- Peer-to-peer mentoring – silent – anything that benefits kids we will support
- Y&Family Workers – no support for these cuts
- 5 cuts to teachers positions – we are saying no – cutting 8 and adding 3 early learning.
- PLN – support bandwidth for the internet
- SACY – No cuts, we support the workers
- Community Engagement Coordinator – we support this position, we don't want to compete with this person - we want to work with them.
- Last comment is that there has not been one cut to secondary school principals which cannot be proved. What they have done is moved the Vice-Principals into the classroom for some teaching blocks, where they are paid at a higher rate.

**Status:** Completed

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## 1.6. Treasurer Report

Monica Moberg

The treasurer will provide an update on any business attended to between meetings and provide a brief summary of activities as well as a summary of our financial position. Where possible, the treasurer will include a written report in this section prior to the in-person meeting.

Gaming Account Balance: March 26,2013 \$1842.73

Cheque to Heritage Hall: \$378.01

Pride Grad: \$300.00

Balance:\$1164.00

### Minutes:

Motion to pay for Landmark Forum Education leadership development for Monica Moberg in the amount of \$650.00

Ivy moved and Iraj seconded – motion passed

### Report:

**Status:** Completed

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## 1.7. Other Committee Reports

This will include sub-committees of the DPAC such as the Advocacy Project, the PAC Celebration, Lower Mainland DPAC or other similar activities. If possible, a written summary will be provided in the report section.



**Status:** Completed

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### **1.8. Communications Coordinator**

Steve Baker

The communications coordinator will provide an update on any business attended to between meetings and provide a brief summary of activities. Where possible, the communications coordinator will include a written report in this section prior to the in-person meeting. For on-going projects or activities, there will be sub-reports outlined below.

**Minutes:**

**Status:** Completed

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#### **1.8.1. Surveys**

Steve Baker

The communications plan included the opportunity to survey the Vancouver PAC leaders and, where appropriate, parents within the Vancouver School District. This provides the DPAC Executive an opportunity to reflect a more informed perspective of the PACs we represent from a District perspective.

**Report:**

The Bicycle Advisory reps for DPAC have generated a survey which was sent to all PAC on April 3rd. To date we have only received four responses. In discussion with Nathan (one of the reps), we will post this on our website as well as linking it to our FacePage.

**Status:** Completed

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#### **1.8.2. Website**

Steve Baker

**Report:**

Petition - Since posting the petition we have had 1160 views with 313 signatures. Most views are acquired through Facebook followed by our own webpage on the VSB Site. Continued promotion through facebook and twitter will assist in generating more signatures. Hits on our Website - For general interest, the following are the hits we have received on our website since launch in November 2011. In 2012 we had a total of 5,986 views. For 2013 we have had 3,700 views to date (this school year has had a total of 6,774 views)

**Status:** Completed

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#### **1.8.3. Workshops**

Steve Baker

One of our objectives includes providing workshops of interest to PACs and parents. Workshops have included PAC 101, Treasurer 101, Parents as Career Coaches and general interest workshops or speakers of interest to parents. Additional workshops and speakers can be organized throughout the school year at the discretion of the DPAC Executive.

**Report:**

Our last workshop with partnership with Capilano University for Parents as Career Coaches had 20 participants. 30 people had signed up. The workshop in the fall had approximately 40 participants. The workshop was held at Churchill Secondary. Marianne (the Facilitator) has suggested we designate Churchill Secondary as the location for all future workshops as the facility is the best format for the presentation. North Vancouver has been promoting the workshop and getting over one hundred participants at the workshops.

Templeton PAC has offered to host the next one in the Fall but based on the response from this last one, it would likely be better to designate one facility that works best for the Faciliator and promote it early and often.

**Status:** Completed

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### **1.9. Media Coordinator**

Claudia Ferris

The DPAC Communications Plan includes a coordinated strategy for dealing with education issues within the media. Utilizing a media coordinator provides the opportunity to support and organize the appropriate executive members to speak to issues of interest in the media.

**Minutes:**

**Report:**

We were successful in getting two reports in the Vancouver Courier. The first report promoted the petition and the second story covered the VSB budget process and included the parent perspective.

VDPAC was quoted in The Courier's Class Notes column and in a Courier feature about the VSB Budget - both promoted our petition, but failed to provide the link. News 1030 also quoted VDPAC. Colin was quoted about the petition and about his concern that few parents were engaged in the current budget process.

We were also interviewed by the Courier's Cheryl Rossi about the VSB plan to cut adult education but we did not end up with a quote about it. Janet Steffenhagen continues to cover changes to a special needs program at Seymour elementary school. We have not yet sent a formal press release out on the budget, which I am recommending we do on Monday April 29th for the last budget round at the VSB.

Press conference 6 pm Monday April 29th – all DPAC to attend.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.10. PAC Celebration**

Steve Baker

In recognition of the volunteers from PACs that assist in parent advocacy and support DPAC initiatives, DPAC has established an annual event for recognizing these volunteers. The annual celebration provides the opportunity for DPAC Executive members and PAC Executive members to meet in a more casual environment to share stories, concerns and celebrate successes in mutual objectives. The entire DPAC Executive is involved in planning and participating in this event.

**Report:**

To date we have 18 people signed up to the PAC Celebration. While we are limited to 100 for the hall, we need to promote this more in order to "celebrate". This would be time for all the DPAC Executive to call their liaison schools and promote this event. We are only three weeks away to the event and the sign up is less than expected. Now is the time to connect with the PACs.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.11. BCCPAC**

Steve Baker

**Minutes:****Report:**

To date we have four PACs confirmed to attend the AGM. Iraj is following up with the PACs that have not confirmed attendance in an effort to acquire their Proxy Forms. Queen Mary, Lord Byng, Prince of Wales and Thunderbird are the confirmed PACs.

Diana Day requested to go to BCCPAC conference but missed the early registration. Colin and Ivy will give up a day on Saturday and Sunday and we need a commitment from her to replace either one.

Ivy, Jim and Iraj are registered for Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Mabel is Sunday

And Colin is Saturday and Sunday

Colin gave up Sunday for Diana and Ivy gave up Saturday for Diana, Diana was not able to attend.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.12. Professional Development, Workshops and Conferences**

Monica Moberg

Monica Moberg would like to take a pro-d course to be discussed at the meeting.

Thank you

**Status:** Completed

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**2. Past Business**

No Past Business

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### 3. New Business

#### 3.1. Norquay

Colin Redfern

**Report:**

Any recommendations from the presentation will be dealt with here.

**Status:** Completed

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### 4. VSB Committee Business

#### 4.1. VSB Board and Committee Reports and Recommendations

DPAC Representatives to Committees and the School Board have the opportunity to provide input. When reporting on representation to Committees, the purpose of reporting to DPAC is to address issues of concern to DPAC and/or parents. Highlighting issues that are likely to be of future concern to DPAC or parents and to acquire guidance and input from members of the DPAC Executive is what needs to be addressed at Executive meetings. Other Committee or Board information is available publically and is available to the DPAC Executive so there is no need to share other business of the Committees or the Board with the DPAC Executive.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.2. Board Highlights of Interest to DPAC

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.3. Committee I - Management Committee - Matters of Concern to DPAC

Colin Redfern

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.4. Committee II - Planning and Facilities - Matters of Concern to DPAC

Colin Redfern

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.5. Committee III - Education and Student Services - Matters of Concern to DPAC

Ivy Leung

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.6. Committee IV - Personnel - Matters of Concern to DPAC

Monica Moberg

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.7. Committee V - Finance and Legal - Matters of Concern to DPAC

Monica Moberg

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.8. Advocacy Committee

Ivy Leung

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.9. Date Next Meeting

**Report:**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9th at 7:00 PM.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.10. Adjournment

**Minutes:**



**Report:**

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 by Monica, seconded by Iraj

**Status:** Completed

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Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

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