



Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting date: **February 28, 2013** Started: **7:00 PM** Ended: **9:30 PM**

Location: Vancouver School Board - Room 108

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Colin Redfern

Minutes rec. by: Claudia Ferris

Attendance:

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

Regrets: Jim Smith

Absent:

Late:

Guests:

Sarina Auriel (regrets), Jennifer West (regrets)

Meeting Documents:

(no documents)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Committee Business

1.1. Review Agenda

Colin Redfern

Status: Completed

1.2. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Colin Redfern

Minutes of January 10th and 28th, 2013 are approved.

Report:

Status: Completed

1.3. Report from Chair

Colin Redfern

Haven't met with Patti since last report. It has been quiet, except for the budget.

Steve Cardwell has raw data from the survey and wants to get the raw data from us on budget survey. According to the VSB, who looked at all the receipts and concluded that most parents do not fundraise directly for the school - monetary donations are about 23% of the parent school. The FI programs or mini-schools or the wealthier pockets tend to have fundraising for the exchange schools but they are the exception.

Principals do not have to report the money that they raise to the school board, they just have to balance their budget. They only have a line item for donations if they need to give a tax receipt.

Colin has had a lot of requests for the petition, letter and the Power Point presentation to go on the website. Dianna notes she wants to do a letter writing campaign, in response the concern about the lack of funding for the science program, computers and uniforms as her PAC doesn't do fundraising.

Colin says there will be a fact sheet about public education funding, a petition and a form letter for the MLAs. Goal is to get 10,000 signatures on the petition and it would be great to get 25 letters from each PAC. Hastings and Templeton parents are bidding on a lunch with Shane Simpson and Libby Davies.

Dianna plans to do a presentation to all her liaison schools. Colin reports that Patti has been trying to meet with candidates and they are hedging their bets with commitments and trustees feel the parent voice would be a good push.

Colin requests that all DPAC representatives contact their schools and promote this, along with info about the May celebration. He has also talked to VSB stakeholder representatives to also promote this campaign.



Question about distribution so we can get this out to the widest group? In the past a form letter first went to the PAC and got endorsement, then the principals were happy to send it out to the list of the whole school. The petition and letter will also be on-line on our website.

Colin will take a request for translation to the board and once its done, it could go up on our website.

Discussion of banner - could it be upgraded to include VDPAC website and the answer is that a sticker could be put on them but it might fall off.

Report:

Status: Completed

1.4. Treasurer Report

Monica Moberg

Money has not changed \$1,800 approx in gaming - appreciates everyone getting expenses in a timely manner as it has been easier to get approval.

Question from Diana - is this the only money we have? The VSB has a budget which pays for snacks, staff support and mileage. Reimbursed in a two week cycle which is reimbursement from the VSB.

Report:

Status: Completed

1.5. Other Committee Reports

Table officers report - found an hour to report and reflected on where we've come and what is to come for the rest of the year. We have built a good core and want to focus on reaching out to engage ELL parents including having a meeting just in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) since we have strong speakers on our executive. There was discussion of having DPAC meetings out in the community, in a school, open meeting.

Report:

SEAC

February 5, 2013

Some notes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee

In this meeting, experts from different special groups in education (trustees) and mental health associations as well as education associations were present and presented topics that they would like to see reviewed or examined.

Some of the comments at this meeting came from Patti Baccus who asked what designations for special education will look like in the future and how will they change.

Some experts reviewed how there were old fashioned requirements to allow a child to access special education funding and access which are now changing to meet modern definitions of need in education.

We reviewed the triangle of special needs with 3 levels of need:

intensive 3%

targeted 15%

Universal: 75%

We discussed how the teachers try to promote inclusion and how "integration" can sometimes block "inclusion" for some students.

Trustee Fraser Ballantyne discussed building capacity and efficiencies in SSA teachers who are attached to a specific student.

Also funding formula vs. Funding allocation.

Sometimes a designation does not entitle a student to help all the time but only when needed.

There is sometimes a problem with a parent when the SSA is directed to other kids and the parent claims the SSA must stay with here child. Transparency is needed so that parents know what there child is entitled to in the system.

Fraser, a current trustee, and a previous special education teacher, replied to a question of SSA duties that although the SSA teacher may be used in other duties, those duties must fall within the teachers job description.

Sylvia Metzner of VESTA mentioned that sometimes SSA teachers are over used and pushed beyond their level of required duties.

Now that some concerns were raised by stakeholders, another meeting will be set for April 4, 2013 .



Jim Smith
DPAC

Status: Completed

1.6. Communications Coordinator

Steve Baker

Status: Completed

1.6.1. MLA Meeting

Steve Baker

Work in progress

Report:

Status: Completed

1.6.2. Lower Mainland DPAC

Steve Baker

Status: Completed

1.6.3. Meetings with "Partners"

Steve Baker

Report that there were two attempts to put out dates to do a meeting with Trustees. Steve is recommending a couple of dates that would work for DPAC to put out to the trustees and Steve will follow up. Colin recommends that we try to do something before DPAC meeting 5:30 - 7:30 - suggest after spring break April 11th suggested date.

Suggest meeting with support staff unions april 25th - 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Report:

Status: Deferred: 14/03/2013

1.6.4. Surveys

Steve Baker

Status: Completed

1.6.5. Website

Steve Baker

The alternative website was established in September 2011 to provide DPAC with timely information to be available to parents and PACs within the Vancouver School District. Ongoing updates of information and workshops allows parents and PACs to be informed on an ongoing basis. In addition, PACs are able to advertise workshops open to all parents. Other not-for-profit organizations are also able to advertise events that would be of educational interest to parents and students in Vancouver. The information is posted through our communications coordinator.

Minutes:

David Thompson asked for something to put on the website, if it is questionable, Steve will go to executive for decision.

Report:

Status: Completed

1.6.6. Workshops

Steve Baker

Report:

Diana would like to hold a workshop in June and have a first nations meal and safe schools initiatives. Dianna to follow up with an outline and plan for a workshop. It was noted that scheduling meetings in May or June for District wide workshops was often difficult as parents are usually focused on school activities.

Status: Completed



Claudia Ferris

1.7. Media Coordinator

Strategy will be to do media around the budget and our letters and our petition.

Mabel and Ivy will meet with Claudia and create a strategy for working with the Chinese media.

Jennifer received negative feedback from a report in the Courier featuring Shaugnessy and will be sending some feedback to Claudia. Colin mentioned that the East Side schools are sick of being represented as a poor community.

Report:

Status: Completed

1.8. Communications Plan

Status: Completed

1.8.1. Funding

Steve Baker

Status: Completed

1.8.2. Trustees

Steve Baker

Status: Deferred: 14/03/2013

1.8.3. FSA

Steve Baker

Colin notes that more parents are dropping out as there is no funding associated with lower scores

Action Claudia to follow up to make sure we are on top of the issue before the results are published in the paper. Will have press release or statement prior to that.

Status: Completed

1.8.4. Elections BC

Steve Baker

Steve noted that when the Election is called we will be promoting material provided by Elections BC to assist parents to exercise their vote.

Status: Completed

1.9. PAC Celebration

Steve Baker

Note caterer is booked and need plates. Puddifoot will provide wine again.

Report:

Status: Completed

1.10. BCCPAC

Steve Baker

Report:

Request from BCCPAC to have up to two DPAC representatives attending a focus group meeting about Healthy Schools BC, Thursday March 7 - 9 am to 3 pm at the Metropolitan Hotel 645 Howe - Connaught room

Monica may be able to do this - Steve to follow up and register - and see if he can get a parent to attend.

Status: Completed

2. Past Business

No Past Business



3. New Business

3.1. External stakeholder requests

Minutes:

BCCPAC workshop

Presentation by VESTA for 15 minutes about poverty March 14th - yes no objections, during meeting

Report:

Status: Completed

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

4.2. Board Highlights of Interest to DPAC

Status: Completed

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

Colin Redfern

Report:

As per the Young law suit the school has to set the \$25 fees and the recommended fees. It had Montessori fees, IB fees, if you call something an academy you can charge fees without limitation. They are trying to move the mini-schools into academies which is a move down the privatization road. Note that some of the programs are excellent and a quarter of the price they would be in a private school.

Colin put a note to all the trustees and asked when they were going to stop asking families for money. Discussion about the response from the trustees.

Iraj commented that they said that if they don't run the programs, families will move to the private schools.

On the calendar - Iraj mentioned that Rob Wynan asked DPAC to bring that up.

Colin notes that most parents haven't noticed that there are two extra district closure days for the next two years. We haven't got a lot of response. We will receive the raw data from Steve Cardwell.

Iraj asked the purpose of fundraising and Lombardi said its a report back to the sub ctte. Iraj has the survey, which hasn't been sent out yet, will be sent out next week. Iraj to forward the preview out - generally saying remove the word impact. Feedback to Iraj from DPAC executive by the next subctte meeting on March 4

Communications staff are recommending that we post the results of the questions asked trustees about fees. We have not received a response from the NPA - Steve to follow up mentioning that we have thorough answers from trustees and are interested in hearing a response from the balance of trustees.

Status: Completed

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

Colin Redfern

Minutes:



Colin reported there was a proposal to change the name of the Bicycle Advisory Committee to Transportation Advisory Committee. After discussion it was determined the preference from DPAC is to retain the current name.

Monica moves to send out survey on bike transportation. Iraj seconds. Passed

Steve to send out survey and work on it to make it palatable for our audience.

Playground issue - some communication problems - DPAC is going to follow up and document what went wrong with the process to make sure it doesn't happen again.

School naming - Acadia school has become an issue. Background is that they named the new U Hill school two years ago and they named it after the road it was on. School naming ctte was chaired by a trustee and was not following the law, there were more than one community rep and only one parent. One parent wants the name Acadia and the other parent wants a first nations name, which was backed by the rest of the committee. This issue has become personal and ugly between the two. The whole PAC is mad as they felt they weren't listened to and are angry at the rest of the community board chaired by Mike Lombardi. The name is Rose Point tentatively. Chair says that the issue is to focus on the process of listening to the voices of parents. More than 50 names were submitted. The VSB has said they are looking to put more Vancouver historical names into the schools.

Process still goes through ctte 2 so there is opportunity for the parents to go back to represent further.

Status: Completed

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

Ivy Leung

Note from Diana that she wants to meet with Ken Clements to go over Aboriginal Enhancement Agreements more thoroughly as she notes that aboriginal students are 3 X more likely to be bullied than other students.

Diana comments that she would like to have an aboriginal mini-school since so many Aboriginal children are being left behind. Had some discussion with Patti Bacchus about stigmatization and Diana was thinking about if we created a pride atmosphere so the first nations children would be stimulated to continue in their education.

Report:

COPE Education Committee report presented by gwen giesbrecht & Noel Herron

Inner City Schools - where do we go from here?

-Gwen strongly requested to re-construct & re-new inner city advisory committee

-Noel demanded this Board to demonstrate LEADERSHIP

2. Board/Authority Approved Courses (BAA) Maureen Ciarniello

- Trustees all Voted YES

- student council rep liked the Basketball Coaching 11 & Cycling 11

3. University Hill Program Partnership Maureen Ciarniello

-Trustees voted YES

- partnership with Vancouver Whitecaps

- similar set up as SPARTS in Magee

-high performance sports program - grade 10/11/12

- 20 students to be admitted per year

- entrances determine by external sport organizations (???)

4. Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement Annual Report Don Fiddler

- with enrollment s declining in District, Aboriginal student enrollments remain steady

- students attendance better last 2 years, average missed 1 month of school

**60-65% do not take the FSA

-Focus on student education attainment and achievements

- supporting Aboriginal students is all our responsibility - Steve Cardewell



5. SACY Report Art Steinmann

- school team, parents, students came to share their success stories
- Focus on Strengthen protective factors
- survey on 500 high school student over 80% can get marijuana easily, over 42% can get cocaine and cracks easily
- Decrease in marijuana use
- Long term positive impact of SACY

6. Adult Education Visioning Report Maureen Ciarniello

- 150 adult educators came together in a Forum.
- a 2020 Adult Education Vision was created
- where is the funding coming from? Will it be sustainable?
- Where is the site going to be? Site sharing

7. BCSTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Ken Clement

- all Trustees voted YES
- This was a very, very long meeting
Status: Completed

4.5.1. Aboriginal Focus School

Steve Baker

Status: Completed

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

Monica Moberg

Status: Completed

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

Monica Moberg

Report:

News is the budget shortfall is \$10.34 million not \$20 million. Still waiting for holdback maybe \$5.6 million. Correct budget information to be posted on our website or a link to it.

Status: Completed

4.8. Advocacy Committee

Steve Baker

Minutes:

Advocacy Ctte - main thing was the budget. It was a short meeting and the one big thing that came out is there will be a Vancity Idol April 12th and April 18th - every high school sends a winner and then they compete.

Pride Ctte looking for support because they want to make sure that the position of the person who is the LGBTQ mentor position at the school board want a letter of support from DPAC to make sure that position doesn't get cut. Monica recommends that DPAC provide a letter. They will be sending a draft copy of what the letter would look like and Monica would send it around. National video youth contest, rise against homophobia, contest that has been held for a number of years and will be done again.

Iraj - motion that we send a support letter for the LGBTQ mentor position,contingent on review and approval by the table officers. Diana seconded passed unanimously.

Status: Completed

4.9. Date Next Meeting

Report:

The next meetings are scheduled for March 14th and April 11th. No meetings are scheduled during the Spring Break and District Closure days.



Status: Completed

4.10. Adjournment

Minutes:

Report:

Time adjourned 9:55 pm

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
