



Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting date: **April 10, 2014** Started: 19:15 Ended: 21:50

Location: VSB Education Centre - Room 120

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Monica Moberg

Minutes rec. by: Claudia Ferris

Attendance:

Present: Melanie Antweiler, Steve Baker, Diana Day, Claudia Ferris, Stefanie Gajdecki, Iraj Khabazian, Ivy Leung, Monica Moberg, Mabel Sun

Regrets:

Absent: Colin Redfern

Late:

Guests:

(none)

Meeting Documents:

(no documents)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Committee Business

1.1. Review Agenda

Monica Moberg

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.

Status: Completed

1.1.1. Approval of Previous Minutes

Monica Moberg

Iraj moved to accept past minutes, seconded by Ivy, passed unanimously.

Report:

Minutes from December 12th and March 13th need approval. The January 9th and February 13th meetings did not have quorum so there are no formal minutes but the notes could be accepted.

Status: Completed

1.2. Report from Chair

Monica Moberg

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.

Report:

The big concern is the VSB education budget, with cuts to music programs, SACY workers, speech therapists, painting and maintenance, three more school closure days and so much more. Call from the Chair to have parents attend the budget meetings to express parent disappointment in these cuts. It is important that DPAC executive members attend the first budget meeting on April 15th at Mount Pleasant School.

Discussion about where the parents can express their anger; 1. Express concern to the Ministry of Education about the underfunding of public education and 2. the arbitrary nature of the cuts proposed by the VSB, who are not looking at closing schools or working with parents in consultation to find more creative ways to deal with the funding shortfalls.

Melanie has volunteered to take over the hiring committee position from Monica.

Seismic upgrades seem to be undergoing a bit of a shell game by the Provincial Government. Now the VSB is being told that they need to pay for half of the seismic upgrades from reserve budgets.



Status: Completed

1.3. Treasurer Report

Iraj Khabazian

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.

Report:

Our gaming grant account is \$3,150.53 as of March, 10, 2014, including the deposit for the Heritage Hall. The application for renewal of the gaming grant was submitted April 5, 2014 by the VDPAC Communications Coordinator. The next step is for the Treasurer to prepare a summary report for the gaming funds. Lisa Landry, in the accounting department advises that we should decide ahead of time what payments are needed for the executive to attend BCCPAC so we do not have to wait for reimbursement.

Status: Completed

1.4. Internal Sub-Committee Reports

Monica Moberg

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.

Report:

Require a person to lead organizing the PAC Celebration for May 15th. Monica will contact Danz catering to organize the food and non-alcoholic beverages. Monica has decorations from last year that may be able to be used again. Iraj to ask the Heritage Hall people what kind of tables are available and let Monica know so table clothes that will fit can be booked. Iraj asked that Sarina be invited and it was approved that Iraj can invite her. Steve to ask John Puddifoot to donate wine again for the celebration.

Ivy reports that she attended the ELL committee. The VSB is linking to google translate, which does 16 different languages. The VBE has created holding classes for new ELL students, where they go before they are assessed and placed into the regular school system. May 9th, there is an open house at Tupper. ELL success stories are being shared on the website. April 28th, Gladstone school, teachers are having a professional day enhancing cross cultural competence, understanding the parenting style of different culture, helping them cope with special needs and ELL.

Status: Completed

1.4.1. Contracts - In Camera

Monica Moberg

Minutes:

Motion by Diana to go in camera, seconded by Mabel, unanimously approved 8:00 pm

Colin provided a written statement for the Executive for the in camera session - this letter was supporting the motions and was read by Stefanie to the Executive.

The motions are as follows:

1) The DPAC Executive owns all DPAC channels of communication and as such a motion to request our contractors to pass over the Secretary (Stefanie Gajdecki) social channel and internet passwords, user names, login information and admin access information for CMS tools by May 1, 2014 including but not limited to:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Websites (VSB website admin access: www.vsb.bc.ca/dpac & DPAC website - vsbdpac.ca/)
- My committee
- e-newsletter programs (Mail Chimp)
- email address lists
- Domain registration information

Results of motion

Diana - 1st

Melanie - 2nd

Passed Unanimously



2) Motion to form subcommittee to review and renew DPAC contracts and all details associated with those contracts for DPAC Executive approval. Stefanie and Colin will be the initial members of the committee, new members can be added as determined by the Executive.

Results of motion

Mabel - 1st

Iraj - 2nd

Passed unanimously

3) Motion to write letter to contractors as shared and discussed with the Executive in camera

Results of motion

Diana - 1st

Mabel - 2nd

Passed unanimously

4) Motion to come out of in camera session at 8:40 pm

Results of motion

Diana - 1st

Mabel - 2nd

Passed unanimously

Report:

As this is confidential, there should be a motion to move "In-Camera". Any actions arising from "In-Camera" may require a subsequent motion to approve. The Secretary should keep the "official minutes" of the "In-Camera" portion of the meeting.

Status: Completed

1.5. 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.

Report:

Steve passed out individual liaison lists to DPAC executives in order for them to follow up with their contact schools regarding the letter writing campaign. The list is split out to each of the contacts, some may be missing phone numbers. Steve passed a sample script for DPAC executives to use with their contacts, encouraging PAC representatives to advocate for an adequately funded public education system. April 15th at 7 pm is the big meeting date that folks should be encouraged to attend. In order to be on the speakers list, Every DPAC member is encouraged to register themselves to be a speaker at this meeting. Each school that has a band or string program should be encouraged to attend as well as send in their own letter to their MLA and the Ministry of Education.

Please send written submissions no later than two working days before the meeting to Vancouver Board of Education, Attention: Administrative Coordinator, Secretary/Treasurer's Office, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8, or send by fax to 6047135049, or email to budget2014_2015@vsb.bc.ca

DPAC executives should call and email their PAC and DPAC contacts regarding the budget and letter writing campaign this weekend. DPAC executives should also forward any new updated contact information to Steve in order to continue to update the DPAC contact list. 40 copies of the letter should be made available at the April 15th meeting in order to gather some parent signatures (Stefanie volunteered for this). PAC and DPAC representatives should be encouraged to forward their letters to Steve or to their DPAC liaise so we can track it. Iraj will bring our petition calling for adequate education funding to budget meetings as well.

Steve to contact Colin and, if he is not able to do this, his list will be split up among the rest of the DPAC.

May 1st has been set for a parent engagement workshop with SACY. Request for Steve to make up an electronic flyer for DPAC to send to their PAC and DPAC representatives. Need this by Friday.

Documents:

- TemplateLetterToPremier.doc

Status: Completed



1.6. Communications Plan

The Communications Plan was adopted out of the annual retreat and is the working document for the goals and objectives for the school year. This is the guiding document for activities of the DPAC Executive and the communications coordinator. The plan may be adjusted for unanticipated issues but this is primarily DPACs working document for the school year.

Report:

Status: Completed

1.7. 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.

Report:

The media coordinator sent a copy of the VDPAC letter to Chevron directly to the media that covered the original story. No-one was interested in the parent response and Chevron has not responded to the letter. The Chair was interviewed for a feature about the budget cuts in the Courier newspaper. Coverage can be found at: <http://www.vancourier.com/news/vancouver-dpac-chair-gets-vocal-about-budget-cuts-1.950619>

Parent Sarah Westwick had contacted Stefanie, who forwarded her email to the media coordinator, to offer to organize a flash mob style protest over cuts to the band and music program. The media coordinator was authorized by DPAC to work with Sarah to support her efforts with parents and with the media.

The Fraser Institute released its 2014 Foundation Skills Assessment school rankings. Many Vancouver schools have been rated even lower than in previous years. Many Vancouver parents (approximately 30%) withdrew their children from the annual tests, which may have a negative impact on their ratings and also means the data is flawed. Please find attached a list of the lowest rated Vancouver schools, with information about the school and parent demographics for consideration.

Documents:

- 2014FSA.xlsx

Status: Completed

1.8. 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:

May 1st - Parent Engagement Workshop with SACY is scheduled. Steve to provide further details.

There will be a BCCPAC Resolution workshop for PACs to review resolutions. Iraj is taking the lead on this workshop. Steve to ask John Puddifoot if he will work with Iraj on this before May 31st, probably the week after the May 15th celebration.

Status: Completed

1.9. Lower Mainland DPAC

Monica Moberg

The communications plans included the outreach to other DPACs in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver. The liaison with other DPACs provides the opportunity to identify common issues that are of concern to all Districts in the Lower Mainland. Ongoing communication with other DPACs will assist in Vancouver DPAC being a leader in the parent advocacy.

Report:

Lower Mainland DPAC meeting may be at the end of April, but no dates have been confirmed. Steve to continue to follow up and advise DPAC members of confirmed dates.

Status: Completed



1.10. BCCPAC AGM

Minutes:

BCCPAC Conference - Early bird cutoff for conference registration is May 1st so DPAC will need to decide whether you want to attend - please send an email to Steve regarding your interest in attending.

Report:

Collection of Proxies for DPAC is needed and we should decide if there will be a meeting of the BCCPAC Members in Vancouver to discuss the resolutions and election of Directors.

Status: Completed

2. Past Business

2.1. LIFE Fundraising

Ivy Leung

Report:

Review from last meeting

Status: Completed

3. New Business

3.1. Charles Dickens

Stefanie Gajdecki

Minutes:

Committee 2 - Start up School letter

Melanie will write a letter regarding the difficulties the Start Up School model has on families and young children. Parents want choice and transparency when enrolling their children in school and decisions where boundaries change and process for new school start ups are being made without consultation.

Report:

Note to encourage Charles Dickens chair to attend the Tuesday April 15th budget at Mount Pleasant.

Status: Completed

3.2. Website and Social Media Access Passwords

Stefanie Gajdecki

Report:

Motion to authorize the Secretary to review the DPAC digital channels on behalf of DPAC and obtain administrative passwords for maximum user access for each digital channel as part of the role of Secretary.

Moved by Stefanie

Seconded by Colin

Please refer to in-camera contracts section

Status: Completed

4. VSB Committee Business

4.1. VSB Board

DPAC Representatives to the School Board are only able to observe the Board meetings although there is an opportunity to ask questions as the second last item on the agenda. Highlights of the meetings are appropriate for those matters that have not already been discussed at the Committees.

Status: Completed

4.2. Board Highlights of Interest to DPAC

Status: Completed



Monica Moberg

4.3. Committee I - Management Committee

Status: Completed

4.3.1. Advocacy Committee

Ivy Leung

Status: Completed

4.4. Committee II - Planning and Facilities

Monica Moberg

Minutes:

Melanie is to write a letter to Ctte II sharing her experience as a new parent to the system.

Report:

Report to be emailed to Chair, Secretary and CC

Status: Completed

4.5. Committee III - Education and Student Services

Melanie Antweiler

Status: Completed

4.5.1. Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement

Steve Baker

Status: Completed

4.6. Committee IV - Personnel

Mabel Sun

Status: Completed

4.7. Committee V - Finance and Legal

Iraj Khabazian

Status: Completed

4.8. Date Next Meeting

Minutes:

April 24th with Vancouver Firefighters presenting,

Report:

Next meetings scheduled are:

April 15th - Public Meeting for VSB Budget

April 24th with Vancouver Firefighters presenting,

April 28th - Public Meeting for VSB Budget

May 1st - Tentative for Parent Engagement Workshop

May 8th - Regular DPAC Executive Meeting

May 15th - PAC Celebration

May 22nd - Regular DPAC Executive Meeting

May 29th - June 1st - BCCPAC Conference and AGM

Status: Completed

4.9. Adjournment

Report:

Motion to adjourn made by Stefanie at 9:50 pm seconded by Mable, passed unanimously.

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
