



Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting date: **January 9, 2014** **Started: 19:00** **Ended: 21:10**

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, Claudia Ferris, Ivy Leung, Monica Moberg, Mabel Sun

Regrets: Stefanie Gajdecki, Iraj Khabazian, Colin Redfern

Absent: Diana Day

Late:

Guests:

Alexandra Wilson (SACY) (present)

Meeting Documents:

- Bullying Survey Draft.docx

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.

Report:

Without quorum, the scheduled agenda became a planning meeting.

Status: Completed

1.1.1. SACY

Alexandra Wilson (SACY)

Report:

As confirmed in November, Alexandra will be providing a presentation on SACY.

SACY is a partnership between VSB and Vancouver Coastal Health. Alexandra is the lead and each secondary school has a parent support coordinator. This information can be found on the VSB website.

SACY does workshops such as; understanding adolescent development, effective communication with teens and balancing the offer of parental support with the need for some freedom to make decisions. SACY is willing to put on workshops for whatever is needed or requested by parents.

Definition of parent engagement. Parents engaged with the school and education system. At the secondary level, parents are less engaged. They can be treated as pocketbooks. Engagement can be defined as volunteerism. Parent engagement is also listening to people at a meeting like this. Taking the risk of speaking publically can contribute or can cause problems if you do not know other people's values.

Kids do better in secondary school when their parents are engaged in their education. This could be mentoring a team that your kid is not in, or contributing a skill to other kids. Note that we will invite Alexandra to future meetings about parent engagement.

Transition is an issue that DPAC is interested in working on and there may be some synergy with SACY in future. SACY reports that transition programs are fairly ad-hoc right now, some schools have it now, but others don't. Discussion of the idea of doing a forum on getting parents engaged - possibly with youth.

Status: Completed



Monica Moberg

1.2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Status: Completed

1.3. 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.

Status: Completed

1.4. 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.

Status: Completed

1.5. Internal Sub-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.

Report:

BCCPAC Membership Drive: As of December 30th, Vancouver has 42 PACs signed up as voting members for BCCPAC. With DPAC as a voting member that is a total of 43 votes available for the BCCPAC AGM.

Status: Completed

1.6. Lower Mainland DPAC

Colin Redfern

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.

Minutes:

Staff to send email and phone numbers of all the DPAC representatives to Monica for the executive to follow through with personal contact with the other DPACs. They have been asked to identify their top three issues. Monica will facilitate. Note that we need better signage/instructions to guide people on parking and getting into the building.

Steve to invite Terry Berting as an observer only.

Report:

The Lower Mainland DPAC Meeting is confirmed for January 23rd at 6:00 PM. Invitations have been sent to all the DPACs. To date we have two DPACs confirmed and the other DPACs are sourcing out who will be attending on behalf of their DPAC.

Food will be ordered for 50. We will order 10 vegetarian dishes and the main dish will be cod wrapped with procuttio.

Status: Completed

1.7. Communications Coordinator

Steve Baker

When possible, a written report will be provided in writing.

Report:

The statistics for website and FacePage were very low which was expected. There are reports under the Lower Mainland and Other Committees relating to the work completed in December. The Media Coordinator and Communications Coordinator are continuing to develop an appropriate survey regarding bullying for input from PACs and Parents.

The draft bullying survey has been uploaded for review. The questions are designed for the general parent body, rather than just the PAC executive level. Input and feedback on the questions and future use of the data we will gather are very welcome at this stage.

Status: Completed



Claudia Ferris

1.8. Media Coordinator

Report and recommendations from the Media Coordinator will be provided in writing when time permits.

Report:

The 2014 Foundation Skills Assessment for grades 4 and 7 are set for Jan. 13 to Feb. 21. Last year, about a third of the students in the Vancouver District opted out of participating in the FSA's. Because the Vancouver district had double the parents opting their children out of the test in 2013 compared to other districts, it is anticipated that there will be media calls around the FSA's again this year.

Here is the link to the Vancouver 2013 results: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/fsa/039.pdf. A copy will be provided to share at the meeting. The participation rates were below 50% for Aboriginal and special needs identified students.

In 2013, the VDPAC took the position that it is the family's choice whether their students participate in the FSA's or not. VDPAC did not discourage participation in this form of standardized testing.

Broader Concerns

VDPAC has noted in the past that the way the Fraser Institute publishes the FSA data can have a negative impact on the enrollment levels of schools with higher percentages of vulnerable students, because these are linked to lower FSA scores and may falsely give the impression that the school itself is not doing a good job. Private schools may teach directly to the test, which results in them receiving consistently high FSA scores. There is no evidence that the higher FSA scores in Math and English for private school students translates into better outcomes for these students, (versus public school graduates), once these students are all together in post secondary education.

Documents:

- 039.pdf

Status: Completed

1.9. 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:

Proposed Parent Workshop

Steve Dotto has confirmed his availability for early March and mid-April to do a presentation on Internet Safety. His normal fee for presentations is up to \$7500. For DPACs, his fee is \$1500. Steve Dotto is an innovative and entertaining speaker in the area of technology. For those that have watched his program, you will know him as the non tech, tech guy. More information on him can be found at <http://www.dottotech.com/speaking/>. To ensure the best audience, this should be held at a venue such as the Van Tech or Magee Auditorium. Mid-April would provide ample opportunity for proper promotion of the event.

Budget Workshop

We need to confirm a date and location for an open forum for the VSB budget. The format last year worked well with the facilitated panel with the presentation by Rick Krowchuck followed by the facilitated questions and answers. Ideally, we should confirm the availability of the Secretary Treasurer, Board Chair and Superintendent and schedule a facility as soon as possible.

Status: Completed

1.10. Presentation and Cafe on Parent Engagement

Monica Moberg

I have spoken to Dr. Patricia Porter who is very interested in doing a presentation to parents/teachers regarding Parent Engagement with an emphasis on Parent Empowerment. The idea is to have this in February and after the presentation to have a cafe to discuss tools and techniques etc. learned in the workshop.

I would need a motion to pay her. (Her daily rate is \$1000.00 and as this is only a few hours in the evening she is open to negotiation; plus she really wants to do this!) To be discussed and determined at



meeting. Confirmation of the time and date to follow to her from me.

Status: Completed

2. Past Business

No Past Business

3. New Business

No New Business

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

4.3. Committee I - Management Committee

Monica Moberg

Status: Completed

4.3.1. Advocacy Committee

Ivy Leung

Status: Completed

4.4. Committee II - Planning and Facilities

Colin Redfern

Status: Completed

4.5. Committee III - Education and Student Services

Melanie Antweiler

Report:

VSB Committee Three – December 11, 2013.

Mini School Delegation

- Presentation by parents and students regarding mini schools
- Proactive effort to remind board of the value of mini schools, before anticipated budget challenges
 - o Asking to maintain current funding now, and increase funding when budget allows
- Note that special needs cohorts get dedicated funding from the Ministry of Education, while advanced/gifted students have only discretionary funding
 - o Mini schools provide opportunities for advanced students
 - o Only 0.3% of VSB's budget goes to mini schools
 - o 1500 students write entry exam for 600 mini school positions
 - o Cultivates diversity
- Trustee Bacchus: Delegation is "Preaching to the choir"; closing five schools would save over \$1M, while expected shortfall is \$28M

DPAC Action: continue to advocate for programmes which meet the needs of all students

Gender-based violence observation (VESTA rep)

- VESTA executive requests that VSB establish a minute of silence on December 11, in memory of the victims at Ecole Polytechnic and others affected by gender-based violence

DPAC Action: Information point.

CommunityLINK (Ron Bergeron and Christine Macer)



- Ministry provides funding for vulnerable students in support of academic achievement and social functioning
 - o 17% of Ministry's budget is allocated to VSB
 - o Nutrition + knowledge
 - o 12 hub teams
 - o out-of-school programmes such as sports and arts
 - o all secondary schools have lunch supports available
 - o transitions are a focus, for instance from elementary to high school
 - o Lunch2Go is being piloted in five elementary schools for hungry kids at schools with no hot lunch programme

§ Lunch is cold, and prepared at central commissary for distribution to schools

- o Uses the Social Services Index to determine distribution

DPAC Action: Do PACs have a role in applying for these services, or advocating for inclusion of their particular schools?

StrongStart Update (Colleen Dickie)

- Centres were transferred to VSB from community agencies in September 2012, now being facilitated by VSB staff

- o Exception is the programme at David Lloyd George, where the community agency was retained due to space challenges

§ Arrangement expires in June 2014

§ Intending to keep the programme in south Vancouver

DPAC Action: Information point.

Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism advisor committee (Lisa Pedrini)

- Updated terms of reference provided

DPAC Action: Information point.

February 21 PD Day

- Aboriginal focus

- Shawn Atleo to participate

DPAC Action: Information point.

Status: Completed

4.5.1. Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement

Diana Day

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

Report:

The next meeting is Lower Mainland DPAC meeting on January 23rd. The next regular business meeting is February 13th, 2014.

Status: Completed

4.9. Adjournment

Status: Completed



Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
