



Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting date: **November 14, 2013** Started: 19:00 Ended: 21:55

Location: VSB Education Centre - Room 120

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting

Chaired by: Monica Moberg

Minutes rec. by: Claudia Ferris

Attendance:

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

Regrets: Melanie Antweiler, Diana Day, Colin Redfern

Absent:

Late:

Guests:

Angela Jindal (present), Lena Lai (present), Nathan Wilkes (present)

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

Steve Baker

Motion to approve past minutes moved by Stefanie and seconded by Ivy. Passed unanimously.

Report:

All previous meeting "minutes" are subject to approval at this meeting. Please review prior to the meeting.

Status: Completed

1.2. ICT Committee Representative Report

Nathan Wilkes

Report:

We will be hearing a presentation from Nathan Wilkes at the start of the meeting. Documents are available on MyCommittee for your review. There are some recommendations from Nathan that will need to be addressed following the presentation.

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.

Report:

Chair has been active on the hiring committee, which is a sub-committee important to DPAC because we have real input into hiring. Chair comments that we need more parent volunteers for this kind of committee and other committees.

Chair also helped out a PAC with questions about their Constitution and Bylaws.

Table officers meeting decided that they could not recommend VDPAC participation in BCCPAC's Fall



Conference and Workshop.

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.

Report:

Nothing has changed since the last report.

Status: Completed

1.5. Internal Sub-Committee Reports

This will include sub-committees internal to the DPAC. Reports concerning VSB Meetings should be reported on under the appropriate Standing Committee agenda items at the latter part of the agenda.

Status: Completed

1.6. Communications Coordinator

Steve Baker

Highlights of issues attended to through the Communications Coordinator

Minutes:

Recommendation that we add hyperlink on our newsletters to anything we are referring to our websites or BCCPAC website.

Report:

City-Wide Event

Promotion of the City-Wide meeting was more than successful with the original promotion and reminders. The connection to PACs on the e-list resulted in approximately thirty additional guests that heard about the event and attended without registering. The attendance increased by over ten schools and twenty participants from the previous year.

Parents as Career Coaches

The Churchill event (scheduled for November 5th and 12th) was confirmed in early September and was promoted through our e-bulletins and in the week leading up to the cut-off for registration was also promoted through the VBE Communications department. The Churchill PAC also did promotion directly to Parents at the school with students in Grade 11 and 12. By November 1st we had 40 participants registered and on November 5th, 65 participants showed up to the workshop.

Parents as Career Coaches (Mandarin)

Unlike the Churchill workshop, the promotion for the David Thompson workshop was short notice and was only promoted through DPAC two weeks prior to the event. At November 1st there were only two people registered for the event which resulted in Capilano University canceling the workshop with a recommendation that the registered participants attend the Churchill workshop.

Lessons Learned

The early promotion of any events requires early promotion. The opportunity to share information in a timely manner with Parents through the PACs is a minimum turnaround of six weeks. This provides the opportunity for PACs to review and share the information at a PAC meeting as well as sharing the information through internal school newsletters. The opportunity to utilize the VBE Communications department to promote DPAC events is welcomed.

WebSite Statistics

Since the inception of our own website in 2011, we have experienced an increase in web traffic from 2591 visits in the 2011/2012 School Year to 8,906 visits in the 2012/2013 School Year. This increased correlates with both the start of our FacePage and the direct links on our e-bulletins.

FacePage Stats

Statistical information is only available at three months at a time. The traffic analysis does drive a lot of traffic to our website which is picked up in the analytics for the website.

MailChimp Statistics

Since the City-Wide promotion and request to Principals and direct calls to PAC Chairs, our list now has 110 Schools on our email list. This is the best we have had since the start of our list. In addition, we have the majority of our PACs opening our bulletins. A summary of the statistics is:



- List avg 58.1% Opens
- Industry (Non-Profit) avg 21.8% Opens
- List avg 12.4% Clicks
- Industry (Non-Profit) avg 2.8% Clicks

Status: Completed

1.7. 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:

One of our key priorities was to reach out to stakeholders. Monica was able to change the time of a meeting and they were able to accommodate.

Confirmed attendance November 28th with Trustees at 5:30 - Diana, Monica, Colin, Stefanie, Iraj, Ivy, Mabel, Melanie

Will be followed by regular DPAC meeting at 7 pm.

Note Iraj will not be able to make the 4X4 meeting at 10-11 on November 27th

Status: Completed

1.8. 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:

Wednesday Nov 20 4 pm meeting with the World Journal - Mabel and Claudia. Benefit to VDPAC - can they poll their readers? Fact finding and report back.

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.

Minutes:

Steve to check availability and cost of course on internet safety with Steve Dotto.

Steve to send list of BCTF workshops that are available for discussion.

Transition from elementary to secondary. Need to look for a specific list of things to do to support your kids through these transitions. Dr Patricia Porter works with the SWISS workers. Monica to follow up with Dr. Porter.

Claudia to follow up with CMHA for pricing of holding a workshop or sending a DPAC member to their Bottom Line Conference to bring back information on anxiety to share with our parents.

Status: Completed

1.10. 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.

Status: Completed



2. Past Business

No Past Business

3. New Business

3.1. Parent priorities in Standing Committees

Stefanie Gajdecki

Report:

Review parent priorities in standing committees when request to rally parents arises as a solution to issues..
Note that when attending committee meetings there seems to be a pattern of asking DPAC to ask parents to advocate for more money for everything. Ask Steve to write up his three points about the role of DPAC.
Note that Steve and Claudia plan to revisit notes from city-wide to prepare a bit more background to spring board possible future city-wide PAC meetings.

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.

Report:

Mabel - highlight was the boys club in Tupper Secondary, organized the boys from grade 8 - 12 who were at risk for not attending school, it has been run for the past 8 years. They have speakers and mentors and there have been many successes, transformed through club.(would make a good news story).

Thanks from the trustees for our successful city-wide PAC meeting.

Status: Completed

4.2. Board Highlights of Interest to DPAC

Status: Completed

4.3. Committee I - Management Committee

Monica Moberg

Report:

Calendar committee Ministry wants 853 hours for kindergarten, 878 hours grade 1-7, 952 hours for grade 8 - 12. Ctte looking for feedback on pro-d dates, including moving one to January 5th. Iraj asked for help for low income people so they do not suffer unduly with not-in-session days.

They want to know if it is better combined with hybrid holidays to make longer breaks.Iraj to circulate more information so DPAC can provide input.

Status: Completed

4.3.1. Advocacy Committee

Ivy Leung

Minutes:

Motion to endorse letter moved by Stefanie, seconded by Mabel, passed unanimously.

Note that this signed letter can be distributed through the DPAC email and websites.

Second motion Ivy to add VDPAC name and logo to the VESTA ad for the Vancouver Private School Expo. Seconded by Iraj. Motion failed.

Original request was from VESTA to place an ad in the Metro Newspaper as the best place to learn and invite all stakeholders to add their logo and confirmation of support.

Report:

Advocacy committee joint letter draft: DPAC are to amend, approve, and vote whether to sign this joint letter to Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education, Mike De Jong, Christy Clark. (see below). DPAC to bring consensus to wordings of such letter.



DPAC chair spoke with strong support in regard to DPAC to endorse the Advertisement for public schools during the Private schools Expo. DPAC members to vote for lending our name and logo to this ad.

2015 November 25

The Honourable Peter Fassbender

Minister of Education

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Michael de Jong

Minister of Finance

PO Box 9417 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

The Honourable Christy Clark

Premier

PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Honourable Fassbender, Honourable de Jong and Honourable Clark:

We are writing this letter due to our increasing concerns about education funding issues. We are specifically concerned about the increased costs to school districts that government is not funding — leading to cuts in staffing and programs that will erode the quality of our public schools.

The government's refusal to fund the salary increases negotiated by Peter Cameron with our support staff unions will cost the Vancouver school district approximately \$4.25 million in the next school year. That will result in a reduction of 25 – 40 full-time staff positions as outlined in the "savings" plan the Board submitted to government.

The Board recognizes the vital contribution of education workers, who have been without a wage adjustment for over four years. While this long-overdue increase is necessary, by the BC Government's own Cooperative Gains Mandate, the VSB cannot cut services to find 'savings'.

The Vancouver school district's finance department is already forecasting a budget "shortfall" totaling \$28 million for next year (see attachment "A"). This comes on top of \$47 million in spending cuts over the past decade, which includes a loss of 524 entry-level teaching positions and a \$15.5 million reduction in spending on supplies and services. That means less support for students, outdated and insufficient learning resources, textbooks and building maintenance and woefully inadequate infrastructure to support technology in classrooms.

The VSB has worked to protect front-line services by keeping cuts as far away from classrooms as possible. A few years ago it brought in PwC to advise on ways it could reduce spending without compromising the quality of educational opportunities and we were able to implement many of their recommendations, but we are still in shortfall.

The district's management team continues to work on increased shared services and other cost-saving opportunities, but it is impossible to balance the district's budget without making some difficult decisions that will have an impact on students.

We are urging you and your government to give serious consideration to increasing the per-student grants for 2014-15 to prevent further cuts to staffing, programs and learning resources and to ensure all students receive the opportunities they need to succeed. We cannot achieve prosperity in BC by cutting corners on our children's education.

We thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Patti Bacchus, Chair

Vancouver Board of Education

Monica Moberg, Chair

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

Chansey Chiang, President

Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC)

Debbie Pawluk, President

Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA)

Gerry Kent, President



Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association (VESTA)
Liz Kloepper, President
Vancouver Elementary Principals and Vice Principals Association (VEPVPA)
Gino Bondi, President
Vancouver Associate of Secondary School Administrators (VASSA)
Leanne Toderian, President
CUPE Local 15
Brent Boyd, President
CUPE Local 407
Tim Chester, President
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Union 963 (IUOE)
CC: BC School Boards
Vancouver MLAs
Status: Completed

4.4. Committee II - Planning and Facilities

Colin Redfern

Status: Completed

4.5. Committee III - Education and Student Services

Melanie Antweiler

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

Report:

Stefanie attended, 2 big issues.

Internal record keeping is needing upgrading. Payroll systems are needing to be on something other than excel. The costs to upgrading these systems are more than \$100K. Senior managers were asked what the cost savings to the new systems would be and were unable to answer.

Status: Completed

4.8. Date Next Meeting

Status: Completed

4.9. Adjournment

Minutes:

Motion to adjourn made by Mabel, seconded by Stefanie. Passed unanimously.

Status: Completed

Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:
