



# Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting date: **October 3, 2013** Started: **19:00** Ended: **21:44**

Location: VSB Education Centre - Room 120

Purpose/Notes: Regular scheduled meeting (Agenda from September 26th Carried over.

Chaired by: Monica Moberg

Minutes rec. by: Claudia Ferris

## Attendance:

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

Regrets:

Absent: Stefanie Gajdecki

Late:

## Guests:

Patrick Colvin (present), Kelci Nicodemus (present)

## Meeting Documents:

- 09-16-2013 - DPAC - Iraj's report on VSB Board meeting.pdf
- Committee 5, September 11 2013.docx

## Meeting Minutes:

### 1. Committee Business

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#### 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.

#### Minutes:

Motion to approve agenda made by Ivy, seconded by Iraj and passed unanimously.

Status: Completed

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#### 1.2. Report from Chair

Monica Moberg

#### Minutes:

Colin tabled a motion to empower our members on the transportation subcommittee to promote VSB employee and student public transit passes. Seconded by Melanie. Passed unanimously.

Discussion that we should follow up with past DPAC representatives to coordinate our present efforts with past endeavours.

#### Report:

Chair attended the board meeting this week. There was a very nice presentation from young girls that have raised money for text books through lemonade sales. The Superintendent reported about the successful Truth and Reconciliation Walk and that VSB staff and families were well represented. There was a great turn out and school children were cheering on the long boats and educating visitors about what was going on. Wonder of reading event at John Oliver high school and the interaction also provided good support for teachers.

The new Capitol Plan has been submitted and they have a fairly detailed plan. A project office (as requested by DPAC) is going ahead. Note that there is a need for parents to ask the provincial government for new schools. Please look for more detail under Ctte 2 report.

Chair attended the Ctte 1 meeting - there was a presentation by the Breakfast Clubs of Canada. They serve 22,000 breakfasts across Canada and have been doing it for over 10 years. 9 elementary schools are taking advantage of the breakfast program currently and those are mostly inner-city schools. They will continue to work with the VSB liaison and other opportunities need to be identified. All children are welcome. There are



a variety of programs with juice and cereal and just a grab and go. This is paid by corporate sponsorships and the Breakfast Club does not accept logos or advertising.

Changes to Translink also came up and the VSB will be writing a letter and will be asking if they can get a dialogue going to see if there can be some concessions because their staff are not bussing, they do have parking and mileage in their collective agreements. The VSB is also going to be asking for trip passes for school field trip outings.

Appointing Ctte Liaison

Colin - gifted advisory ctte yes

Learning Services Consultative Ctte - Mabel

School Calendar Ctte - Iraj

School Library and Resource Consultative Ctte - Melanie

Special Education Advisory Ctte - Colin

Sustainability Advisory Ctte - Melanie

There is a memorandum of understanding that there will be a Britannia Carving joint facility.

Ctte2 report from Colin - the plan shows where schools need seismic upgrade, mechanical upgrade or both. The government is recommending that the schools should be torn down and new ones built. This plan is a five year plan, but the VSB also has a ten year plan in place, even though it is not required by the Ministry. The VSB will work with the city and neighbourhoods on this plan to identify what the important heritage elements are. There are some design issues with flow of student traffic and some of these spatial needs are not being met in newer schools. General Gordon is an example of some of the struggles with the heritage issues because there was a pertancy exchange as the city traded land and the VSB and city did not keep heritage components. They also did not consult with the community about this. Another issue is that the last four projects approved for upgrading are on the west side of Vancouver. DPAC recommended that there needs to be one central place where kids can go when their schools are being renovated and this has been accepted by the VSB.

**Status:** Completed

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### 1.3. Treasurer Report

Iraj Khabazian

#### Report:

Iraj is beginning his Treasurer Training this week. A deposit cheque has been sent to the Heritage Hall for the DPAC celebration on May 15, 2014. The gaming grant has gone through and we have received a \$2,500.00 grant. The new signing officers have been signed up. The Chair and Treasurer are developing the budget for 2013/2014 for both the gaming grant and the VSB funds.

**Status:** Completed

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### 1.4. PAC Celebration

**Status:** Completed

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### 1.5. Lower Mainland DPAC

Steve Baker

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 is the parent advocacy.

#### Report:

I am working with Steve to contact Burnaby to find out what their plans are for the next LML DPAC meeting: We may partner with them and Richmond in Hosting.

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**Status:** Completed

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### 1.6. Communications Plan

This is the guiding document for activities of the DPAC Executive.

**Minutes:**



Colin tabled a motion that DPAC approve the communication plan with Chair as the Principal who is accountable to report back to the executive by May 2014.

Seconded by Iraj  
Passed unanimously

**Report:**

We have looked at the Communications Plan several times.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.7. BCCPAC**

Colin Redfern

**Minutes:**

Iraj moves that Colin Redfern work with Steve Baker to recruit as many schools as possible to BCCPAC and Colin will report in January 2014. Mabel seconds the motion.

Passed unanimously

**Status:** Completed

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**1.8. Constitution and By-Law Review**

Colin Redfern

**Report:**

Colin and Steve will work on the C&B for November - Colin is to check with Jennifer.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.9. Communications Coordinator**

Steve Baker

**Report:**

20 people are already signed up for the city-wide event. Steve is working on updating the mailchimp list and will get phone numbers to DPAC to phone their schools. Iraj has agreed to facilitate the Treasurer 101 and John Puddifoot will provide us with the materials. Action item: Monica to check with Rick Crowchuck to see if his staff would be willing to co-facilitate.

The principals are interested in meeting with DPAC and will have first pick of the three dates we have set aside for meeting.

2 additions to the city-wide meeting

Note that Steve and Colin should do the BCCPAC pitch at the beginning. There is also the possibility that Steve Cardwell will have a breakout session for Q&A with the parents.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.10. Media Coordinator**

Claudia Ferris

**Report:**

Colin did a feature interview with Fairchild - the documentary will air end of October.

Mabel was contacted by Word Chinese media asking Mabel to have a lunch meeting to talk about doing a column on education issues.

**Status:** Completed

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**1.11. Workshops**

Steve Baker

**Report:**

Note Nathan Wilks could likely do our internet safety workshop. Action item Colin with Monica to ask Nathan if he has any available dates. Deadline to confirm the workshop for 3rd or 4th week of November is October 11, 2013.

**Status:** Completed

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**2. Past Business**

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No Past Business



### 3. New Business

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#### 3.1. Liaison List

Steve Baker

##### Report:

With the Liaison list we had Hakim and Jim on the list as contacts. The list needs to be modified with Hakim's resignation and Jim's absence.

**Status:** Completed

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### 4. VSB Committee Business

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

##### Report:

See document from Iraj.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.2. Advocacy Committee

Ivy Leung

##### Report:

1) Sub-committee on PAC Funding will report on finalized survey results at October Advocacy Committee meeting.

-80% responded to survey (targeted PAC chairs & Administration staff)

-includes preliminary recommendations and policy.

\*\*DPAC chair spoke of parents need clarity on policy on fundraising in elementary and secondary schools.

2) Trustees met with Education Minister and Cabinet Members at Q & A, Trustee asked what is the new bargaining structure?

Vancouver schools, 2 of many issues - seismic upgrades & capital projects.

Challenging with Cupe Staff - funding pressure.

No confirmed date and Trustees are pushing for meeting with MLA.

Attended Douglas School grand opening.

3) \*\*DPAC chair updated on DPAC petition on funding, and DPAC are looking for 10,000 signatures.

- currently, there are 625 signed.

- the petition is available on VSB DPAC website.

4) communication updates on Douglas School, Point Grey Mini, John Oliver, King George, Tupper Tech, Britannia, Van Tech.

- VSB will re-do RSA video on how to register into VSB schools.

- big change on VSB Kindergarten registration process, more details to come.

- social engagement, VSB and parent bloggers with lots of Vancouver readers.

- VSB E-newsletter, school focus brochures, summer booth at outdoor community events.

- VSB partnership with Raincity Chronicle, story telling session for elementary Nov 21 at Strathcona Elementary. The secondary school story telling at Templeton Nov 22.

No new business.

Next Advocacy Committee meeting on October 28, 3:45pm.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.3. Committee II - Planning and Facilities

Colin Redfern

##### Minutes:

Colin new Motion - DPAC does not support any heritage strategies that are not inclusive of neighbours or neighbourhoods and secondly is not integrated with the City of Vancouver planning. Ivy seconded

Passed unanimously

##### Report:

Cite2 report from Colin - the plan shows where schools need seismic upgrade, mechanical upgrade or both. The government is recommending that the schools should be torn down and new ones built. This plan is a five year plan, but the VSB also has a ten year plan in place, even though it is not required by the Ministry.



The VSB will work with the city and neighbourhoods on this plan to identify what the important heritage elements are. There are some design issues with flow of student traffic and some of these spatial needs are not being met in newer schools. General Gordon is an example of some of the struggles with the heritage issues because there was a pertancy exchange as the city traded land and the VSB and city did not keep heritage components. They also did not consult with the community about this. Another issue is that the last four projects approved for upgrading are on the west side of Vancouver. DPAC recommended that there needs to be one central place where kids can go when their schools are being renovated and this has been accepted by the VSB.

Britannia is looking at creating a carving school.

Annual summer report was positive in terms of the projects they completed over the summer.

Note that we may want to do a survey around school planning projects.

**Status:** Completed

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#### 4.4. Committee III - Education and Student Services

Melanie Antweiler

##### Report:

VSB Committee Three – September 11, 2013.

Update on Aboriginal Education initiative (Don Fiddler and Maureen Ciarnello)

- District has new Aboriginal co-ordinator, Aboriginal Enhancement teachers, and an Aboriginal Education consultant
- Some parents do not want their children identified and do not want pull-out programmes
- Don't want school only for Aboriginal students, desire to keep non-First Nations families
- There will be a First Peoples festival at UBC, open to both elementary and secondary students
- Initiative relies on partnership for "cultural programmes geared to academic success"
- Looking to renew the enhancement agreement; believe the vision is still on track, and looking to 'tweak' the processes
- Renewal process expected to begin late this year or early 2014

*DPAC Action: observe the renewal process, participate where feasible*

Re-visioning inner-city school programmes (Valerie Overgaard and Maureen Ciarnello)

- Current inner city school programme was established in 1988
- Originally four schools were designated, now nine
- Supports reduced in any one school as resources have been (re-)distributed across schools; past reviews have focused on designating schools and re-distributing resources accordingly
- Poverty is now widespread throughout the district, though more pronounced in some areas
- Recognition of different facets and definitions of poverty, such as the social determinants of health
- Primary question to be asked during re-visioning process is: "what makes a difference in the education of children living in poverty, and what can the Board do about it?"
- Phase One (current): clarify scope for review
- Phase Two (upcoming): consult and research; task force, stakeholder groups, key informants, literature review, review of practices/approaches in other jurisdictions, public forums
- Phase Three (upcoming): monitor and evaluate
- Under current timeline, a recommendation would be expected before the Board for February (thus Phase Two will be completed by early 2014)
- Trustee Denike: when the programme first began, there were other agencies/bodies involved, but they've fallen away with time; consider Clyde Hertzman's research
- DPAC representative asked whether professional facilitator would be engaged to conduct consultations (benefits of a professional include: no direct stake in outcome; special skills in engaging stakeholders and the public in discussion, eliciting opinions, etc.); answer was that V. Overgaard and her colleague Jessica would do most (if not all) of the consultations, but may consider hiring a professional for a larger forum

*DPAC Action: observe the consultation process, and encourage PACs and parents to participate, participate where possible*

*Emerging issue at a mini-school is that the kids couldn't get the electives they wanted so some parents were concerned that there some grade nine's have a study block. The PAC notes that the kids can do an elective on-line.*

**Documents:**



• Committee 3, September 11 2013.docx

**Status:** Completed

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**4.4.1. Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement**

Diana Day

**Status:** Completed

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**4.4.2. Inner City Advisory Committee**

Monica Moberg

**Report:**

Monica and Jim are on this committee. With Jim's absence we may need another Executive member to cover for Jim if a meeting is scheduled before his return.

**Status:** Completed

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**4.5. Committee IV - Personnel**

Mabel Sun

**Status:** Completed

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**4.6. Committee V - Finance and Legal**

Iraj Khabazian

**Status:** Completed

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**4.7. Date Next Meeting - City Wide - October 17th, Executive - Oct 24th**

**Status:** Completed

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**4.8. Adjournment**

**Report:**

Colin made a motion to adjourn and Iraj seconded.

**Status:** Completed

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Recording Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

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