



Date: May 10th, 2018
Time: 19:00 - 21:00

Location: Aboriginal Friendship Centre
1607 East Hastings Street

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Rob Peregoodoff (left at 9:15) Minute Taker: Amanda Hillis (Secretary)
Executive: Shaun Kalley (Vice-chair), Roy Park (Treasurer), Erin Arnold, May Ke, Anne Montgomery,
Crystal Smith
Regrets: Erin Bartlett
Hosts: Jolene Andrews, Michele Buckman, Crystal Smith
Attendees: Alan Patola Moosmann (Henry Hudson), Corine Willems (Tyee), Alex Dow (Jameison),
David Schaub (False Creek), several parents from Xpey' and Grandview schools

Meeting called to order at 7:00

1. Special Agenda Items

1.1. Welcome, acknowledgement

1.2. Introductions

1.3. Approve agenda

- Amended to include motion to provide additional food for this meeting
- **MOTION: Amanda made the motion to accept the agenda as amended. Shaun seconded. Motion passed.**

1.4. Xpey' PAC (Crystal)

- Crystal circulated proposal (attached) prepared by herself, Jolene Andrews, Michele Buckman with three recommended actions:
 - Amend DPAC bylaws to revise composition of the DPAC Executive Board Membership to include a seat for Indigenous parent representation;
 - Call on the BCCPAC and other DPACs throughout BC to do the same;
 - Dedicate a portion of the VSB fund that is received annually by the Vancouver DPAC for the purpose of developing and supporting urban Indigenous parent engagement throughout the school district.
- **MOTION: Erin A. made the motion to accept the 3 recommended actions put forth by Crystal, Joele and Michele of Xpey' PAC. Roy seconded.**
- Discussion on recommendation 1:
 - Discussion on eligibility. General consensus that that seat would be filled by parents/guardians that self-identify as Indigenous.
 - Currently PACs nominate executives. This could be extended to have PACs nominate also for the Indigenous representative seat.

- Request is to change one of the 8 Member-at-large seats into an Indigenous seat
 - Discussion on what the role would entail, roles and responsibilities, scope of work and who benefits.
 - Want to ensure what we do is done right and will work, not just symbolic.
 - If accepted by the executive, the governance details would have be worked out before taking to a general meeting or AGM to have changes ratified by the PACs.
 - **Motion on Recommendation 1 to amend DPAC bylaws to revise composition of the DPAC Executive Board Membership to include a seat for Indigenous parent representation passed by majority. Rob voted against, rationale attached.**
 - Discussion on recommendation 2:
 - Shaun offered to start the correspondence in a shared Google Doc with the final letter to be sent two months before DPAC Summit.
 - **Motion on Recommendation 2 to Call on the BCCPAC and other DPACs throughout BC to do the same passed by majority. Rob voted against.**
 - Discussion on recommendation 3:
 - Discussion what this could look like, a percentage versus a set amount as DPAC budget can change. Support to advance Indigenous engagement (“Nothing about us, without us”)
 - Recommendation for DPAC executives to have a cultural competency workshop at the beginning of the school year.
 - **Motion on Recommendation 3 to dedicate a portion of the VSB fund that is received annually by the Vancouver DPAC for the purpose of developing and supporting urban Indigenous parent engagement throughout the school district passed unanimously.**
 - **ACTIONS:**
 - **Shaun will meet with Michele to work out governance details required to change bylaws with the aim to get these into place before June 7 so can be part of the 2018 AGM.**
 - **Shaun will start letter to BCCPAC to fulfill 2nd recommendation and share with executives..**
 - **MOTION: Crystal made the motion to give \$1500 to support dance groups at Xpey’s naming ceremony on June 1, 2018. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.**
 - Note: at 8:54 decision made to continue meeting to cover rest of agenda.
- 1.5. **Bylaw Review** (Shaun)
- Shaun went through his first draft of bylaws changes gathering input. Still needs to prepare a few sections.
 - Next phase of governance is creation of a policy binder

- **ACTIONS:**

- **Shaun will share bylaw review google document with executives. Executives to make suggestions and recommendations by Friday, May 18.**
- **Shaun request Rob call a special executive meeting just prior to May 24 General meeting to pass bylaw revisions and 2018/19 budget proposal by executives prior to sending out to PACs to consider at DPAC AGM.**

1.6. DPAC Budget 2018/19 (Roy)

- **ACTION: Roy will create a shareable spreadsheet with prior budget for executives to make recommendations for 2018/19 budget. This will be voted on at May 24 special exec meetings (see above).**

1.7. Staffing (Rob)

- Rob has created a shared folder on staff role
- Chair and Secretary have created lists of potential staff responsibilities to support those roles. Mainly meeting prep and minutes.
- No specific staff responsibilities to support Treasurer.
- Want staff involved with implementation of DPAC strategic plans but not in the creation.
- Want staff to help with sorting incoming chair mail, but not in creating media releases (beyond potential wordsmithing).
- Preference for a long-term relationship with a single staffer via a service that will refill the position as required.
- **ACTION: Rob will work with Gwen Floyd who offered to help at a previous meeting to create job description and qualifications.**
- Anne offered to help with interviewing.
- Ideal start date: September 2018

1.8. Opportunities for Parent Involvement (Amanda)

- Committee of the Whole on May 16 for feedback on VSB Budget 2018/19 2nd revision
- Catchment Boundary Review sessions at Kitsilano Secondary on May 15 and King George on May 22.
- BC Hydro proposal open houses, small group discussions, and survey (https://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/projects/west-end-substation.html?WT.mc_id=rd_westendsub) plus VSB led session at Lord Roberts Annex on May 23 and Lord Roberts on May 30.

2. New Business

2.1. Motion for extra catering

- **MOTION: Amanda made the motion to increase catering budget for this meeting by up to \$50 to cover additional food for children. Rob seconded. Motion passed.**

2.2. A.O.B.

- Request for a way for PACs to easily connect with each other and know what DPAC can do for them
 - Confidentiality issues with publishing email contacts as not every PAC has a general email
 - **ACTION: Shaun to create a F.A.Q. website page**

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm

Next Meeting:

Executive: June 7, 2018

General: May 24, 2018 - Catchment Review and Lord Roberts Annex Substation Proposal

Vancouver DPAC Policy Brief
on
Advancing Urban Indigenous Parent Advisory in BC

The Vancouver District Parent Advisory Committee has taken steps forward in regard to Indigenous education and practicing proper Indigenous protocols. We started the year in a great way by asking permission from the Musqueam people to be here and continue our work on their unceded territory. We also propelled the name Aboriginal Education to be changed to Indigenous Education within the VSB and had a general meeting that spoke to Building Resilient Communities. We have done great work and now our Indigenous community is asking that you continue to walk with us in the spirit of true reconciliation, true treaty.

True reconciliation and true treaty are built upon one foundation, and that is relationships. DPAC needs to further the relationship with Indigenous peoples so that our foundation is strong. We believe that creating a designated space for Indigenous parents will allow strengthen the work that has already began and further our relationship with each other. This will also draw in more Indigenous parent engagement which is very minimal in these current times. The truth is colonial systems have given far to many reasons for Indigenous parents to mistrust and walk away, it is now time for the colonial system to make amends and move toward better relationship building. However it is hard to build relationship if there is no space within the colonial structure and that is why Indigenous parents are asking for one designated seat for Indigenous parent.

Summary: There is an opportunity for DPAC to support the advancement of Urban Indigenous parent representation and respond to the TRC Calls to Action and demonstrate its commitment to reconciliation in Canada.

Policy Context:

- **Summary of policy drivers** supporting the advancement of meaningful Indigenous parent engagement include: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) recommendations, United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), TRC Calls to Action.
- **Description of current model for parent engagement in BC:**
 - a. The BC School Act legislates the advisory role of parents at the school, district and provincial level planning. The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) represents all parents with children in public education in BC at the provincial level. Their membership includes all DPACs throughout BC (whose membership is mandatory) and school-level PACs (whose membership is voluntary).
 - b. In BC, status BC First Nations own jurisdiction over education in all aspects of planning, administration and governance in their communities. At the provincial level, the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) represents their collective interests and priorities with the Ministry of Education and the Government of BC. There are 198 First Nations in BC, of those, 116 have elected to appoint a representative to the FNESC Board of Directors.

Policy Issue:

Social, economic, and education inequities between Indigenous people and other Canadians are rooted in colonialism and perpetuated by political marginalization and chronic underfunding in public education. The colonial foundation of Canada's public education system means that Indigenous

children do not receive adequate responses, support and resources that address impacts of colonization, racism and political marginalization. Underfunding public education affects all children. However, the reality is that the impacts of underfunding can be more profound for Indigenous learners and those who are most vulnerable.

In British Columbia, there is no explicit mechanism or support in place for ensuring meaningful urban Indigenous parent advisory at the school, district and provincial level planning in public education. Urban Indigenous communities are culturally diverse and encompass status and non-status First Nations peoples from across the country including Metis and Inuit peoples. BCCPAC and FNESC membership structures do not provide a direct mechanism for accountability to urban Indigenous communities nor provide a mechanism for demonstrating their representation of urban Indigenous peoples at the Provincial level. In spite of all this, the BCCPAC continues to sit on provincial level committees and inform Ministry of Education planning and curriculum development that directly impacts urban Indigenous learners in BC's public education system. Alternatively, FNESC represents the priorities of BC status¹ First Nations who own jurisdiction over education in their communities. There is a clear gap in urban Indigenous parent representation at the provincial level that is the direct result of systemic barriers in place under the current model of parent advisory in BC.

Currently, there is no mechanism in place to ensure meaningful urban Indigenous parent advisory in the Vancouver school district. This is problematic and has resulted in a history of tripartite Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements (AEEA) between the Vancouver School Board, the Province of BC and local First Nations communities that do not bear the signatures of Indigenous parent representatives. The current AEEA is signed by a non-Indigenous DPAC representative on a signature line that incorrectly identifies that signature as being an Indigenous DPAC representative. There is a clear lack of accountability and an absence of a meaningful relationship between the Vancouver Board of Education/or Board of Trustees and urban Indigenous parents/community. We are inviting DPAC to support our goal to establish a meaningful relationship with the VSB by formalizing our role at the district level so that our participation can become more than just symbolic.

There are many great things to be gained by increasing levels of Indigenous parent representation. Academics and government-mandated commissions (RCAP and TRC) have linked ongoing conditions of chronic inequality, political marginalization, and historical trauma to ongoing health, economic, education inequities between Indigenous people and other Canadians. Parent engagement in education is a fundamental human right that has been taken away from Indigenous people in this country. This understanding is the basis for the recommendations made by RCAP and the TRC to increase Indigenous parent and community involvement in the planning, design and delivery of education. I know that we can all agree that parent engagement is an important factor in our children's education success. There is an opportunity for DPAC to support the advancement of urban Indigenous parent representation in Vancouver and throughout the province and respond to RCAP and TRC recommendations.

Opportunities for Vancouver DPAC:

- There is an opportunity for DPAC to support and promote the advancement of meaningful Indigenous parent engagement in the Vancouver School District specifically;

¹ "Status" refers to those who are eligible to be registered according to regulations under the *Indian Act*.

- By sending a strong message of Vancouver DPAC's commitment to reconciliation in Canada there is an opportunity for DPAC to promote transformative change in the parent advisory structure in BC by enhancing BCCPAC's representation of parents at the provincial level to include urban Indigenous parents with clear mechanisms of accountability.

Recommendations to Vancouver DPAC:

1. Amend DPAC bylaws to revise composition of the DPAC Executive Board Membership to include a seat for Indigenous parent representation;
2. Call on the BCCPAC and other DPACs throughout BC to do the same;
3. Dedicate a portion of the VSB fund that is received annually by the Vancouver DPAC for the purpose of developing and supporting urban Indigenous parent engagement throughout the school district.

The Vancouver District Parent Advisory Committee has taken steps forward in regard to Indigenous education and practicing proper Indigenous protocols. We started the year in a great way by asking permission from the Musqueam people to be here and continue our work on their unceded territory. We also propelled the name Aboriginal Education to be changed to Indigenous Education within the VSB and had a general meeting that spoke to Building Resilient Communities. We have done great work and now our Indigenous community is asking that you continue to walk with us in the spirit of true reconciliation, true treaty.

True reconciliation and true treaty are built upon one foundation, and that is relationships. DPAC needs to further the relationship with Indigenous peoples so that our foundation is strong. We believe that creating a designated space for Indigenous parents will allow strengthen the work that has already began and further our relationship with each other. This will also draw in more Indigenous parent engagement which is very minimal in these current times. The truth is colonial systems have given far to many reasons for Indigenous parents to mistrust and walk away, it is now time for the colonial system to make amends and move toward better relationship building. However it is hard to build relationship if there is no space within the colonial structure and that is why Indigenous parents are asking for one designated seat for Indigenous parent.

Addendum on rationale for voting no

Hi all,

Why I voted no on the motion: "Amend DPAC bylaws to revise composition of the DPAC Executive Board Membership to include a seat for Indigenous parent representation" as well as the subsequent motion to promote this to others in the province.

I believe it is important to have on record why I was the sole person to vote against this motion because contrary to what was so eloquently expressed in the opening remarks by our gracious hosts last night, the dialogue and debate around this topic was not one of openness, trust and inclusivity, so I wish to have the position I was attempting to convey last night part of the public record.

Contrary to what some in the room may have left believing, I am in full support of us all doing what we can, when we can, to support our Indigenous communities. I let my record of this past year as chair, and the four years of my career that I spent at the Red Crow Community College in support of the Kainaiwa nation stand.

I voted no, not because I did not want the sentiment of the motion to be passed, but the exact opposite. I voted no because I want it to be successful and I am not confident that the sentiment expressed last night, "vote yes and we will figure out the details later" is the right strategy. Here are my specific reasons:

1. the document circulated yesterday by the Xpey' PAC prior to the exec meeting was very strong on the why, but has no detail on the how, which I could not in good conscience vote yes in this absence. Below is the message Shaun circulated yesterday and I am including again as I fully support each of these points, and had we been given, in writing, even an attempt to address these concerns, I would have seriously considered voting yes. By not having these addressed, I fear that what was done last night will be purely symbolic, and may in fact be interpreted by our wider parent constituency in ways we cannot predict that will end up having the opposite effect that we are striving for.

I hope there's an opportunity for a full discussion on this tonight. There are still a number of threshold issues that need addressing, some of which we have talked about. These include:

1. Eligibility.
2. Who would be eligible to occupy this position? Would it have to be an Indigenous parent? Does that raise question of status and privacy? Can I be the Indigenous parent rep if I wanted?
3. Election.
4. How would this position be elected? Would it just be Indigenous parents voting on it, or would it be PACs voting on it? If the former, how would voting be organized, who would be eligible to vote (same question of status and privacy as above)? As well it would require a complete rethink of DPAC membership. If the latter, would the person coming to the position be the person that Indigenous parents want in that role?
5. Responsibilities.
6. What would the specific responsibilities of this position be? Would they be any different in scope or in kind to the responsibilities of other DPAC execs? Being on the AEEA makes sense but only if it's an Indigenous parent in the role (see #1), but would they be there to represent Indigenous parents or DPAC externally (see #6)? I was a little surprised when we talked on the weekend and you didn't think that helping to arrange the beginning of year ceremony would be in the scope of responsibilities for this position, but that might be a discussion point.

7. Privileges.
8. Officers have certain privileges -- like access to VSB staff and information -- which other DPAC members don't. What privileges would be expected for the person holding this position?
9. Intended uses of position.
10. What would this position allow to happen that cannot currently be done by DPAC with the inclusion of parents such as yourself, Michele, and Jolene? As your paper says, we've come a long way this year; how does this take DPAC to the next level?
11. Conflict resolution.
12. Should such a situation arise, how would differences in opinion and priorities between the Indigenous executive and the rest of the executive be resolved? Would the Indigenous exec be able to say that they are still speaking for DPAC ?

I'd also like to understand the statement from your policy statement, "This will also draw in more Indigenous parent engagement which is very minimal in these current times." What mechanisms can/will be used to increase Indigenous parent engagement that aren't currently being used? What is actually preventing Indigenous parent engagement with DPAC, and will those barriers disappear through the creation of this position? You've talked about meeting times and locations being a barrier, but this doesn't address those.

Thanks,
Shaun

2. My second concern is timing. To make such a major step and precedent with one month left in our term as DPAC exec, with no clear succession in place on the horizon, I fear that we have burdened next year's DPAC exec with such an important initiative without having already established the framework and strategy for success. I hope they will share the same emotional passion that this decision was based on as they are going to need it to overcome the structural and procedural hurdles they will have to fulfilling the spirit with which this motion has been prepared, and now accepted by DPAC.

To this end, I would like to congratulate Shaun and Crystal for bringing this to DPAC, and hope that Shaun will consider running for Chair next year of DPAC and he will have my endorsement so that they can both see this worthwhile initiative to maturity.

Sincerely,

Rob Peregoodoff