

DPAC Minutes General Meeting

January 18, 2018.

1. Call to order @ 6:31 p.m.
2. Attendants: Marta Bukmeier, Carl Cooper, Sheri Hamilton, Erna Jacobs, Peter Jory, Carmen Massey, Nikki van der Meer, Kerry Miller, Melissa Parmenter, Julie Pleadwell, Carrie Steinwand, Kari Wilkinson.
3. Motion was made by Kerry M. to adopt the minutes of the general meeting of November 16th, 2017, seconded by Julie P. and all attendants were in favour. No new business arising from minutes. One new item added to the agenda by Kari W.: BCCPAC Summit summary.

4. **Mr. Carl Cooper, Director of Instruction:**

❖ **Outdoor Learning at South Canoe:**

Registration of students for the new South Canoe Outdoor Learning School will be held at the DESC from 6-8 pm on Thursday, February 1st. Anyone registering during this time period will be considered on an equal basis. There is space for everyone. However, if there are more registrations than can be accommodated (150 students), a lottery will be used for those that registered between 6-8 p.m. (e.g. no line-up, no first come first serve). After February 1st, it will be first come first serve with registration moving to Bastion Elementary. Info to parents goes out on Monday January 22nd.

❖ **Remedy**

First week of January saw some new teachers coming in which created some confusion amongst students and parents.

Some background information:

The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) appeal concluded in November 2016 that the BCPSEA-BCTF collective agreement provisions deleted by the *Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act* (which, among other changes, removed provisions on class size and composition effective July 1, 2002 and prohibited future collective bargaining about these issues) were to be restored effective November 10, 2016. A majority of the Court endorsed Justice Donald's dissent and held that the *Education Improvement Act* violated the *Charter* and was of no force or effect. The SCC decision held that the process – not the content – was unconstitutional. The government has the right to legislate, provided it follows an appropriate process. This decision resulted in the triggering of Letter of Understanding No. 17. This Letter required an agreement, the Memorandum of Agreement.

The MoA is a three-party agreement between the Government of BC, BCPSEA, and BCTF that broadly outlines how to implement the restored language. Specifically, the MoA provides finality to the

restoration of the deleted language to the collective agreement. It provides a process for how the restored language will be implemented and makes some changes to allow for the restoration within the current educational context. The MoA took effect at the start of the 2017/2018 school year.

The BCTF and BCPSEA reopened bargaining on November 30, 2016 and began discussions regarding the implementation of and changes to the restored language.

The parties reached an agreement on March 3, 2017 and signed the MoA.

Renegotiations will start again after the 2018/2019 school year.

One of the main issues that districts need to immediately address is: Class size and composition.

Class size limits apply to all districts. In broad terms, class size language applies in four main ways:

- the K-3 provincial Memorandum of Agreement, which applies to all districts
- Grade 4-12 local class size language as bargained
- section 76.1 of the *School Act*, which applies to all districts
- Specified classes, such as labs and certain secondary classes (not relevant to all districts).

For most districts the **MoA** applies and sets a maximum class size of (number between brackets is SD 83):

- Kindergarten: 20 (21)
- Grade 1, 2 and 3: 22 (23)
- Grade 3/4: The average of the class size maximum for Grade 3 and the class size maximum for Grade 4
However, if the average results in a number higher than 24, then 24 is the class size limit in accordance with the *School Act*.

Under the **School Act** any class that includes:

- Kindergarten students cannot exceed 22
- Grades 1, 2, or 3 students cannot exceed 24

Grade 4-12 class size: MoA or local language

Almost every district has class size limits for Grades 4-12 contained in their restored language. In many cases, districts will have different class size limits established for intermediate and secondary classes, as well as for split and multi-grade classes. If a district does not have class size limits or if the restored local language provides for a number higher than 30, the *School Act* will apply. School District 83: Grades 4-7: 28 and Grades 8-12: 30.

Grade 4-12 class size: School Act section 76.1

If a district does not have class size limits or if the restored local language provides for a number higher than 30, the class size limit will be 30 in accordance with the *School Act*.

Class composition refers to how the composition of any individual class will affect its size. The intent of the language, when it was bargained, was to address a teacher's workload when responsible for a particular class. Some, but not all, local agreements negotiated prior to 2002 included language around class composition, requiring districts to consider the unique needs of the students in a class when organizing classes and timetables. For the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 school years, when making decisions about class composition, districts would consider the current Ministry of Education definitions of special education designations and classifications and

apply them on a without prejudice basis.

As Section 76.1 of the School Act remains in effect, a district must consider both the School Act class size limits as well as its local collective agreement class size limits when organizing classes. Specifically, if the *School Act's* class size limits are lower than your local collective agreement language, you must meet the lower limits of the *School Act*. If your local collective agreement defines lower class size limits than the *School Act*, the lower limits of your local language will apply.

School District 83 has 1,000 special needs students.

School District 83 calculated 900 remedy hours. The process of calculation is designed to calculate remedy in real time and will be executed on a monthly basis. A main component of the MoA is the Classroom Enhancement Fund. The Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF) was set up by the Ministry of Education in August 2017 as a result of the recent Supreme Court decision to assist school districts to implement restored class size and composition limits. SD 83 received \$ 5 million + \$1 million extra through this fund.

TOCs (teacher-on-call) and remedy teachers who are hired for remedy are expected to:

- teach a classroom when the affected teacher is taking additional prep time;
- Work as a non-enrolling teacher with the affected teacher's class;
- Co-teach with the affected teacher.

Remedy teachers will also be expected to prepare for the classes that they are providing remedy for.

Communication about this will come from the school to the parents. Newspaper will also be involved.

5. Treasurer's report:

- Balance of Chequing Account \$1,870.45 as of November 30th, 2017.
- Balance of Chequing Account \$1,870.54 as of December 31st, 2017.
 - Income \$0.09 interest earned, once in November and once in December 2017. No transactions done.
- Balance of Gaming Account \$1,468.83 as of November 30th, 2017.
 - Income - \$500.00 reimbursement from LASS co-sponsor "Screenagers" and \$0.05 interest earned.
 - Expense - \$24.00 childcare @ Math workshop and \$46.71 for refreshments at "Over 18" screening.
- Balance of Gaming Account \$1,282.35 as of December 31st, 2017.
 - Income - \$0.06 interest earned
 - Expense - \$24.00 childcare @ Math workshop, \$106.94 refreshments math workshop and DPAC executive meeting, \$55.60 refreshments at "Screenagers" screening.

Carrie S. made a motion to approve the financial reports, seconded by Carmen M., all in favour.

The FTE (Parent Education Workshop) cheques, which each school receives, are a flow-through from the Ministry and are meant to spend on parent education. If any school PAC decides not to spend this money on parent education sessions for their school, DPAC politely asks to send this money to DPAC, so we can pool the money for bigger parent education sessions and everyone can benefit.

Some topics were brought forward to look into for the near future:

- Support workshop for parents with children who receive a designation for whom an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is put together. How the process of putting an IEP together works; how are families supported at home and how to navigate through a designation.
 - Drug conversation: Info sessions with a speaker and/or workshops with facilitated discussions. It will be looked into to find a person to facilitate that.
6. Upcoming dates for Parent Information Events:
- **Screenagers Documentary**
Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. at Salmar Classic Theatre, Salmon Arm.
 - **Carole Fullerton Math Workshop**
Thursday, February 22nd, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. at District Education Support Centre, Salmon Arm (Childcare available).
 - **Over 18 – A documentary about Pornography**
Wednesday, February 28th, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. at Salmar Classic Theatre, Salmon Arm.
7. School District Matters:
- ❖ Trustee position: December 19th, 2017, a letter was sent to the BC Minister of Education with the recommendation to establish a Board of Education in SD 83 with five members. So far, no response has been received; probably looking towards the end of February.
 - ❖ Budget Advisory Committee: Kari W. and Zev Tiefenbach are the DPAC representatives. A number of meetings are set to go over every line item and discuss to come to a budget recommendation. Other meetings as follows:
April 10th: Partner group table meeting to discuss budget.
April 15th: Public budget consultation meeting.
May 15th, the preliminary budget will be presented at the Board Meeting for approval.
With the help of the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), we're looking at strategic, but adaptive approaches as education is evolving and is more open. There is local autonomy over spending money towards needs, while being apprehensive to costs and cutting spending. It's also important to know what each department needs.
 - ❖ District Wellness Committee: Dianne Balance – Director of Instruction - Student Learning has requested reps from each partner group to join. As no other parent has come forward, Monica Kries' name is put forward for DPAC recommendation. Kari W. made a motion to accept, Carrie S. seconded, all in favour.
8. BCCPAC Summit Richmond:
- Carmen M. and Erna J. went to this meeting November 24th and 25th. Ministry of Education paid for attending this event. Items of discussion i.e. Contract negotiations and its history; indigenous education, SOGI, earthquake proofing buildings, create capital funding for school playgrounds per Minister's mandate.
- Call for nominations for BCCPACs Board of Directors. President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and 3 Director positions are up for election. Deadline February 28, 2018.
9. Round table:
- Early dismissal at Bastion rose some questions what this was for. Early dismissal days were set aside to have parent-student-teacher conferences. Individual schools will have conversations to determine what best works for their schools. The goal of this conference is discuss goal setting and progress. Parents would like to see communication about this with rationale and comments included. The school calendar

should be completed well in advance of June 2018, so parents have as much notice as possible for the following year in regards to non-instructional days, early dismissal days and bell schedules for their community schools.

It is the School District's intention and commitment to get better at communicating with parents which takes upfront discussion, patience, time and autonomy. The School District website, as well as each school's own website, has been innovated and is being launched in February.

10. Next DPAC meeting will be Monday February 19, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. Location District Education Support Centre in Salmon Arm.

11. Adjournment 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erna Jacobs
DPAC Secretary