

DPAC Minutes General Meeting

October 16, 2017

1. Call to order @ 6:33 p.m.
2. Attendance: Wendy Collins, Carl Cooper, Tammy DeKelder, Gerri Ellis, Nadine Golz, Heather Hamlin Gravells, Erna Jacobs, Mike McKay, Carrie Steinwand, Melissa Parmenter, Tricia Peloquin, Julie Pleadwell, Kari Wilkinson, Christy Wright.
3. Agenda Amendment: Mr. Peter Jory was not able to attend due to strategic plan check-in sessions that started today.
4. Motion was made by Christy W. to adopt the minutes of the general meeting of September 13th, 2017, seconded by Wendy C. and all attendances were in favour.
5. Carlin's Teacher-Librarian Gerri Ellis presented their new Library Learning Commons. It is a physical and virtual learning space where students and teachers can learn, work and collaborate together. The library has, with this new approach, become a work and learning hub where students of all grades feel welcome. It is comfortable and inviting and considerable time and thought has gone into choosing the type of furniture and its flexibility. Parents, staff, and students have all done research and had input how this all should come together. There are chairs with a good supportive flexible back, bean bags, hook stools, comfortable niches to sit, tables, smart board and computers. Everything (except for the bookshelves) is movable and the room can be whatever it needs to be.

Carlin Highlights: Annual Carlin Country Market has been running for the past 7 years. With new people coming in, new ideas are being explored how to replace this event.

Focus of the PAC is on engagement of students through outdoor activities: Skating, skiing, swimming etc., as well as on community engagement i.e. welcome-back dinner, coaching after-school program soccer.

6. Mr. Mike McKay, Official Trustee of School District 83:

In June 2016, the Watson Special Advisor's Report's first 2 recommendations were:

- Dissolve the board immediately and put a Ministry-appointed Trustee in place until the next regularly scheduled election of School Board Trustees in the fall of 2018.
- Simplify regional representation and reduce the number of Trustees to 5 or 7.

A process has been started to consider variations of the number of Trustees or variations to the electoral areas and/or number of Trustees assigned to each electoral area.

The variations with all its options should be brought to public attention and the views, perspectives and input of the public obtained through public consultation. Also, the views of municipalities, regional boards, First Nations and special interest groups should be solicited. After consultation and collaboration with all stakeholders, the Trustee will then ultimately decide which recommendations will be put forward and write a letter with recommendations to the Minister of Education requesting that the Minister consider making a variation order. The goal is to have a letter sent by mid-December 2017. The Minister of Education will then consider the request. The expectation is that, if the Minister approves, possible candidates for election can start their election campaigns in early Spring 2018. Elections will be held October 2018.

There are 2 systems that can be used to vote:

- Ward system (what we have now): This means that the School District is divided in electoral areas where voters who reside in that area are permitted to vote for a candidate from that area.
- At-Large system: All voters can vote for any candidate in the School District. This means that it is possible that larger communities can vote people in from these larger communities. It is therefore important to have a fair distribution.

Possible number of Trustees in a Board are: 3-5-7-9. Following are options to consider:

- Status Quo: 9 Trustees
 - ✓ Electoral Area 1 Armstrong – Spallumcheen
 - ✓ Electoral Area 2 Enderby
 - ✓ Electoral Area 3 Sicamous - Malakwa
 - ✓ Electoral Area 4 North Shuswap
 - ✓ Electoral Area 5 Carlin - Sorrento
 - ✓ Electoral Area 6 Falkland - Silver Creek - Rancho
 - ✓ Electoral Area 7 Salmon Arm

Or the aforementioned electoral areas with 7 or 5 Trustees

- Option A – 7 Trustees
 - ✓ Electoral Area 1 Armstrong – Spallumcheen – Falkland – Silver Creek - Ranchero and CSRD Area D.
 - ✓ Electoral Area 2 Enderby – RDNO area F – Sicamous/Malakwa – CSRD Area E.
 - ✓ Electoral Area 3 North Shuswap – CSRD Area F – Carlin/Sorrento – CSRD Area C.
 - ✓ Electoral Area 4 Salmon Arm

- Option B – 7 Trustees
 - ✓ Electoral Area 1 Armstrong - Spallumcheen
 - ✓ Electoral Area 2 Enderby – RDNO Area F
 - ✓ Electoral Area 3 Sicamous - Malakwa – CSRD Area E
 - ✓ Electoral Area 4 North Shuswap - CSRD Area F – Carlin - Sorrento – CSRD Area C
 - ✓ Electoral Area 5 Falkland - Silver Creek – Ranchero – CSRD Area D
 - ✓ Electoral Area 6 Salmon Arm

- Option C – 5 Trustees
 - ✓ Electoral Area 1 Armstrong – Spallumcheen – Falkland – Silver Creek – Ranchero
 - ✓ Electoral Area 2 Sicamous – Malakwa – Enderby – Grindrod
 - ✓ Electoral Area 3 North Shuswap – Sorrento – Carlin
 - ✓ Electoral Area 4 Salmon Arm

Trustees are required to understand the responsibilities and are representing the District as a whole and not just the region they are elected in. The electoral boundaries cannot be changed, but areas can be combined. BCSTA can help Trustees with member support activities in fields such as organizational and financial reviews, strategic planning, administrative reviews etc. The Trustee school liaison provides opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the District’s schools and provide opportunity for increased communication between Trustees, the PAC and residents of the community.

There will be orientation sessions for new trustees: what it means to be a Trustee, Trustee engagement, learning about financial decisions and complex situations, senior staff will bring multiple recommendations and stewardship will be provided.

Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan is developed and will be finalized after all five community check-In sessions have been held. Each session will include a review of the draft strategic plan followed by a facilitated table talk activity where participants can engage in discussions and make suggestions for the planning team to consider. An annual work plan is also developed, following the direction of the Strategic Plan.

Policy Committee meeting was held last week and the following was discussed:

(Jennifer Henrie and Yuliya Zinova are both parent reps in the policy committee)

- **Criminal Record Check/Police Information Check for staff and volunteers policy:**

This policy is being formed to guide and answer “why” the District is now screening all parent volunteers. There was discussion around the fact that employees are only held to the level of criminal record checks, whereas parents are being requested to be reviewed at a higher standard/more in-depth – that is, a police information check.

Questions still outstanding: why do employees not go through a police information check when they are spending more time with our children than any parent volunteer? Cost for a full criminal record check is \$25 at the Salmon Arm detachment. City of Salmon Arm is not waiving these costs (as is the case for non-profits).

The draft policy will be presented for a second reading.

- **Policy on Smoking, Tobacco and Vapour products on School District property:**

This policy was revised to reflect updated language in the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act and presented as a friendly amendment with updated references and language of the changed regulation.

- **Whistle Blower Protection policy:**

This policy is meant to safeguard employees who come forward to report improper activity by District employees. There was a discussion around whether or not there will be a third party who would accept/monitor and regulate the reports. Some groups feel a third party would protect employees more than simply reporting to central staff. It was noted that this situation (using a third party) is usually reserved for larger organizations, and that usually this setup comes with a monthly bill, no matter how many or few complaints are received. This is money that would not be spent on students. It was also noted that the unions have internal mechanisms within their unions to deal with complaints. All agreed that it would be important to specifically have a statement about what to do/what channel to go through when reporting complaints against central staff/administrators.

7. Mr. Carl Cooper, Director of Instruction:

- ❖ Outdoor Learning: A parent survey was recently completed and showed overwhelming interest (955 responses) in the School District forming an Outdoor Learning School. The South Canoe School is closed, but can be brought back to life for this purpose; there are ponds and parks in the surrounding area. Re-opening of the school would need approval from the Board. Transportation to South Canoe should be provided by the parents. There are 8 classroom spaces with a capacity for 175-200 students. The Provincial Curriculum will be incorporated in the Outdoor Learning experience. An information evening will be held November 7th 2017 @ 6 p.m. at Salmon Arm Secondary, Sullivan Campus to learn more specific details about what Outdoor Learning is.
- ❖ As the restored language has created 24 extra classrooms in total, South Canoe could also be considered for re-opening for regular learning. The feasibility of a new school is being considered as well: Initial cost, ongoing cost and projection costs are being looked at every year.

8. Treasurer's Report:

- Balance of Chequing account \$1,870.27 as of September 30th.
- Balance of Gaming account \$125.72 as of September 30th.

Carole Fullerton's numeracy workshops cost \$1,000 paid in September from gaming account for workshops in Armstrong and Salmon Arm.

- ✓ Motion was made by Kari W. to move \$7.60 Petty Cash to the general account, seconded by Carrie S., all in favour.
- ✓ Motion was made by Kari W. to approve the September 30th financial reports, seconded by Carrie S., all in favour.

9. Parent Information Events:

- Over 18 – A documentary about pornography in Enderby and Salmon Arm
- Carole Fullerton Math Workshop in Armstrong and Salmon Arm
- Screenagers documentary in Enderby and Salmon Arm

10. BCCPAC Chair Summit November 24th & 25th in Richmond:

Carmen Massey, DPAC Vice-President and Julie Haller, DPAC Director will be attending this summit this year. BCCPAC is the parent voice representation on a variety of provincial and federal organizations and ministry initiatives. BCCPAC gives opportunity for parents across the province to discuss educational issues.

11. Next DPAC meeting will be Thursday November 16th, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. at A.L. Fortune Secondary School at the library.

12. Adjournment 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Erna Jacobs DPAC Secretary

