

DPAC Minutes General Meeting

February 19, 2018.

1. Call to order @ 6:29 p.m.
2. Attendants: Marta Bukmeier, Carl Cooper, Sheri Hamilton, Heather Hamlin Gravells, Erna Jacobs, Peter Jory, Tammy Koroluk, Carmen Massey (through FaceTime), Mike McKay, Nikki van der Meer, Laura Paiement, Melissa Parmenter, Kari Wilkinson, Christy Wright.
3. Order of the agenda and additions were made by Kari W.: Treasurer's report was moved up and guest Laura Paiement was added to our first discussion item of the night about nutrition, sexual health education and drug education; also, our other guest Mr. Mike McKay was added to the discussion items about communication regarding transportation.
4. Motion was made by Nikki van der M. to adopt the minutes of the general meeting January 18th, 2018, seconded by Melissa P. and all attendants were in favour. No new business arising from minutes.
5. Treasurer's Report:
No money was taken out of the gaming account or the general account.
Gaming account balance as of today is \$1,282.41 (\$0.06 interest earned).
General account balance as of today is \$2,665.54 (\$0.09 interest earned + \$795.00 FTE cheques).
Five FTE cheques (\$795.00) were received prior to the meeting, plus one (\$173.00) at this meeting bringing the total of FTE cheques to \$968.00.
6. **Discussion items**
 - Laura Paiement, Healthy Schools Co-ordinator.
Healthy Schools BC builds the capacity of the health and education sectors to effectively implement Healthy Schools initiatives using a Comprehensive School Health approach.
Their programs and supports are based on four pillars:
 - ✓ Healthy Eating
 - ✓ Healthy Relationships (social wellbeing)
 - ✓ Active Living
 - ✓ Healthy Practices

DPAC wants to zoom into Healthy Eating, Sexual Health Education and Drugs.

Healthy Eating: Together with Laura we could develop a plan to help students/schools/PACs/communities promote healthy eating habits.

Some of the questions that need to be addressed are:

What is the best format to have a conversation about healthy eating in schools?

Who do we involve: Individual PACs? Hot lunch coordinators? Teachers/Principals? Communities?

The School District has a nutrition policy and there are (provincial) guidelines what can be sold in schools i.e. fundraiser chocolates can be sold to adults, but not to students.

Sexual Health Education: Laura will be available for our second screening of “Over 18” in Salmon Arm. Laura can also provide some input on the format of sex ed.: Pro-D Day/Parent info night with speakers talking about i.e. healthy digital citizenship.

Other community partners could be involved such as The Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society. They provide many services such as community-based victim services for victims of family and sexual violence, as well as police-based victim services such as community education which is stationed at the RCMP detachment; Rotary clubs could bring in community speakers.

Drugs: DPAC may host an info night/presentation (before the May long weekend) with Constable Scott of the RCMP detachment about drugs and its consequences. We need to reach out to the parent community and connect parents together in order to facilitate a conversation where we share info and discuss pressing questions. Teacher/Principal leadership may be part of the conversation.

Going forward, it is necessary that DPAC is being persistent and consistent hosting parent info nights.

- Transportation: Questions are being raised when it comes to bringing booster seats, musical instruments, as well as sports bags onto the bus. How to make room for these items and communication to the parents will be discussed at the Partner Group Table.

7. **Mr. Peter Jory, Superintendent of School District 83:**

❖ **Consent Form**

The School District has sent out a letter to parents to ask for consent for your child’s use of 2 internet based tools: G-Suite and Microsoft Office 365.

G Suite comprises Gmail, Hangouts, Calendar, and Google+ for communication; Drive for storage; Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, and Sites for collaboration; and an Admin panel and Vault for managing users and the services. Google Classroom is a free web service developed by Google for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students. This tool was introduced as a feature of G Suite for Education.

Microsoft Office 365 Education includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and now Microsoft Teams, plus additional classroom tools. Educators can create collaborative classrooms where students work together, connect in professional learning communities, and communicate with school staff all from a single experience in Office 365 Education.

A permission process with parents has started as the public body needs to give permission for minors.

Context will be provided for principals and parents.

❖ **Hiring of Teachers Teaching On Call**

Extract from the letter from Mr. Jory to parents and guardians:

"BC Schools have employed non-certified staff via "letters of permission" for many years, particularly in specialty subject areas that are difficult to recruit. There is also a more general provision for non-certified staff to teach for a period of fewer than 20 days which has been activated by many districts across the province in previous years in times of need, including this one.

Here are the facts that have led us to where we are:

- The restoration of BCTF class size language and non-enrolling roles and ratios has led to a massive increase in the number of teachers who have secured regular positions in school districts. This has resulted in a significant decrease in our list of qualified teachers teaching on call – both in our district and in all other Districts in BC;
- Our school district has worked extremely hard to expand our recruiting efforts to fill regular postings as well as to replenish the Teacher on Call list. Those efforts continue in a competitive market where there continues to be greater demand than there is supply;
- When a classroom teacher is absent due to illness, leave or professional development, it has become more challenging to find a replacement to fulfill that teacher's duties; and,
- If a replacement teacher can't be placed, internal reassignments have to happen in the school. Principals, when not already assigned to an enrolling class, are covering other classes and assignments regularly. Some specialist teachers, including those who support children with special needs, are asked to supervise regular classes. That leaves students on their case load without the services they need. In other situations, discretionary leaves may be rescinded or professional development sessions cancelled.

We continue to be committed to providing high quality learning to all our students and we are proud of the efforts of our teachers, certified education assistants and administrators to achieve that goal every day. In supplementing our Teacher on Call list, here is what we hope to achieve:

- Less disruption in schools on a daily basis. We all want teachers to be able to fulfill their regular duties and not be reassigned due to staffing shortages;
- More consistent support for students with special needs. Their learning plan shouldn't be disrupted because a specialist teacher who is working with them has been assigned to a regular classroom in place of an absent teacher; and,
- Fewer staff coming to work when they are sick because they know how disruptive their absence would be. With the virulent flu and cold bugs that are becoming more frequent, it is better to rest and recover than to go to work, spread the germs and extend the recovery period.

What are our expectations of any non-certified candidates who are hired to be part of our list?

- A post-secondary degree;
- A strong and positive history in working with young people;

- An indication, through the interview process, that they have the capacity to contribute to school routines, address classroom management challenges, and provide students with quality learning experiences. Please note that anyone newly hired to our TTOC list, whether certified or not, is supervised and supported by school administrators; and,
- A clean criminal record check and incident free discipline record.

We have received ninety-four applications from non-certified candidates, and from this list, we are now ready to activate eight to our TTOC roster. Four of these candidates are trained as teachers but have been engaged in other professions, two have PhDs and have been university instructors, and two have science degrees and extensive experience working with young people in a leadership capacity. We will also be considering more candidates from our application pool in the coming weeks, which, thanks in part to the extensive media coverage, now includes an additional thirty-six trained teachers from all across the country.

Where are we going from here?

We are pleased to receive the news from the province regarding increased funding for teacher training and recruitment and we anticipate that will lead to some long-term relief;

- We will continue our recruitment efforts for certified teachers in BC and in other parts of Canada. There were additional resources assigned to this task last summer and through the fall and that area remains a focus for our Human Resources staff;
- We will continue to reach out to retired teachers to explore their interest in TTOC assignments during this period of peak demand; and
- We anticipate that some of the non-certified personnel hired will pursue certification as a result of their positive experiences working in classrooms in our district”.

❖ **Human Resources Director:**

Mr. Ryan Brennan has been appointed to the position of Director of Instruction – Human Resources and will supervise and provide consultation to management on strategic staffing plans, compensation, benefits, training and development, budget, and labor relations. With new leadership, oversight and governance will be identified.

The position is designed for the purposes of managing assigned operations in accordance with district policies; providing information to the Board, superintendent, staff and the public; ensuring compliance to established policies, procedures and/or codes.

Policies are being reviewed and will be looking more robust going forward.

A full day of budget discussions is coming up to identify what is essential, what can be dialed down and what is needed for the future in order to realize the Strategic Plan.

DPAC will be part of the presentation of the budget in an open meeting April 10th, 2018.

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

❖ **Parent and Teacher survey results from Report Card Initiative:**

The newly written and individualized report card has come out at all elementary or K-8 schools in the School District except for Silver Creek and Carlin Middle. SMS may be approved in the near future. Grade 9-12 will follow later, as the new curriculum has just been implemented for grade 9

only. The new curriculum for grade 10 will be implemented 2018/2019 and grade 11 and 12 will be implemented 2019/2020. Parent and Teacher surveys for feedback about this newly written report card were done in the first and second week of January and came back with an overall supportive response with some areas that may need some minor adjustments. This communication tool is an important part of building communication between parents and School (District) and helps build business practice.

❖ **Remedy newsletter:**

A newsletter was distributed amongst attendants (and will go out to schools) which explains what a remedy teacher does and why they are being put in place. Overall, 11-12 additional teachers are providing remedy support. For more on remedy, please see minutes of January 18th meeting.

❖ **Principles of learning exercise:**

Worksheet was provided to attendants to give some perspective about principles of learning and what we believe about learning. This feedback is helpful to assist with i.e. facilities planning.

❖ **Instructional leadership team:**

Part of the surplus money is being used to establish a team of instructional leaders who help colleagues implement the renewed curriculum by invitation. They consist of strong local leaders interested in i.e. technology, outdoor learning, indigenous learning etc. They are not depicted as experts in their field of choice. Time will be freed up to meet with teachers (0.2), while 0.8 will be teaching time.

❖ **Outdoor Learning at South Canoe update:**

Outdoor learning will start in September 2018 for K-6 at South Canoe.
As of this date, 111 students who registered, come from the following schools:
-Bastion 30%
-Hillcrest 25%
-Ranchero 15%
-South Broadview 10%
-Home schooling 5%

City council has passed a motion to go ahead with reopening the school. School District is awaiting approval from ALC (Agricultural Land Committee). Facilities Department is going through the building to identify what is in need of repair and what needs updating. New roofing, flooring and whiteboards will be put in. Traffic situation to the school will be addressed.

9. Upcoming dates for Parent Information Events:

▪ **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.

10. Next DPAC meeting will be Wednesday April 11th, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. Location TBA.

11. Adjournment 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erna Jacobs
DPAC Secretary