

DPAC Minutes General Meeting

Thursday April 25, 2019.

1. Call to order @ 6:33 p.m.
2. Attendants: Scott Anderson, Ryan Brennan, Robyn Drew, Meagan Erickson, Nadine Golz, Corryn Grayston, Mel Hamilton, Corene Hunter, Erna Jacobs, Nikki van der Meer, Monica Seys, Shannon Saunders, Sandy Thon, Rhys Waters, Christy Wright.
3. Motion was made by Christy W. to adopt the minutes of the general meeting February 21, 2019, seconded by Shannon S. and all attendants were in favour.
4. Business arising from the minutes:
 - As mentioned in the minutes, The Len Wood Middle School gym is not suitable for its purpose. It is a small gym and basketball games for instance cannot be held there. At the moment, 2-3 different designs are being looked at, which would suit the needs of the school best to change this. Capital expenses discussions are being held what to do for next year.
5. A.L. Fortune Secondary Highlights:

Mr. Scott Anderson, Principal of A.L. Fortune Secondary, explained what A.L. Fortune's current blended learning model is. There are set classes, elective courses and open blocks which can be used to make up for missed classes, go to Learning Centres, go to workshops etc. By using a combination of classroom/digital instruction and one-on-one face time, students can work on their own with new concepts which frees teachers up to circulate and support individual students who may need individualized attention in Learning Centres. Rather than playing to the lowest common denominator – as they would in a traditional classroom – teachers can now streamline their instruction to help all students reach their full potential. There is plenty of Learning Centre (LC) time available to students, however, they do not take (enough) advantage of that time as self-direction is key in this model.

Consultations are happening with the Committee, staff and stakeholders to come up with different models to address that. Reduce LCs, move towards a more traditional timetable (ABCD blocks) with controlled flex time to meet with their teacher to get help, so the student stays with the teacher in that classroom in that time. The hope is to achieve more structure to the structure. The number of courses will drop, but options will still be available to achieve the required minutes of instruction.

Music program at A.L. Fortune is very successful with about 250 of the 286 students being in one or more than one of the music courses available. Musical Theatre every year puts on a quality show; drumline plays at events such as football and Silverback games, showing during half time.

Indigenous students have their Drum Team which performs Indigenous traditional music.

A.L. Fortune runs a breakfast and lunch program which feeds between 70-90 students per day. This program is supported by many community groups, Breakfast Club of Canada, and individual contributions with money or items for food prep. A small donation is asked from students who can afford it or others help working the breakfast program and donate their time.

6. Points of Discussion:

- **Budget Committee:** Corryn G. is (together with Kari W.) representing DPAC at the budget committee and finds it an enriching and educational experience; the budget is critical to students, teachers, DPAC and each and every stakeholder's priorities are considered concerning all issues to build the budget. Every department had a chance to present how to use discretionary money. There will be a public session May 1st at the DESC. The final budget, before being presented to the Ministry of Education, will be up for approval at the Board meeting in June.
- **Official Call for Nominations for DPAC Executive positions:**
SD83 DPAC has been a positive, effective and involved parent voice over the past several years. It is important that a strong parent voice continues to represent the perspectives of our families. DPAC asked some tough questions 4 years ago, that ultimately led to significant changes within SD83. We are proud of the contribution DPAC has made to changes in transparency, accountability and communication between the school district and our communities. For example, DPAC requested improved transparency and a broader understanding of the annual budget process. As an official stakeholder, the DPAC is offered seats on a variety of District committees:
We have representation at the Partner Group Liaison, Policy Committee, Budget Committee, Equity Committee and Communications Committee. We are also asked to assist in a variety of affairs such as Principal/Vice-Principal pool interviews.
DPACs advise the Board of Education on any matter relating to education in the School District. DPACs advocate for parental involvement in the education system and give input into the development of education policy.

Executive positions are one year terms with no more than three consecutive years. If no one has been nominated for an executive position, the current person can hold the position for an extension of one year by unanimous consent of quorum. The current executive consists of:

- Past President and Acting President - Kari Wilkinson, outgoing and not up for re-election
- Vice-President – Monica Seys, up for re-election
- Treasurer – Corryn Grayston, up for re-election
- Secretary – Erna Jacobs, outgoing and not up for re-election
- Director –
- Director –

For those interested to join the Executive, please send in some information about the nominee and the position the nominee would like to apply for. Vote will take place at the DPAC Annual General Meeting held in October 2019.

- **Saleema Noon Workshop:**

DPAC hosted 2 parent workshops about sexual health. The workshop was heavily advertised with posters on our DPAC website, our DPAC Facebook page, SD83 Facebook page, parent-directed email from the School District, email to Public Health Nurses and Doctor's Clinics, all principals and vice-principals at the School District to put the poster on the school's website, followed by a letter directed to all parents distributed by all principals and vice-principals via email, Friday AM add and hanging up posters in doctor's offices and community buildings.

Sarah Stark is part of the Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators Team and presented at both sessions in Enderby and SMS where parents learned why we need to talk to children about sexual health at a young age:

- Children who are educated about healthy bodies, healthy boundaries and healthy sexuality are at reduced risk of child sexual abuse.
- Young children are easiest to teach. They are excited to be body scientists and accept the information very matter-of-factly.
- Children today are exposed at earlier and earlier ages to all things involving sex. That's why it is so important to arm them with accurate information about sexual health and we need to teach them to think critically about what they hear and see.

Parents also learned what children should know at each stage of development, with specific examples of how to explain concepts and processes;

How to become their kids' preferred source of sexual health information;

How to normalize open, honest sexual health conversations in their family;

How to effectively answer even the toughest questions kids ask.

Checklists can be found in the attachments.

Another option is "**Resonate**", which is a free community-based education program based in Vernon that provides up-to-date, accurate information on healthy relationships and sexual choices. The program offers workshops to different audiences, student workshops, parent workshops and youth worker/educator workshops. The parent workshop equips and empowers parents to converse more naturally with their kids about healthy sexuality. More info can be found on resonateeducation.com.

7. **Technology:**

Operating systems that cannot be updated anymore can become a hazard; therefore, the School District applies a 4-year renewal cycle for computers. There is currently no educational technology plan in place, but one is being developed and will be finalized in May. The District receives \$166 per student for student technology upgrading every 4 years. For this money, the District can choose where they want to spend it on. There is an à-la-carte menu from which to choose: I-Pads, Chromebooks, laptops, tablets etc. It can also be spend on instruction to teachers to help with technology, webinars and help in the tech department.

8. **ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder):**

Some background information:

The Hewko (2005) lawsuit was started to fight for the right to ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) in BC classrooms. This lawsuit was won in BC and never appealed. In short, parents have the right to be part of the collaborative IEP process and they must be listened to and taken seriously. Secondly, the school must have instructional control over the child. This second part is very powerful for making sure there is an ABA trained aide with your child. However, getting an ABA trained aide is still not a guarantee. In some BC districts, parents continue to struggle or have to threaten to sue, while in other districts well trained ABA aides are provided.

Ministry of Child & Family Development (MCFD) gives families access up to \$22,000 per year per child up till the age of 6 to help pay for eligible autism intervention services and therapies i.e. a behaviour analyst (BA). SD83 did welcome the BA to be at the team meeting where the student's needs and plan of approach were discussed. A problem arose when the BA was not allowed to actively help the student in the classroom setting. As professional boundaries were broken in the past, these professionals are no longer allowed in the classroom in this District. The BA is a specialist in instructional control which is now missing.

According to SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES: A MANUAL OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES from the BC Ministry of Education 2016, "Many children with ASD receive services from other agencies. School personnel should work co-operatively with other agency staff to create services that are as integrated as possible."

Also, according to this Manual, "IEPs should identify any adaptation of student assessment procedures that are required to provide a fair appraisal of the knowledge and skills a student with ASD has acquired" (See: Appendix H.10 Relevant Governing Legislation: School Act – Ministerial Orders for more information about evaluation and reporting). Reporting about progress in school of a diagnosed ASD student is felt to be an issue. Also, parents do not feel confident how to read an IEP.

The fear from parents to loose support is very real and families face a gamut of issues when support is lacking.

SD83 doesn't have a policy in the policy binder regarding children with special needs or autism.

At this meeting, a motion was made by Christy W. that a DPAC subcommittee be established to initiate policy development surrounding support for students with ASD; seconded by Corene H. All in favor.

Second motion was made by Nikki van der M. that DPAC submit a policy to the policy committee to address support in the classroom for children with ASD; seconded by Shannon. All in favor.

9. **Report Mr. Ryan Brennan, Assistant Superintendent:**

- The School District projects a slight increase of 30 students for the next school year and is anticipating more growth the coming years, which means more money for the District. The enrolment for French Immersion is going down.
- International Student Program will be presented at SAS-Sullivan on April 30th, at PVSS on May 1st, at ERSS on May 2nd and at A.L. Fortune on May 7th.

10. Financial Report:

➤ Gaming Account :

- Balance as of February 28th, 2019: \$2,590.05

Income: \$0.20 interest.

- Balance as of March 31st, 2019: \$1,555.21

Income: \$0.16 interest.

Expenses: \$1,035.00 Saleema Noon Sexual Health Workshop in Enderby and Salmon Arm.

Motion made by Shannon S. to accept the financial reports for the gaming account; Nikki van der M. seconded; all in favor; Carried.

➤ General Account:

- Balance as of February 28th, 2019: \$2,256.33

Income: \$0.13 interest; \$778.00 FTE cheques

- Balance as of March 31st, 2019: \$2,256.52

Income: \$0.19 interest.

Motion made by Christy W. to accept the financial reports for the general account; Shannon S. seconded; all in favor; Carried.

11. Round Table:

Corryn G. has gathered some info to create a welcome package for parents who are new to the School District and/or have children going to Kindergarten or transition to another school. Work on this is in progress.

12. Next meeting: May 15, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m. at DESC in Salmon Arm.

13. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sandy T. at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erna Jacobs,
DPAC Secretary

