

## DPAC Minutes General Meeting

**Thursday February 21, 2019.**

1. Call to order @ 6:33 p.m.
2. Attendants: Carl Cooper, Isabelle Gervais, Corryn Grayston, Erna Jacobs, Yvonne Logan, Nikki van der Meer, Kerri Miller, Melissa Parmenter, Jill Pruner, Christy Wright.
3. Motion was made by Nikki van der M. to adopt the minutes of the general meeting January 24, 2019, seconded by Kerri M. and all attendants were in favour.
4. Business arising from the minutes:
  - SD83 will be phasing in Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) into each school over a three-year period. The Board of Education passed a motion to have AEDs installed. High schools and those farthest away from existing AEDs will be given early consideration. BC PAD Facilitator Kathy Crandlemire explained they are committed to mentor and train teachers on the AEDs. AEDs are invaluable if there is a sudden cardiac arrest. The shock can potentially stop an irregular heart beat and allow a normal rhythm to resume. AEDs are designed to be automated such that it can be used by persons without substantial medical training who are responding to a cardiac emergency. "The AED goes hand-in-hand with CPR." The two together can give up to a 75 per cent success rate. The AEDs are very easy to use and, simultaneously, the 9-1-1 operators will guide you through the process. Ongoing maintenance and security of the AEDs is of concern.
  - Indigenous Education Program Review: Anne Tenning, the new District Principal of Indigenous Education, and FNEC decided to have the Program reviewed as it was long overdue. Grad rates for indigenous students had dropped, as well as numeracy and literacy results compared to all-students results. How can this be improved and how can we better educate our indigenous students? A wide range of stakeholders including Indigenous education staff, teachers, support staff, principals and vice-principals, senior administration, students, Elders, Indigenous community members, parents and members of the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) were involved in the one-on-one interviews. The cost of this review was \$7,000.00. The report with findings and recommendations was received by the Board. Some changes have been implemented such as staff changes through reassignments, grad support to prevent drop out in grade 11 and an Indigenous Literacy support teacher.
5. South Canoe PAC Highlights:

South Canoe PAC is newly established with 4 Executive in place since the beginning of the school year when school doors had reopened. They are working on writing PAC's mission statement. The first year the PAC doesn't receive any Gaming Grants so they have to start with nothing. They work on projecting ideas i.e. a garden committee built up in steps over a 3-year period, developing a playground, and plan development stretching over 5-10 years. It is an enthusiastic group of parents: PAC meetings are attended by 18-20 people each month. Surveys are being done to see what parents want, to help the school. Parents donated gifts for a Christmas fundraiser which brought in over \$700.00 to start with in the PAC account. A hot lunch program was developed with the help of a caterer. Grades 1-5 help out with cooking: cutting vegetables for soup, making fresh bread. Many people donate time, money and knowledge.

Mrs. Isabelle Gervais, Principal of South Canoe Elementary School, explained what the Outdoor Learning experience is all about for students:

One of the big differences is that they spend A LOT of time (75%, except K which is 50%) outside in the woods, rivers, parks, fields and mountains of the Shuswap area. The students spend days working and studying in a particular location. We are careful to keep kids warm and safe and make sure they are always properly dressed; however, they will spend significant time outdoors when it's wet and cold. Proper clothes, good nutrition, and physical health are all important for students to benefit from what Outdoor Learning has to offer. Students are making birdfeeders, learning about bird species and how to care for them.

Parent participation is a driver for this Outdoor Program. Also, local community invites the school to help with for instance juicing apples, horses and green house activities. Students visit the Innovation Centre which promotes learning, creating, empowering and volunteering, as well as Lakeside Manor to interact with seniors. As Grade 7 will be added next school year, the school will grow to 120 students.

#### 6. Points of Discussion:

- DPAC wants to work on parent engagement. Some PACs have people who are all new to their school's PAC Executive and new to fundraising. They are a first-time parent and first time in the school system. Former PAC members can be of valuable support. Many parents are not aware of the day-to-day business of a school and therefore DPAC/PAC can create a welcome package for new parents which can include a mission statement, sessions to meet with parents, calendar with fundraisers to handout and this can all be part of PAC 101. This is not only valuable to K parents, but also with each school transition a student makes, for example a transition to Grade 8. DPAC can make a template for new parents which can be retrofitted to each school; some things are universal, other things are not. Other means to use for connecting are Facebook, direct email and PACs hosting DPAC meetings.
- FTE cheques which are meant to use for parent education have been generously donated to DPAC by the following schools:
  - Shuswap Middle School
  - M.V. Beattie Elementary School
  - A.L. Fortune Secondary School
  - Silver Creek Elementary School
  - Hillcrest Elementary School.

At this meeting DPAC received the FTE from Falkland Elementary School. Cheques from Carlin Elementary/Middle School and Rancho Elementary School are forthcoming. A huge THANK YOU! to all PACs of these schools to contribute. DPAC will be able to put on a workshop about Sexual Health focusing for now on the Middle School age group.

Also, DPAC will work on a parent workshop dealing with Substance (ab)use which also includes vaping.

- DPAC Executive will not be attending BCCPAC AGM this year, due to a shortage of funds and instead chooses to host parent workshops.

#### 7. Report Mr. Carl Cooper, Assistant Superintendent:

- The Budget Committee is established:
  - ✓ To advise the Board of Education on the allocation of the operating budget to various programs and services to best meet our student needs within variable revenues;
  - ✓ To provide the Board of Education with representative advice on budget issues and implications of proposed changes; new priorities and emerging opportunities, and to review past budget adjustments;
  - ✓ To provide a forum for open communication and understanding of the budget;
  - ✓ To assist in the effective and transparent communication regarding the school district's financial issues and decisions.

Around 10 meetings will be held between February and May; some include Partner Groups, some are In-Board work meetings and some are open to the general public.

- Enrolment over the past five years has increased with 470 students and continues to grow with an estimated 580 students over the next five years. School capacity was impacted by the restoration of teacher contract language which led to reduced class sizes increasing the need for an additional 23 class rooms from K-8. In secondary, staffing ratio also dropped creating the need for more classroom space. So far the space challenges in Enderby have been addressed with a reconfiguration, an additional bus route, and the installation of a portable. As well, the South Canoe Outdoor Learning Program was also opened, in part, to relieve space challenges in the Salmon Arm area.

Space challenges for the coming years are seen at SMS, Jackson, South Canoe. AES is at capacity. The Board passed a motion setting aside up to \$35,000 for the development of The Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) which is a mechanism for School Districts to effectively demonstrate that proper facility planning is taking place and it is also required by the Ministry. City councils in the School District are working together and sharing information with the District to get a clear picture for present and future growth planning.

- Music Program Review and assessment can be viewed online. FTE staffing has increased in Elementary, but has dropped in Middle and High school. Especially in higher grades, students want choice in what they want to play; transport of an instrument is also challenging as the District is bound to transportation guidelines. The report reveals that there is a need for support and guidance in a music specialist's practice and currently no one has taken up this mantle. If poor practice is not appropriately addressed, the negative result for students, parents, and the school community at large is problematic. One of the concluding observations is that support and management of music specialists cannot be performed by a teacher-coordinator. While site-based Principals should have immediate responsibility for the staff, support of a music teacher who requires assistance might be best aided by a specialist. The district may wish to reconsider reinstating the position of Vice-Principal of Music. The Board passed a recommendation that the senior leadership team consider re-instating the Vice-Principal position from the current District Music Co-ordinator, as per recommendation.

- The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) is a group of educators who are available to collaborate, mentor, share and coach other educators, mainly in the area of the new curriculum, but it has grown to include areas such as communicating student learning. They work together to explore purposeful learning for students through collaborative professional partnerships. So far, 86 partnerships have formed exceeding expectations leading to improved teaching and student learning. This is a District program and is being paid by the District. There are plans to expand.
- The Downtown Activity Centre (DAC) has been sold which was finalized at the end of January 2019. Proceeds from the sale (\$435,000) will be allocated to Local Capital for future capital purchases, as determined by the Board.
- The Lenwood Middle School gym is not suitable for its purpose and would need \$1.5 million to be improved. Maintenance versus newly built is being weighed against another. Maintenance is being paid from the Annual Facilities Grant for floors, roofs etc. Facilities Manager Trevor Bettcher inspects school buildings regularly. Due to increased construction costs, the District is experiencing additional cost pressures on many Annual Facilities Grant and School Enhancement Program projects. This has required deferral of some projects that were previously approved, including some re-roofing and painting projects, and the addition of several projects which needed to be completed.

8. Financial Report:

- Gaming Account :  
Balance as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019: \$2,589.85  
Income: \$0.22 interest.  
Expense: \$9.00 for 24 counter cheques.  
\$85.00 for Angst documentary screening at PVSS.
- General Account:  
Balance as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019: \$1,478.20  
Income: \$0.05 interest.  
\$230.00 FTE cheque donation from SMS.  
Expense: \$1,063.72 reimbursement from BCCPAC

Motion made by Yvonne L. to accept the financial reports for both gaming and general account; Melissa P. seconded; all in favor; Carried.

9. Round Table:

Fundraising ideas: Apply for Canada Post grant; earn money through the Flip-Give App; what other fundraising ideas do you have and what grants have you applied for?

10. Next meeting: April 25, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m. at A.L. Fortune Secondary.

Other meeting dates are set for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Falkland Elementary School, and June 20<sup>th</sup>.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erna Jacobs, DPAC Secretary.

