

DPAC Minutes General Meeting

Thursday September 19, 2019.

1. Call to order @ 6:30 p.m.
2. Attendants: Carl Cooper, Shelly Cull, Lerae Gidyk (Zoom), Corryn Grayston, Shantley Hunter, Megan Jackson, Erna Jacobs, Nikki van der Meer (Zoom), Trisha Mclean, Kelly Stalker, Adina Strotmann, Sandy Thon, Katherine Watson, Christy Wright.
Guests: Trustee Marty Gibbons (Zoom), Trustee Tennile Lachmuth, Trustee Marianne VanBuskirk.
3. Motion was made by Sandy T. to adopt the minutes of the general meeting June 20, 2019, seconded by Christ W.; carried.
4. **Business arising from the previous meeting**: Under #7, the proposal for 2019/2020 DPAC meeting dates and venues is a fluid document especially related to the November, February and May meetings. We will reach out to PACs and ask who wants to participate in a draw for a meeting to be held in these particular months. The October, January, April and June meetings can be held at the DESC or at a Salmon Arm school. Grindrod DPAC Rep. Sandy T. expressed interest to have a DPAC meeting at their school. For info on DPAC meeting dates go to the DPAC website. We will also ask for feedback on starting time at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. DPAC meetings fall right in the middle, as Board Meetings are before and Partner Group Liaison Meetings are after the DPAC meetings.
5. **Falkland Elementary School PAC highlights**:
The school has 103 students including StrongStart students which have a good coordinator. Everyone is new to the PAC and there is good attendance. They are conducting the Davison apple fundraiser at the moment with many more fundraisers coming. DPAC wants to put forward a PAC101 project to help new members understand what a PAC is about and how to run it financially. Carlin Elementary/Middle initiated a Budget Boot camp. Another tidbit: if items for PAC are purchased, only these particular items should appear on the receipt, nothing else.
6. **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.

DPAC has made some changes to their Constitution & Bylaws to shift the AGM from July to October to give parents ample room to think about joining the DPAC Executive.

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 October 17, 2019 at the DESC.

7. Survey on Education Sessions:

DPAC has created a survey which will go out to PACs next week to ask PACs for feedback about parent education options i.e. vaping, inclusive education, math workshop etc.

8. Diverse Abilities Advocacy Committee:

DPAC recognized the need for a focus group for parents who have children with diverse abilities, as they face challenges in and out of school. A subcommittee was created in which parents discussed underpinning the committee with its own Terms of Reference, which was finalized in September. Regular meetings will continue.

9. DPAC Leadership Summit November 15 & 16, 2019 in Richmond:

Corryn G. plans to attend this summit. Some topics of last year's summit included: Creating Healthy and Safe Learning Environments; Student Learning Survey for Parents; Policy for Student Success: Professional Regulation of BC teachers and the BC Redesigned Curriculum. Motion to attend this summit, with an amendment to allow a maximum of \$1,200.00 for travel per summit was made by Christy W., seconded by Sandy T., all in favor and carried.

10. Report Mr. Carl Cooper:

Enrollment in the District is up 60 students for elementary schools and will even out or be slightly under projections for high schools. Overall there has been growth over the past 4 years. This means that this creates space challenges. The Long Range Facilities Plan will address this through a public document how to address these challenges for which consultation and input from the public is required.

Funding and resources are in place for 49 newly identified students. CEAs started right away in September, which hasn't been the case previously. There is some movement of CEAs in the District and 95% of supports are moved where they best meet the needs. A protected status student has high needs and CEAs need specific qualifications to work with these students.

Educational Technology Plan provides and maintains appropriate technology for staff and students so they can access meaningful resources to support curricular goals and increase student achievement. Students will have increased access to electronic resources and knowledge-based resources. District technology infrastructure will be maintained or upgraded as required. It promotes the use of technology as a means to grow communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills in our students.

September 20th is Pro-D day. A teacher summit will be held with a focus on numeracy and math concerns. A numeracy team is in place to facilitate; parent workshops can be facilitated during the school year.

Trustee Tennile Lachmuth presides over the Policy Committee and asks 2 DPAC reps to join the committee. Many policies are ready for first reading. Petitions to the provincial government concerning vaping are written and many letters also concerning exempt staff expenses. AED for Falkland Elementary School is included in the 3-year dispersal plan approved by the Board of Education. Schools that have received AEDs so far were donated by community businesses.

Trustee Marianne VanBuskirk appreciates the strong voice of parents communicating their concerns to the Board and Senior Leadership Team.

Trustee Marty Gibbons presides over the Partner Group Liaison and wants to check the pulse regarding the Watson Report: How are we doing as a Board and District? Parents can be a participant as the Board needs to hear info from the public, also from PACs and DPAC.

11. Financial Report:

➤ Gaming Account :

- Balance as of June 30th, 2019: \$1,460.53

Income: \$0.12 interest.

Expenses: \$23.42 supplies Kari Wilkinson; \$71.62 supplies Erna Jacobs.

- Balance as of July 31st, 2019: \$1,310.64

Income: \$0.11 interest.

Expenses: BCCPAC membership \$150.00.

- Balance as of August 31st, 2019: \$1,310.70

Income: \$0.06 interest.

Motion to adopt the financial report for the Gaming Account made by Christy W., seconded by Adina S, all in favor; Carried.

➤ General Account:

- Balance as of June 30th, 2019: \$2,219.93

Income: \$0.18 interest.

Expenses: \$40.14 supplies Erna Jacobs; \$33.22 supplies Kari Wilkinson

- Balance as of July 31st, 2019: \$2,220.10

Income: \$0.17 interest.

- Balance as of August 31st, 2019: \$2,220.19

Income: \$0.09 interest.

Motion to adopt the financial report for the General Account made by Sandy T.; seconded by Christy W. seconded; all in favor; Carried.

12. **Round Table:**

Vaping is of great concern to parents, especially when it happens in more confined spaces like a school bus. It not only has an effect on the one who vapes, but also has an effect on the students that are in that same space. There are video cameras on busses which could be monitored by the District to see which student is in offense.

Other students can report to the administrator, but that is less likely to happen which is a challenge.

Policy of cigarettes applies also to vaping. The question arose what is the effect on others (students and bus drivers) and how can we mitigate the effects on others and keep our kids safe, which is very difficult to answer right now. Filtration was mentioned. There is a legal obligation to make sure it doesn't happen on buses, washrooms etc. It is everyone's responsibility.

The Vernon School District is approaching this problem with the following: It is a targeted strategy starting with a survey among grade 6 and 7 students and which relies on statistics and research. They hired Dr. Krank from the University of British Columbia Okanagan. Dr. Krank is currently pursuing a number of projects examining ways to support healthy thinking and choices to reduce substance abuse in youth. These projects include assisting in the delivery and evaluation of Preventure, a personality-based intervention, and developing Healthy Automatic, Intentions, and Thoughts (HABIT) as a program for Grade 6 and 7 students. The goals include reducing the initiation and escalation of substance use in early teens (ages 12 – 16) and the reduction of substance abuse in youth 17-24. These projects target changing risky cognitions that arise from social influences and are associated with changes in substance use. The approach uses what we know about cognitive processing to modify cognitive biases that lead to higher risk substance use. A micro grant is available for education about vaping.

The October Board meeting will have a presentation by teacher Graham Gomme and his students about substance abuse and counselling; resources will be put to vaping; student voices will be included in the discussion as they need to stand up for themselves.

13. Motion made by Sandy T. to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erna Jacobs, DPAC Secretary

