



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

Approved Minutes: January 23, 2020 Regular Meeting
SD79 School Board Office, Duncan
Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Board Room)

Call to Order 7:01 p.m.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions.

Voting Attendees

Aurelia MacInnis – George Bonner Elementary Vice Chair/DPAC Rep
Carmen Sundstrom – DPAC Chair, Drinkwater DPAC Rep, Quamichan Chair
Heidi Hunton – DPAC Treasurer, Bench DPAC Rep
Mary Souter - Mill Bay Nature School DPAC Rep
Bevis Green - Quamichan Secondary DPAC Rep
Ann-Marie Braithwaite - Discovery Elementary DPAC Rep
Meredith McAdam - Maple Bay Elementary, DPAC Rep
Lizzi Johnson - Frances Kelsey DPAC Rep
Amber Marsh – DPAC Vice Chair, École Mt. Prevost DPAC Rep/Treasurer
Keirsten Tymko - Chemainus Elementary DPAC Rep
Matthew MacAlister - Alexander Elementary DPAC Rep
Katie Robertson – Chemainus Secondary DPAC Rep

Non-Voting Attendees

David McDowell - George Bonner Elementary Chair
Robyn Gray - SD79 Superintendent
Joe Thorne - SD79 Board Trustee

Regrets:

Caroline Kirman –Cowichan Secondary Chair/DPAC Rep

2. MOTION: *To adopt the agenda as amended.* Moved by Bonner; seconded by Chemainus Elementary. Carried.

3. MOTION: *To approve the minutes from November 21, 2019 meeting.* Moved by Quamichan; seconded by Chemainus Elementary. Carried.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chair

- New High School for Cowichan Secondary has been announced. Ministry of Education and SD79 Board are in discussions with details pertaining to the new school.

- Invitation to all PACs to have Carmen attend their PAC meetings. An email reminder will go out to school regarding this opportunity.
- Fire in Lake Cowichan School, sprinklers did go off which has caused some damage. DPAC has reached out to Robyn Gray to offer support/assistance to the classes affected.

4.2 SD79 Admin - Robyn Gray, Superintendent

- Strategic Plan – 2020 through to 2024 has been finalized and formally approved in January. SD79 will be providing more information to be released online and paper copies will come the school. Four themes that emerged are Indigenous ways of knowing and being, culture of care in our community, a system that is future focused and all about learning. Further development through community consultation, which will continue as strategies/actions are put into place.
- Ignite and Bite – 3rd learning session has been completed – open to all educators, sessions focussed on various topics of importance i.e. Mental health/indigenous understanding.
- Parent learning sessions – SD79, working with their learning team (principals, teachers etc.) offering opportunities to bring together the parent community through evening of sharing and learning. Booked for March 2, 6-7:30pm @ Quamichan. Snacks will be provided. Primary presenter followed by various short discussion sessions. Attendees can choose up to 4 discussions.
- Cowichan Secondary – New build. Has been in the works for many years, very exciting time to see it happen. Design build phase is beginning where the board is working to engage our community partners, VIU and Cowichan Tribes are primary partners. Due to small footprint school will be 2-3 stories and up to 1100 students with option to expand to 1500.
- Snow days – Decision to call the recent snow days have a process that begins early (3:30am). The SD79 starts with the team that drives the areas and determines the risks/safety on the roads, trails and sidewalks. More than half the schools' population rely on busing. Decision is made by 6am.
- Kindergarten Lottery for choice schools will occur on Friday. Parents will be notified on Friday by the school's Principal.
- Somenos school – Community meeting, January 27th, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Somenos Elementary. The meeting is about the future of the Somenos School (Parkside Academy). Jason Sandquist will be presenting about the process and what is involved for the school district to go through the process of "disposal" of the school.

4.3 Board of Education – Joe Thorne, Trustee SD79

Joe has been working with the communities to form better, positive relationships with first nations people. Joe attended a Vancouver meeting where he was the first ever BC School Trustees' Association's (BCSTA) First Elder and Knowledge Keeper. Joe is keen on equality education for all students and creating beneficial change for everyone. Our school board is working with several bands to gain a mutual understanding and work towards positive change. Joe praises the community and SD for all the work everyone is doing and the accomplishments that are being made by our district as we become leading examples for BC.

4.4 Treasurer – Heidi Hunton, report attached.

Heidi presents the draft budget and discusses some of the changes. Library budget a bit less, used to provide resources/references for parents. Increase to the VI Parent Conference funding. Line items not used in years have been removed.

Motion: To adopt the DPAC budget. Moved by Mt Prevost and seconded by Discovery. Carried.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Secretary position

Chair, Carmen Sundstrom does the 1st call for nominations for secretary – Carmen nominates Ann-Marie Braithwaite and Aurelia as co-secretaries. Both agree to the nomination. 2nd call for nominations, no other nominations, 3rd and final call for nominations, no other nominations. Discussion on the role being shared, Ann-Marie agrees to be the primary secretary, voting right for DPAC executive and Aurelia to be the back-up secretary in Ann-Marie's absence.

By acclamation, Ann-Marie is DPAC Secretary, Aurelia is noted as back up secretary, both will have signing authority.

Motion: *Minutes of this meeting, showing the new/back-up secretary information to be sent to the bank to finalize the signing authorities for DPAC executive this year.*

Moved by Mt. Prevost and seconded by Alexander. Carried

5.2 Parent Education

5.2.1 IEP Workshop – Nov 26th Report to DPAC, Approximately 15 attendees to the workshop. Many good discussions and sharing of information. Student presence was beneficial to the discussion. The panel was a good addition to the session.

5.2.2 Screenagers, The Next Chapter – No updates at this time.

5.2.3 PAC 101 – Plan is coming together; idea is to bring in the PAC executives of all the schools and parents who may be interested in executive roles. Start with a 10-15 min speaker and then break out into their positions, chair, co-chair, treasurer etc. Share information/resources to support current executives. Provide information about BCCPAC. Likely will be a weeknight, but it has been suggested to offer a weekend session. Date for PAC 101 TBD but aiming for late March/ early April.

5.2.4 Vaping presentation – will be discussed in the Parent Ed section of this meeting.

5.3 DPAC Rep Code of Ethics

Carmen reviews the code of ethics and purpose and will be following up with all PACs to ensure we have everyone signed as DPAC reps.

5.4 VIPC - Register & Poster

Posters available, deadline for early bird is Jan 30th. Each elementary has 1 free code and each secondary has 2 free codes. Please use them. Please take a poster for your school.

5.5 Tech/Computer/iPad Concerns

Originally brought forward by George Bonner. DPAC would like to speak to the SD79 IT dept, Glen Posey, to hear their side of the technology plan for schools and the concern/challenge the district has with PACs bringing in alternate options to iPad. Plan is to try to get Glen to come to a DPAC meeting, possibly February. George Bonner's primary concern is the iPads are not meeting curriculum requirements or the needs of the teachers as the computer labs are transitioning out of schools.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Parent Education

Julie-Ann Richards – Wednesday, January 29, Ecole Cobble Hill – 6-8 p.m. Register at Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/parent-presentation-on-childhood-anxiety-by-julie-anne-richards-tickets-85525718727?aff=ebdssbeac>

Shelley Moore – Thursday, January 30, Quamichan School @ 4-5:30 p.m. Register at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shelley-moore-talks-inclusion-tickets-90234143753>

VIPC – Saturday, February 29, Belmont Secondary all day, Register online or with free code from DPAC. www.vipc.ca

Parent Learning Night – March 2, hosted by SD79, variety of sessions for parents to attend. Posters handed out. No registration is required

Vaping Presentation – Rebekah Kirk, VIHA. Quamichan @ 6:30 – 8 p.m. Eventbrite registration information TBA.

Screenagers - Quamichan is interested in showing it to their students. Licensing may enable more showings as the license is for a period of time. Details regarding date/time and registration TBA.

PAC 101 – Details regarding date/time and registration TBA.

6.2 Musical Instrument Donations

Mike, local to Cowichan, does repairs on guitars and amps etc. He is looking for instrument donations to fix and clean up to then return to kids that need them. Mike is willing to create a library. Contact Mike if you have donations or if a school has a need or wish list instruments.

Mike's contact: 250.597.0588 email: mylistingsaccount@hotmail.com

6.3 BCCPAC Resolutions, Awards, Nominations

BCCPAC needs to receive any of the resolutions, awards and nominations by February 28th to be able to include in the AGM in May. Please go <https://bccpac.bc.ca/> for further information.

6.4 Constitutions and Bylaws

DPAC is asking all PACs to review their constitutions and bylaws and update them as they see is necessary. DPAC is reviewing their documents as well.

6.5 Regulation balls for schools

Chemainus Secondary PAC has been asked by their school to purchase regulation volleyballs. They are told BC Sports decides which balls/sports equipment is allowed into the schools. Currently they do not have regulation volleyballs. Carmen will check with Robyn to confirm this information and understand if there are funds available to the schools to purchase these regulations balls already.

6.6 PENS

Personal Education Number – the province is looking at proposing PENS be given to children earlier and linked to the healthcare card. Currently children receive a PEN when they enrol in an educational program such as Strong Start or Kindergarten, but not before this. Benefits to ensure those needing additional support will be able to get it as soon as they enter the educational system without the delays b/c this information will be connected to their PEN

7.0 ADJORNMENT

Without objection Chair, Carmen Sundstrom moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Next meeting: February 20, 2020

Submitted by Ann-Marie Braithwaite, DPAC Secretary

Attachments:

- January 23, 2020 Approved Agenda
- DPAC Treasurer's report
- DPAC 2019-2020 Approved Budget