



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

**Approved Minutes: May 21, 2020, AGM
via Zoom**

Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions – We are having our meeting via zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Voting Attendees

Carmen Sundstrom – DPAC Chair and Drinkwater DPAC Rep, Quamichan Chair

Amber Marsh – DPAC Vice Chair and École Mt. Prevost DPAC Rep/Treasurer

Heidi Hunton – DPAC Treasurer and Bench, DPAC Rep

Aurelia MacInnis – DPAC- Co Secretary and George Bonner Elementary, Vice Chair/DPAC Rep

Ann-Marie Braithwaite – DPAC Co-Secretary and Discovery Elementary, DPAC Rep

Katie Robertson – Chemainus Secondary, DPAC Rep

Caroline Kirman – Cowichan Secondary, PAC Chair/DPAC Rep

Sylvia Cox – École Cobble Hill, DPAC Rep

Jane Worton – Mt. Prevost, Fundraising coordinator

Mary Souter - Mill Bay Nature School, DPAC Rep

Matt Mcalister – Alexander, DPAC Rep

Andrew Wilson – Drinkwater

April Foster - Crofton Elementary

Cynthia Lockrey – Mt. Prevost

Jenn -Khowhemun, Vice Chair

Meredith – Maple Bay, DPAC Rep

Shelby –

Vicki – Mt. Prevost, Chair

Non-Voting Attendees

Robyn Gray - SD79 Superintendent

Tom Longridge – SD79 Assistant Superintendent

Barb de Groot - SD79 Board Trustee

Jason Sandquist – Secretary Treasurer, SD79

Larry Mattin – SD79 Director

Naomi Nilsson – Teacher’s Union

Trina - Discovery Elementary, Chair

2. **MOTION:** *To adopt the agenda as amended.* Moved by Bonner; seconded by Alex Aitken. Carried.
3. **MOTION:** *To approve the minutes from February 20, 2020 meeting.* Moved by Bonner; seconded by Ecole Cobble Hill. Carried.
4. **AGM Election of DPAC Executive – facilitated by Robyn Gray.**
- 4.1 Chair – Nominations for Chair – Carmen Sundstrom - called 3 times – no further nominations, by acclimation Carmen Sundstrom is the DPAC Chair
- 4.2 Vice Chair -Nominations for Vice Chair – Amber Marsh - called 3 times – no further nominations, by acclimation Amber Marsh is the DPAC Vice Chair
- 4.3 Secretary – Nominations as co-secretary roles Aurelia MacInnis and Ann-Marie Braithwaite to share the role – called 3 times, no further nominations. By acclimation – Aurelia and Ann-Marie are the co-secretaries
- 4.4 Treasurer – No nominations for Treasurer – called 3 times – no nominations received. Carmen asked Heidi Hunton to stand as acting Treasurer until a new treasurer is elected, Heidi accepted.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chair

- THANK YOU for the dedication, patience and support that the school district and district learning team have provided. This huge thank you also goes out to our teachers, EAs, Administration, Students and Parents!!!!
- Review of the DPAC Executive work this year to date:
 - updating and amended our Constitution and Bylaws Therefore, this is only our 3rd meeting with this executive.
 - We have worked hard on hosting and financially supporting Parent Education;
 - Shelley Moore
 - VIPC
 - Vaping
 - Parent Learning Night w/ the School District and District Learning Team
 - We were also working on doing a PAC 101, hosting the movie Screenagers, and the Emergency Preparedness and Community Recovery presentation. These have been postponed until at least the fall.
 - Terms of Reference for our ad hoc committees – IEP committee will need more active members to continue. We will revisit this in the fall.
- Carmen has attended 2 PAC meetings. Invitation still open to come to any PAC meeting and talk about DPAC and support the PAC.

5.2 SD79 Admin - Robyn Gray, Superintendent

- Thanks to DPAC and parents for all the support and patience given to learners during this time.
- COVID 19 Response from District: District team has stepped up to manage the ever-changing work during this pandemic to meet the needs of our district. Team at the district level, partnering with community
 - online learning going
 - supporting learners from home through food hampers

- teachers putting together plans for remote learning, creating websites and increasing communication home.

District's unique situation as we started spring break early, many people were travelling during this time and had to return home early.

District has worked closely with the local health office Shannon Waters, developing strategies to move through the stages in accordance with the Ministry guidelines and realizing this may be in place for 18 months or more.

Teams are working hard to meet the June 1, return to school. District response team, Health and Safety, Technology, Operations etc. many depts involved.

- Stage 3 – K-12 Restart plan – 4100 surveys done of a possible 8257, 51% planning to send their children.
- K-5 students coming back to schools,
- 20% Grade 6-7 may also come in.
- Survey showed 51% are interested in attending.
- Option for children of ESW, children requiring additional support are welcome to come 5 days/week.

Kelly Kinghorn, Health and Safety SD79:

SD79 is following the guidelines put out by BCCDC (BC Centre for Disease Control). Traffic patterns, classroom layout with reduced numbers, younger ages focused on the no contact, older students physical distancing. Hand washing protocols. Limiting access to the schools, separate entrances, families/public being asked to not come in the school but to communicate on the phone. Cleaning protocols in place, occupancy in shared space guidelines, etc.

Opened to questions:

Q – What types of chemicals are being used in the cleaning products?

A – Govt of Canada has a list of disinfectants specific to COVID – District is using a product on this list. Common solution is diluted solution of bleach to clean the high touch surfaces and be used by staff and is listed as safe for immediate use. Higher level cleaner, used by custodial staff, is a deeper cleaner and requires a dwell time (time needed to disinfect) used in the evening, and is neutralized by the time students return the next day.

Q – Will students backpacks etc. be disinfected?

A – There will be information about what can be brought into the school

Further questions on Health and Safety, Kelly is available to be contacted separately.

Robyn continued

- Challenges the District is facing:
 - Transportation is a constraint the district is facing and looking for the best solution to ensure all students can get to/from school safely.
 - Maximize the time for students. Doing less days, but full days. Elementary – 2 consecutive days, keep families together on the attending days. Try to keep friends together (social/emotional well-being). Organizing students and teachers into cohorts to minimize mixing/risks.
 - Teachers having a day to continue to do the remote/online learning, 4 days of the week spent with students in class.

- Staggering recess and lunch times. Take students outside as often as possible.
- Develop traffic patterns - less contact this way.
- Limit movement of students. Teachers moving rather than classrooms moving. I.e. Band teacher comes into each class vs students going to the Band room.
- Cowichan Secondary School replacement – is going forward. Hired a chief project officer.

5.3 Board of Education – Randy Doman, Trustee SD79

Resiliency is being learned by everyone. How to do things differently and it is a good learning opportunity for everyone. We will come out of it with more empathy. Thanks to DPAC for the support provided to the parents/students/staff and district.

5.4 Jason Sandquist, Secretary Treasurer, SD79

Budget has grown by \$2.2 million due to the Teachers agreement being reached. Budget very close to being completed. Documents available on the SD79 website. Budget is over \$100 million. Some changes will be coming this year due to COVID, reduce International Student Program, increase support for TTOC etc. staffing fulfillment when staff are sick.

5.5 Treasurer – Heidi Hunton, report attached.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Parent Education

- Thank you to the District and the District Learning Team who put on a such a valuable Parent Learning Night. There was so much information and everyone who attended gain some knowledge. Would love to see this become a tradition!
- Vaping Workshop had approx. 20 attendees. It focused a bit too much on the science of the product vs. the science of the using the product.

6.2 BCCPAC - AGM

- AGM online on May 2nd with over 360 members from over 47 districts attending!
- There was only 1 person nominated for each position, the 4 nominees were elected into office.
- Financial report and proposed their budget that was voted on.
- Member Award Winners Announced. Congrats to everyone!

You can see more information on their website. It was so well organized and professional. Andrea Sinclair does an amazing job as the BCCPAC President, very dedicated.

An important note, since classroom instruction were suspended, BCCPAC has been invited and attended each Ministerial teleconference meeting and has the same information as our educational partners and is ensuring a parent voice is present at all these meetings. Huge thank you to the BCCPAC for being there for parents.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 The location of the new Wellness Recovery Centre

Though the Cowichan Leadership Group (which included the school district) was in discussion and pushed for this centre, it is our understanding that no one involved from our valley was made aware of the location prior to the announcement, including parents.

Concerns we have:

- The announced location, 5878 York Road. 5-minute walk from Alexander Elementary and Quamichan school.
- On direct route for students at Quamichan who walk to lunch destinations.
- As parents, we are concerned of the extra foot traffic and the possible illegal activities that may take place.

We, DPAC Exec, have drafted a letter with our intent to direct to VIHA, and cc the Cowichan Leadership Group. See Appendix for the Letter to the VIHA.

Note: Carmen has received an email from Trustee Spilsbury, stating that any inquiries should be addressed to Shannon Water, VIHA. It is our decision if we want to just send to her or cc the members listed on the letter that was emailed out.

Motion: to send the letter direct to VIHA and cc in the following:

- William Seymour, Chief, Cowichan Tribes
- Michelle Staples, Mayor, City of Duncan
- Al Siebring, Mayor, Municipality of North Cowichan
- Rod Peters, Mayor, Lake Cowichan
- Aaron Stone, Chair, Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Sonia Fursteneau, MLA
- Alistair MacGregor, MP
- Candace Spilsbury, Chair, School District 79 School Board
- Dr. Shannon Waters, Medical Health Officer, Island Health
- Inspector Chris Bear, North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP

Motion by Ecole Mt. Prevost, seconded by Chemainus Secondary.

8.0 Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting: September 17, 2020

Submitted by Ann-Marie Braithwaite, DPAC Secretary

Attachments:

- February 20, 2020 Approved Agenda
- DPAC Treasurer's report
- Letter to VIHA regarding concerns of the new Wellness Recovery Centre.