



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

Minutes: October 15, 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 Quamichan Chair
Amber Marsh – DPAC Vice Chair & École Mt. Prevost Treasurer
Trina Eisnor – DPAC Treasurer & Discovery Chair
Aurelia MacInnis – DPAC- Co Secretary and George Bonner Elementary, Vice Chair/DPAC Rep
Ann-Marie Braithwaite – DPAC Co-Secretary and Discovery Elementary, DPAC Rep
Lizzi Johnson – Frances Kelsey, DPAC Rep
Meredith McAdam – Maple Bay, DPAC Rep
Andrew Wilson – Drinkwater DPAC Rep
Cynthia Lockrey – Ecole Mt. Prevost, DPAC Rep and DPAC IEP Committee
Jill Woodley – Khowhemun, DPAC Rep
Sarah Milne – Ecole Cobble Hill, DPAC Rep
Taryn Leduc – Bench Elementary, DPAC Rep
Jenn Ertel – Quamichan, DPAC Rep
Lindy Kennedy – Cowichan Secondary, DPAC Rep

Non-Voting Attendees

Robyn Gray - SD79 Superintendent
Tom Longridge – SD79 Assistant Superintendent
Joe Thorne - SD79 Board Trustee
Anita Carroll – Ecole Mt. Prevost, Parent

2. MOTION: *To adopt the agenda as amended.* Moved by Frances Kelsey; seconded by Bench. Carried.

3. MOTION: *To approve the minutes from Sept 17, 2020 meeting.* Moved by Mt. Prevost; seconded by Bench. Carried.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chair

- DPAC please send us your current updated information for PAC executives so we can continue to support each PAC.
- DPAC provides support, can help mediate and help answer questions at the district level. Carmen is offering to meet with PACs at their meetings to give a small presentation about PACs/DPAC and BCCPAC.
- Please continue to reach out to us with questions/ideas you may have.

- Email has been received from North Cowichan, looking for community engagement. More information will be shared as we learn more about this opportunity

4.2 SD79 Admin - Robyn Gray, Superintendent

- This year has been a challenging year, and the district appreciates parents and community for their support through these new conditions we are all experiencing.
- Funding update: The additional grant has enabled the remote transition program for over 350 students and their families this fall.
 - Supporting full time equivalent services for new teachers/outreach workers and additional custodial support and health and safety measures being implemented through out the district.
 - District developed the program quickly and it is now fully underway for the past 2 weeks.
- Enrolment update: we are down 33 students from last year. Many families chose the DL option. We also have many who have opted for the remote learning. Projections are not far off from the initial projections.
- New Cowichan Secondary project is well into creating the design/build phase and we are reviewing the proposals that came forward and may be ready to announce this in November. By late spring 2021 we hope to have the design/build team in place and will start to see progress.
- Wendy's house has moved off Cowichan site onto Quamichan site. Lots of work/activity going on there.
- District getting ready to announce the new logo, it is in the final stages. Designed by Stuart Pagaduan
- A few things to note: Small fire at CSS in maintenance building, power outage where Chemainus Secondary students were recommended to stay home. Thanks to the maintenance crew, fire dept and RCMP for supporting the school and doing a great job. Only had to move a few classes and the next day things were back where they needed to be.
- Communicating student learning: This year many changes with reporting. Teachers will be providing ongoing communication on student learning and how your child may be doing in school. The new form B will be in place for elementary students and parents will be seeing communication from the high schools as well by the halfway mark in the new quarter system that is being used this year.
 - Coincides with the Ministry of Educations expectations for all districts to be reporting this way now.
 - Points of Progress – at least 3 x, but each school may do it at different times.

6.2 -Moved up – Student Safety Parent Feedback Survey - from Quamichan

- School Board wanted the full picture from Quamichan community (students/families) and are concerned about the 8/9 students passing the York St. Corridor on a regular basis. The number of homeless people and risky behaviour has the board very concerned.
- District working with RCMP, North Cowichan and City of Duncan who works with the safety corridor office area where they hired security members.
- Greater RCMP and security presence in the area has made noticeable changes to the environment.
- Added another noon hour supervisor to Quamichan

- RCMP do want people to report ANY incident. They need to hear from the community if there are issues. No reporting means no documentation and less data then for those that need to have the data and be able to make assessments of the area and risks.
- District put out a survey went out to parents/students/quam admin. Doing a safety audit as well. Will engage the RCMP after the audit is done by a 3rd party. Environmental assessment on crime prevention. Waiting for this information.
- Quam admin has done their own survey and spoken to students. Overall results 62% don't want the campus to be a closed campus, it impacts the student's independence and feel pretty safe. Don't penalize the students b/c of the wrongdoings of others.
- Board will continue to review this and are looking forward to the results of the safety audit.

Comment: Anita, goes to Quamichan with the nursing students and does want to commend the changes that have occurred. Thanks to those you sit on the corner and the extra security/RCMP. Huge shift. We can come together as a community and have a conversation without shaming and work to make the area safe. She also notes the Quamichan Admin have been actively out there as well to ensure the safety of students.

Rob, works with Phoenix, who is out there all the time. We recognize the need for have compassion for the folks that are out there and in need of support.

4.3 Board of Education – Joe Thorne, Trustee SD79

Thank you to our staff/community throughout the district. He is very proud of our community to help and support making the York area safer.

- 2 Indigenous Education boards and a subcommittee. Looking at partners within the community. We are looking at BC Trustees association, dealing with a lot of different bands and how they are doing things. Lots of focus on curriculum and how to best move forward to create positive change. Very proud of everyone in these crazy times working to get things changed and move forward.

4.4 Treasurer – Trina Eisnor

Report shared to zoom meeting.

See Attachments.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Back to school restart plan

No concerns are raised, fluid situation. Schools are ready to adapt if necessary.

5.2 Zoom

We have had great response from PACs utilizing the Zoom licenses.

- We are asking PACs to make the request a 1 week in advance of the meeting to ensure we can get the time booked and information out to them/their PACs.
- DPAC Exec all work FT and this is a volunteer position. We had a few last minute requests that we may not be able to get to next time.

5.3 IEP - Cynthia Lockrey

We started this committee, (IEP = Individual Education Plan) a few years ago and would like to see it more active. Will support parents/students and be more collaborative to find improvements that will benefit families/students that need this support so much.

- Students who have difficulty learning and functioning and may be identified as a student with special needs.
- IEPs are created for the student's success, with possible support services or modified ways of instruction, etc.
- The way to achieve this is with more members join them. Please bring this info back to your PAC and if you have members interested, please have them email the DPAC and we will connect everyone.
- We will be holding an informal meeting next Thursday, October 22 6:30pm
- The goal of the committee is to provide support to parents and build the success of student's education. One PAC in the district has started their own IEP Committee.
- Would like to bring in speakers on topics that would support the IEP students/families. Ie. Anxiety speaker.
- 1 in 10 kids have some sort of challenge

Tom Longridge: appreciate the comments here and more dialogue is better. Some people might be in a different position in the spectrum of knowledge and understanding of IEP. District working on one model for IEP, based on Shelley Moore's work. Planning to introduce it this year, will give a greater understanding to parents/students who have an IEP and better access throughout the district for the supports that are needed.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Locker Use

- Original students did not have access to lockers. At the time it was made it was out of abundance of caution and concern around congregating at the lockers.
- Some schools are giving students access to lockers, up to the admin of each school to make that decision and manage it.

6.2 Student Safety Parent Feedback Survey - from Quamichan – discussed above.

6.3 Covid Exposure Plan / Students and / or Staff sick in the schools

- District information updated on Sept 29 along with a flow chart
- Direct parents to the district website for current up to date information as well as CDC (provincial information)

6.4 Fundraising Information

Encouraging PACs to reach out to local businesses. In the south end, we have had local businesses offering a portion of proceeds of their sales go to a school PAC, if mentioned at time of purchase. Good way to support local businesses and to support the PAC.

7.0 Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: November 19, 2020

Take care and stay safe!

Submitted by Ann-Marie Braithwaite, DPAC Secretary

Attachments:

- Sept 17, 2020 Approved Agenda
- Appendix A - DPAC Treasurer's report