



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

**Minutes: September 17, 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 and École Mt. Prevost Treasurer
Heidi Hunton – DPAC Treasurer
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, Vice Chair and DPAC Rep
Caroline Kirman – Cowichan Secondary, PAC Chair and DPAC Rep
Sylvia Cox – École Cobble Hill, DPAC Rep
Mary Souter - Mill Bay Nature School, DPAC Rep
Matt Mcalister – Alexander, DPAC Rep
Andrew Wilson – Drinkwater DPAC Rep
April Foster - Crofton Elementary, DPAC Rep
Cynthia Lockrey – Mt. Prevost, DPAC Rep
Jenn – Khowhemun, Vice Chair
Meredith – Maple Bay, DPAC Rep
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 – Cowichan Valley Teachers Association President
Trina - Discovery Elementary, Chair
Shelby – Alex Aitken
Jane Worton – Mt. Prevost, Fundraising coordinator

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

3. MOTION: *To approve the minutes from May 21, 2020 meeting.* Moved by Bonner; seconded by Ecole

Cobble Hill. Carried.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chair

- DPAC has been busy working behind the scenes all summer.
- Thank you to everyone's hard work to get the school year going.

4.2 SD79 Admin - Robyn Gray, Superintendent

- We are proud of our community; many people have been working very hard to get this school year started.
- Overall we have been able to adjust, pivot and adapt to the changes we are faced with.
- Preliminary work – masks for staff and students, equipment, sprays/sprayers, updated health and safety protocols (provincial, WorkSafe BC and SD79), hiring new staff, purchased 72 hand stations, large amounts of hand sanitizer and cleaning products.
- Weekly meetings with VIHA, Dr. Shannon Waters to ensure we are meeting the health and safety protocols
- Working with indigenous communities regularly
- Looking at how do we support the mental health of learners, families and our community.
- Organizing the educational programs needed by our families/learners
 - Blended opportunities
 - Remote Learning
- Enrolment is also a focus during September

Questions:

Q – Will remote learners be hearing from their principals

A. yes, very soon Principals will be contacting the remote learners.

Q -What are the supports for the students with IEPs opting for remote learning?

A. District is working closely with schools to determine the needs each school/student may need to support their learning.

Q – Will the district be creating any kind of medical documentation that parents can take to a Dr. to then get additional support for the student?

A. District is working with each family and getting the information from each individually at this moment. Some IEP meetings have started, for those that do know what option they are going with. For those who aren't sure of which choice they are making the team will connect with them and see what accommodations are needed and how the district will support them.

- District also busy with many other things – district build of new CSS, many partners involved, and many preparations are underway and on target for completion in Fall 2023

Q – Is there a plan for making up for the time missed in school. I.e. later start date and time taken to educate students on new procedures etc.

A. Not officially planned, but to work with our learners and staff to get through the current situation of health and safety and then address the educational learning plan.

Jason Sandquist – Secretary Treasurer, SD79

Board approved the districts spending on our portion from the Federal gov't.

Two installments – September 2020 and January 2021

Projecting \$3-3.2 Million – addition \$651K provincial funds, district is told what to spend it on – masks, hand washing, tech for vulnerable learners, custodial

Federal \$ broader – learning supports and resources are where it is stated to primarily go

This will go towards staffing and supporting the longer absences we may see this year

Extra assistance for Indigenous learners

Health and Safety – air quality, better filtration in the schools, utilities at the school – greater air exchange systems. Additional supervisors at noon hour, support positions for remote learners

Transportation – enhance the cameras on the buses, to enable contact tracing, additional routes if needed for buses,

Custodial – for before/after school programs – not at the moment a focus of the funds.

Q. Do the special needs children who need tactile involvement and who are having a hard time with social distancing. Any funds going towards helping the students cope with this new change?

A. No additional funding has been allocated this way from the district.

4.3 Board of Education – Barb de Groot, Trustee SD79

Thank you to our staff throughout the district, who have been unbelievable dealing with this change and getting things done quickly as it is constantly changing environment.

4.4 Treasurer – Heidi Hunton

Report shared to zoom meeting. Funds didn't get spent as planned due to COVID -19

See Attachments.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Treasurer

Nomination for Treasurer - Carmen states we have a nomination for the position of Treasurer from Discovery, Trina Eisner. Carmen asks Trina if she accepts the offer for the position of Treasurer. Trina accepts the nomination. Called 3 times – no further nominations, by acclimation Trina Eisner is the DPAC Treasurer.

MOTION: *To add Trina to the DPAC Gaming and General accounts for signing authority and people with the signing authority are the current members of the DPAC Executive.* Moved by Carmen, seconded by Aurelia

5.2 Wellness and Recovery

We have had communication back from our letter sent out May 25, 2020 to the partner groups. *See References – Correspondence* for the full details.

- July 25, parent group – *A Voice For Our Children*, citizen action group. Requested DPAC support. DPAC executive met and agreed it met with our goals and we endorsed the group.
- Sept 1, DPAC sent a letter requesting the development be paused to allow for proper consultation. Replies were received from different parties, noting similar concerns. *See References -Correspondence.*
- NOTE: SD79 Board had a motion for action – board of education wrote to island health – does support the development, not the location. Motion passed with board 6:1
- DPAC has shared on FB the FB page for *A Voice For Our Children* where parents can learn more about this group.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Back to School Restart Plan

General question to the group to share how they find things are going? In general, very positive feedback students/staff/parents feel everyone is doing a great job. A few challenges have occurred and are mostly being dealt with at the school level through communications with their Principal/vice Principals.

6.2 PAC Programs during COVID

While PACs are not restricted from entering the school, having less parents in the schools is advisable. There are many health and safety protocols to manage, so PAC programs such as Hot Lunch will have be discussed between your PAC and school administration. Programs would need to adhere to current direction from the Provincial Health Officer and support the safety of students, staff, and volunteers.

Nourish Cowichan has made changes to incorporate new safety protocols and are still delivering to schools. District is ensuring those that need the additional support for food programs are getting it and working with Nourish Cowichan and Starfish backpacks to ensure those in need have the necessary supports.

6.3 DPAC zoom administrator

Call for a volunteer who can help do the Zoom administration of meetings throughout the district. They will be involved with coordinating the meetings with other PACs. Thank you to the BCCPAC and the Ministry of ED for enabling PACs to have access

6.4 Special needs support

Under the BC Government's Restart Plan, it states "Students with disabilities, diverse abilities or those who require additional supports will have access to and receive the same supports and services they had prior to the pandemic". Mental state of our students is so fragile.

Tom Longridge, the needs of the students being addressed, counsellors reaching out, finding students that have been disengaged to approach them and work to bring students back into the school and reconnect them. Identifying immune compromised students and how to best support them. What learning mode will suit them given their variable needs. Being able to navigate the needs and still meet the health and safety protocols at schools. Organizing the details of each student to determine the supports that are needed. Working closely with each school-based team to determine staffing levels. Focussing on mental health and building inclusiveness in the schools.

Moving resources within departments to meet the needs of the school and the district overall. Some schools are feeling they are in crisis mode as resources are not there to support the students that need it most at this time.

6.5 Fundraising – Online 50/50

What opportunities are there for schools to generate \$ during the pandemic?

It is possible for a license to get an online 50/50 license – limited to how many get the license There is an organization that will manage the 50/50 online and multiple schools can participate Funding restricted to gaming funding rules, can hold the funds for up to 3 years. For more information, please contact: Jane, Mt. Prevost Fundraising Chair –

jane@blacktomato.ca

7.0 Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next meeting: October 15, 2020

Take care and stay safe!

Submitted by Ann-Marie Braithwaite, DPAC Secretary

Attachments:

- May 21, 2020 Approved Agenda
- Appendix A - DPAC Treasurer's report
- References – Correspondence- made available by request:
 - May 25th – from Al Siebring, Mayor of North Cowichan
 - June 4th – from Tammy Dow, Administrative Assistant to Lisa Murphy, Director MHSU Operations North & Central Island
 - June 4th – from Michelle Staples, Mayor of Duncan
 - Sept 1 – from Al Siebring, Mayor of North Cowichan
 - Sept 10 – from James Hanson, Vice President, Clinical Operations, Central / North Vancouver Island Health