

MINUTES for the General meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held via Zoom on **MONDAY December 6th 2021** at 6:30pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Brooke Finlayson - DPAC Chair Brooklyn
Jennifer Fisher* - DPAC Vice-Chair & Robb Road
Jocelyn Manley* - DPAC Secretary - Vanier
Spring Halasz* - DPAC Treasurer- Highland
Shawn Thir* - Courtenay Elementary & Lake Trail
Megan Cowling* - Speaker Series/Brooklyn
Shannon Aldinger* - Isfeld Secondary
Michelle Waite - School Trustee

Jen Storey* - Miracle Beach
Rae Walsh*- Huband Elementary
Lee Gallagher* - Airport Elementary
Tonia Frawley - School Trustee
Cristi May-Sacht - School Trustee
Tom Demeo - Superintendent
Geoff Manning - Assistant Superintendent
Craig Sorochan - Communications Manager

9 of 21 voting reps (min. of 7 req'd for quorum)
**indicates DPAC Rep*

1 Call to Order 6:32pm

Recognition of Traditional Territories
Introductions

Approval of the Minutes from Nov 1st 2021, Amendments made, motioned by Brooke, seconded by Jennifer. CARRIED with proposed amendments

Approval of the Agenda for Dec 6th 2021, motioned by Jennifer F, Seconded by Jen S. CARRIED

2 Old Business

- Nothing at this time

3 Correspondence

- BCCPAC, reminder to renew memberships \$75 for PAC's which can pay for the membership from their District In Service fee, Reps - talk to Principals for more info
- BC Healthy Communities- Active School Travel Pilot Program - Application window extended. Any reps interested can contact Jennifer F.

4 Reports

Superintendent Report - Tom Demeo

- Would like to introduce the new communications manager, Craig.
 - Has done lots of communications and broadcast work.
 - Worked at MOE for 5.5 years.
 - He has been in the Comox Valley for a couple of weeks. If you have events you would like to get out there contact Craig.

- Regarding the policy new Non Discrimination Policy, discussion regarding the “what” and the “how”. The deadline was the 30th of November and they have had lots of good feedback. The ministry is setting out non discrimination policies.
- Thank you to DPAC regarding the conversation regarding criminal record checks and volunteer drivers. Happy to report the one piece that's missing is that volunteer drivers will be required to have a criminal record check. It will be 4-6 week turn around on getting the record checks done.
 - Brooke said a parent suggestion would be to do them in the spring as the fall is a busy time of the year.
 - Megan wanted to clarify that it will be free.
- A couple of letters came out from the district regarding the fuel shortage. This affected school trips. It was a 10 day restriction that was then extended. It really affected the north island as we don't have the public transportation the larger centres were. Now the rules have changed and they are allowing school sports to travel.
- Concerts scheduled for today (snow day) are being rescheduled
- Geoff said many of the schools did a fantastic job of adhering to the fuel restrictions.
- On the school website there will be updated information about school procedures such as lockdowns, shelter in place. Also questions are answered, regarding definitions, who decides what and when.
- Geoff said all VTRA training is happening in the school district. It is presented by Safer Schools from Kevin Cameron. Level 1 has been completed by School Admin and Level 2 is happening soon. This is Violence and Risk assessment training.
- A letter is going out to all families regarding travel over the break. There are some requirements regarding the students returning to school after being away.
- Questions:
 - Brooke asks other than fire drills, do the schools ever do a practice of a Mass Casualty Drill, regarding setting up tents and practice what the release of kids would look like in a disaster. Schools do earthquake drills, lockdown drills with the RCMP where they get feedback. The one Brooke is talking about was supposed to happen at two schools this past October. They were unable to do that, but it is on the books to do it.
 - Megan asked with hold and secure at the elementary schools , is it supposed to be once a year or twice a year. Geoff said it was once a year pre COVID. Since COVID it has thrown the schedule off.
 - Brooke asks if there is any other information regarding our district's application to be an online learning hub. Geoff said they haven't heard anything yet. The intent is that we would be able to be ready to go for September 2022.

DPAC Chair - Brooke Finlayson

- Brooke would like to acknowledge December 6th is the day of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. She would like to ask for one minute of silence to observe these women.
- She would like to say a goodbye to Sheila McDonnell as the outgoing Board Chair, thankful she will continue to be a Trustee and thankful for her years of work, especially as a leader for the last year.
- Welcome Tonia Frawley, as the new Board chair.
- On behalf of DPAC executive, we had a discussion regarding the Non Discrimination Policy.
 - **DPAC's submission for the draft policy...**

What did we like? Overall we felt that the policy was inclusive; that information around its purpose was well explained and that fostered discussion amongst parents at DPAC and beyond; that the draft policy was shared in a timely manner with the opportunity for feedback, and that the Policy Chair did a great job of answering parent

questions and inquiries. Apart from a few suggestions for #1., we support 2, 3, 4 and 5. We look forward to the future AP and hope that a similar approach to parent feedback will be given.

Do we have any additions? Under the first point-We would ask that sexism be included considering we acknowledge that there is a distinction between sexism and misogyny. Sexism is a prejudice or discrimination based on a person's gender, typically against women, but it also includes men. Whereas misogyny is a dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women, therefore specific only to girls and women. Fundamentally these two things are different and we feel that sexism should be included as it is a stand alone form of discrimination. Also, we did not see any representation of people who are disabled and/or differently abled. Ableism comes up under the umbrella of the Canadian Human Rights Act and is listed as a form of discrimination on its website. Our district offers programs that promote inclusion/inclusive education (ie: Life Skills) and it invites "all types of learners" but yet discrimination against this group is not reflected in this draft policy.

Finally, along the lines of inclusion, we suggest that discrimination is felt amongst person's who are neuro-diverse and/or suffering from mental illness challenges, and should therefore be included. We know that students and staff suffer from depression, anxiety, mood disorders, PTSD and other mental health issues/illnesses, especially after COVID. We have been told by doctors and mental health practitioners that we will be unpacking the ramifications of COVID for the next decade, so the addition of discrimination against people who suffer from mental health illness reflects the importance of acknowledging the issues as they arise in the future and hopefully an AP that speaks to "stigma reduction".

Submitted on behalf of SD71 DPAC Executive, Brooke Finlayson SD71 DPAC Chair

DPAC Treasurer- Spring Halasz

- Non Gaming Balance- \$5465.05
- Gaming Balance - \$4046.89

Sexual Health Committee- Shannon Aldinger

- Meeting with Jay Dixon, Director of Instruction, November 4, 2021:
 - Provided list of sexual health educators hired by other school districts re: grade 11 – 12 series; in-person instruction better than by zoom/remote; & expressed interest in partnering with SD71 re: parent presentation
 - Raised issue of education for special ed students
 - Raised issue of content for queer students

Pointed out other resources of interest

- Follow-up meeting with Jay Dixon scheduled December 14, 2021
 - Follow up re: above-noted issues
 - To raise questions re:
 - Revised Administrative Procedure
 - Training opportunities for teachers this year
 - Whether any plan to address classes/students who didn't receive sexual health education during pandemic
 - How sexual health education to be taught to DL students, special needs students
 - Whether/how to address concerns expressed by queer students re: lack of queer content
 - Questions re: information-sharing when new administrators
- Meeting with Queer Youth Conversation – November 5, 2021:
 - Group is expanding, includes counselor from John Howard Society, reaching out to high school Gender & Sexuality Alliances (GSAs)
 - Further plans to meet Dec/Jan

- Sexual Health Santa Suggestions: – book recommendations by former SD71 sexual health educator Dr. Claire Vanston:
 - Preschool/Kindergarten/Primary:
 - *Amazing You!* by Gail Saltz
 - *I Said No!* by Kimberly King
 - *What Makes A Baby* by Cori Silverberg
 - *My Body: What I Say Goes* by Janeen Sanders
 - *Who Has What?* by Robie H. Harris
 - Later Elementary (Gr 4, 5 and up)
 - *The Boys Body Book* by Kelli Dunham
 - *Hair In Funny Places* by Babette Cole
 - *The Care And Keeping of You 2* by Valorie Schaefer
 - *The Guide. Period.* by Naama Bloom
 - *Guy Stuff: The Body Book for Boys* by Cara Natterson
 - *The Period Book* by Jennifer Gravelle and Karen Gravelle
 - *What's Happening To Me* by Alex Frith and Susan Meredith
- Grades 6 - 12
 - *Love, Sex and No Regrets* by Elizabeth Clark
 - *Sex: the all-you-need-to-know sexuality guide to get you through your teens and twenties* by Heather Corinna
 - *LGBTQ The Survival Guide* by Kelly Huegel Madrone
 - *Sex: An Uncensored Introduction* by Nikol Hasler
 - *Talk Sex Today* by Saleema Noon and Meg Hickling
 - *Help Your Kids With Adolescence* by DK Guides Penguin Random House
 - *The Sex Education Answer Book* by Cath Hakanson

Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling

- Thursday December 9th at 7pm via Zoom: Speaker Series - Peers, Parents & Pressure: Looking at the tension in the lives of teens, with Amy Kelly of Mamatoto, see Poster attached, please forward to your school community
- Thank you to the District for advertising this parent presentation, and to the DPAC reps for getting this info out to their school community

Trustees

- Tonia Frawley, new Board Chair, Michelle Waite continues as the Board Vice chair
- Wanted to that Brooke for the minute of silence.
- Committees will change, who sits on which, and chairs which, will go through our Board meeting for approval. As of now, if approval is done Kat Hawksby and Janice Caton.
- Budget committee will start in January. You will get notification of that soon.
- December 14th is the next board meeting.
- Michelle Waite Education Committee was set to dive into the District side of Operations, unfortunately Director of Operations, Ian Heselgrave became unavailable so that has been postponed.
- Job policy meeting is set for the beginning of January 2022.
- Cristi wants to say a big thanks to the senior staff for all the work they have been doing for the last couple of years.
- Shawn has a couple of questions. There were a couple of exposures at Courtenay Elementary and at Lake Trail. Why are we not having cohorts still. Also why are we not having a vaccine mandate for the teachers.

- Tom said cohort groups were never intended as a safeguard measure more for a tracing method. Provincial authorities said they were no longer necessary.
- Exposures are there, but as Dr. Enns said, schools are a mirror to our community. Schools are as sick or healthy as the communities they are in.
- Have we been contacted by Action for Canada (anti-vax)? Yes we have, they sent us information but Trustees didn't use them as a resource for their decision, Trustees spoke to our Local health authority and looked at science to make this decision. Though Action for Canada claims Victory with the lack of a mandate, their position had nothing to do with our decision.
- Michelle wanted to add the roadmap to create a policy was a really clear pathway for boards to use. It is fact based and about science.
- Megan asks: who determines which trustees go to which meeting? Michelle said it is a process. It is good for trustees to be able to visit different schools. Megan states that it can be hard for parents to gain trust/feel comfortable to ask questions and get information with an ever changing role of Trustee's at PAC
- Megan asks if a certain trustee can be requested.
- Tom: requests are always taken into consideration. Trustees try to learn about the different schools. Boards try to change it up so you don't have the same person for 4 years. Tonia- Trustee's attend PAC meetings by invitation, trying to fit in meetings with PACs and sorting conflicts with other District meetings as well as other PAC meetings.
- Megan asks Tom what distance is for the bubble zones. Is it from the door of the school or the door. He believes it is from the property.

5 New Business

- DPAC AGM - January 10th 2022
 - DPAC Elections, all positions are available.
 - You don't have to be part of DPAC to run in the election
 - Review of the Year

6 Upcoming Events

- Thursday December 9th at 7pm via Zoom: Speaker Series - Peers, Parents & Pressure: Looking at the tension in the lives of teens, with Amy Kelly of Mamatoto

7 PAC Sharing

- Rae ran a winter Craft Fair, It was well attended and lots of fun
- Jen F noticed information popping up on Social media regarding rocks being thrown at windows. Tom believes that is from the past.
- Shannon- Capstone Projects, Isfeld principal is reaching out to parents about their skills, talents and interest that can help students with their yearlong Capstone projects. These projects reflect an interest of the students, whether it be career, or challenging themselves to learn a new skill. Students do not graduate unless they do a Capstone project, it takes a long time so it is always best for students to pick something that really sparks their interest or passions.
- Brooke asked Shawn if he had heard anything back about the ramp at Courtenay Elementary - nothing at this time.

8 Next Meeting: January 10th 2022, via Zoom

9 Adjourn at 8:02pm