

MINUTES for the ANNUAL General meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held **via Zoom** on **MONDAY January 10th** 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
Donna Desmet - Vanier (proxy vote)
Sarah Shelin* - Aspen

12 of 21 voting reps (min. of 7 req'd for quorum)

*indicates DPAC Rep

Tami Servizi* - Valleyview
Karen Parkinson* - Queneesh
Michelle Wallwork- Airport (proxy vote)
Lee Gallagher* - Airport
Jen Storey* - Miracle Beach
Justyne Smith*- Huband Elementary
Jessica Wegg* - Brooklyn
Vivian Vaillant- NIDES parent
Janice Caton - School Trustee
Kat Hawskby- School Trustee
Tom Demeo - Superintendent

1 Call to Order: 6:34pm

Recognition of Traditional Territories

Introductions

Approval of the minutes from *December 6th, 2021, Jen F. motioned, Jess W. Carried*

Approval of the Agenda for *January 10th, 2022, Tami S. motioned Jocelyn M. Carried*

2 DPAC Chair/AGM Report

- As we look back at the past year, I wanted to highlight the work that has been done and the accomplishments achieved at DPAC that have, or will have, a direct impact on families and our children. First and foremost, DPAC would not work without the constant engagement and participation by the executive, in particular the work done by Jenn, Jocelyn and Spring. While navigating work and family life, they have shown up for monthly executive meetings, monthly Senior Admin zooms, monthly DPAC zooms, and have always come to the table organized, inquisitive, and with the best intentions to advocate for, and on behalf of parents and their children. These women have supported me in my role as Chair and have made a tough year a lot less stressful by showing up and working hard. Thank you!
- I'd also like to thank our DPAC reps for your participation and interest in your schools and public education. We appreciate that you attend our monthly meetings, ask questions, and engage in conversations so that when you go back to your PACs, you are going with accurate information to inform parents in your schools. Without you, this type of information sharing wouldn't be possible, so we appreciate all your support and the respectful ways in which you advocate on behalf of your school's parent group.
- Finally, a thank you to our elected School Trustees and the Senior Administration staff at the board office. As a group of parent volunteers, it was important to us to build relationships and trust with you so that we might be looked upon as allies and partners in our children's educations. We have appreciated

the opportunities to participate in committees that inform policy, hiring, and program development and for the opportunity to provide feedback. As a very diverse group of parents, with very different skill sets, we look forward to this direction continuing.

- Despite not being able to go into our children's schools and not being able to meet in person, we have accomplished an impressive list of actions and advocacy work. In no particular order, this year we...
 - Attended the BCCPAC virtual AGM and the subsequent Special meeting and as well, a parent education forum in the Spring,
 - We continued to network in the community to strengthen our relationships with LGBTQ initiatives, Public Health, Lush Valley, The Foundry, RCMP, MCFD, and K'omoks First Nation. We engaged local agencies and municipal governments around issues such as food security, the environment, and transportation,
 - We hosted monthly DPAC meetings where we always achieved quorum,
 - Attended monthly DPAC exec meetings with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and other staff,
 - Participation in the CVRD Active Transportation Network Plan working group,
 - Attended monthly Sexual Health Committee meetings and continued our advocacy around Consent education for K-12, also the proposed amendments to AP 325-Child Abuse and Neglect,
 - Advocated on behalf of parents to ask for mandatory Criminal Record Checks for all volunteers and the success of that ask,
 - Started the conversation with district staff around Truth and Reconciliation and how DPAC promotes and participates in that,
 - Provided feedback to the Budget Committee and submitted DPAC's priorities for spending,
 - Participation on the Policy Committee, and provided feedback to the draft policy on Policy 24-Equity and Non-Discrimination,
 - Outreach to local agencies to help support in-school food programs with minimal interruptions,
 - Maintenance of our DPAC facebook page and the transparent sharing of monthly agendas and minutes, and other important resources for families,
 - Advocating for outdoor learning spaces and to prioritize the schools that don't currently have one, and finally,
 - The massive success of our DPAC Speaker's Series with topics ranging from ADHD, influences on teens, and the White Hatter Series to name a few. The line up for 2022 looks just as impressive!
- In terms of tonight's elections, all of the positions are up for nominations. As DPAC Chair I have asked Vice Chair Trustee Michelle Waite to conduct the election. She has a lot of experience running elections and I thought she would be well suited to do ours. I will be stepping away as Chair at this time but will stay on the Sexual Health Committee as a member at large. I look forward to seeing your faces at upcoming DPAC meetings and again, thank you all so much for your participation and dedication as parents.

3 Old Business

- Ramp update from Courtenay Elementary?
 - Nothing new to report - Shawn
 - Phoned Al the Principal this afternoon. Going to have Ian Hesselgrave go over the logistics at the next meeting. There are stairs in the building so a plan will have to be worked out.

4 Correspondence

- Nothing at this time

5 Elections

- Nominations for Chair
 - Jennifer Fisher nominated by Brooke Finlayson. Nominations closed. Elected as DPAC Chair
- Nominations for Vice Chair
 - Megan Cowling nominated by Jennifer Fisher. Nominations closed. Elected as DPAC Vice Chair
- Nominations for Secretary
 - Jess Wegg nominated by Megan Cowling. Nominations closed. Elected as DPAC Secretary.
- Nominations for Treasurer
 - Spring Halasz nominated by Brooke Finlayson. Nominations closed. Elected as DPAC Treasurer

6 Reports

Superintendent Report - Tom Demeo

- Thank you Brooke for your work as DPAC Chair, we appreciate your hard work and contribution to the school District
- Nothing of significance either way. Pretty average day. Last week, we averaged about 380 and 420 per day. Had Buses run but of the 24 runs, only 24 students were on them, 15 buses ran empty. So they revised that plan going forward that week and made other arrangements for families who needed it.
- Schools were tasked last week with taking care of students who were in attendance. Update health and safety protocol. Plan for continuity of learning and plan for functional closure. Jay Dixon went through all the health plans submitted from the schools. One of the biggest changes is there is no more contact tracing. Individuals who test positive will have to notify their closest contacts. We will not know if there is an exposure. If a parent discloses that to the school they can. If a child tests positive the school is not able to give out contact information of friends and desk mates so they can be contacted. This is according to the regulations the school district has received.
- Vivian asks who is giving these rules. Provincial Health office and MOE. Ultimately this comes from Bonnie Henry's office.
- Karen feels like parents would like to know if there is an exposure. For those who want to know it has to be parents to parents. Can they disclose that information? Tom said Tom will be sending out something to all parents so they understand the process of how this will go. As for parents having information through a social media page that is separate from the school system. He cautions what is putting it onto social media. There can be a lot of misinformation.
- Spring wonders as to why they made this decision.
- What they have done now is monitor student attendance. If they notice the student attendance is at 10% below historical normal or fewer than 75% of students in a grade are away that would trigger the first activity signal. A letter would go out to the MOE and then public health would be contacted. They get information from Public Health. The other thing we have to look at is if less than 75% of students are in attendance that would trigger a notification. Again the school district would notify MOE and Public Health.
- Vivian says rather than working as a village we have to do a big work around. Wouldn't it be better to contact the teacher. Why is the MOE and Health authority tying the hands of parents and teachers and not allowing them to communicate with each other if the parents give consent?

- Karen completely understands why the health authority cannot do contact tracing due to how fast it travels. Schools have to honor privacy. Tom deals with the end result of misinformation and it is not pretty.
- Jen F. says in Kindergarten parents would put together a class contact list to help facilitate community in the class for playdates, could this be something that is done now. Tom says that would have to be done through parents, no teacher will be able to help facilitate communication between parents, even if it is simply providing one parent email address to collect info on their own time and distribute to other parents interested. School staff are completely removed from this.
- Megan asks with the 75% of a grade or less would that be the number that indicates something. Tom says that is the number that was given to have the MOE and Public Health contacted.
- Functional closure is when we can't operate the school. If a threshold can't be met to move people around to keep the school open then that would be when there would be a functional closure.
- Vivian asks if parents are to call the school to let them know a child is sick, what do they do with that. Tom said it is attendance to let know a child is away then after 76% missing school district would contact MOE and Public Health.
- Jen F said that Craig should really simplify this info and give examples. Also for high school how is this going to work. Tom says you rely on teacher reports to the school.
- Regarding Functional Closure the question is can we keep the building open and do we have the staff to do it? They will do their best to keep them over and it will involve moving people (teachers, TOC's, Admin etc) around.
- Jennifer S. asks if the information is available ahead of time. Tom said we are seeing problems in other districts where there is one TOC in all three districts, such as Victoria. We are hiring people so we can have an ample number of bodies available.
- We want to do what is best for kids and keep them safe.

DPAC Treasurer- Spring Halasz

- Gaming - \$3542.39
- Non gaming - \$5460.55
- Money has been spent on
 - Banking fees, \$4.50 per month, per account
 - Speaker series is our biggest cost
 - BCCPAC membership and to cover the cost of any presentation put on by them

Sexual Health Committee- Shannon Aldinger

1. Shannon Aldinger meeting with Jay Dixon, Director of Instruction, December 14, 2021 & follow-up on issues since then:
 - Update re: ongoing sexual health training opportunities for teachers this year:
 - Jennifer Gibson of Island Sexual Health (islandsexualhealth.org) conducted 2 ProD days for SD71 teachers at Vanier in August 2021
- \$25,000 in the budget for sexual health, to be used towards speakers and other resources
- Sexual health education – high school series - update for 2021/22:
 - SHC/district approached Jennifer Gibson of Island Sexual Health (islandsexualhealth.org) seeking quote re: all grade 10, 11 and 12 students
 - May need to consider others given availability limited to May
 - In-person sessions preferred but may need to shift to virtual due to omicron
- Consider whether content (for K to 10 provided by Dr. Claire Vanston) needs to be updated for special needs students, queer youth, indigenous youth
- Digital integrity/safety/(etiquette) also a priority; Darren Laur/White Hatter being approached

- Open to:
 - Develop/update annual checklist for sexual health
 - Conduct inventory of the resources we have in the district and funding further resources as needed:
 - there are already sexual health kits available for teachers of grades 8 to 10 (the ones which were created by Dr. Claire & circulate it the district), library resources for teachers of elementary students and the district just purchased 5 sets of circuit kits (also for grades 8-10) from Jennifer Gibson/Island Health
- “Is That Legal? What the Law Says about Online Harassment and Abuse” to be distributed to high schools and middle schools:
 - http://www.westcoastleaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Is-That-Legal_Oct-2020-corrected.pdf
- Revised Administrative Procedure (existing “Child Abuse & Neglect” but proposed new name: “Child Abuse & Neglect and Student Sexual Assault – Duty to Report Protocol”) – no firm update as to when it will be on the website and introduced generally
- Update today (Jan 10) per Jay Dixon: district approved the purchase of “Power Up Education Lesson Package” access for our high schools; includes video lessons & PDF resources for 6 part “talking about” series re: consent, healthy relationships, gender & sexual orientation, safer sex, sexting, and pornography

- Follow up meeting next week to discuss options given Omicron – likely Wed January 19

2. Queer Youth Community Conversation:

- No update (except per Speakers Committee)
- Report, May 2021:
 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cb508e58d97407e4af2271c/t/60d3861ef3e74e259bf1a9b0/1624475178280/Queer+Youth+Community+Conversation+May+2021+FINAL.pdf>

3. Consent Discussion Panel – being organized this spring to include information about the law of consent, community resources, and navigating the RCMP/criminal justice system

4. Next SHC meeting: Monday, January 17 at 7 pm (by zoom); new members or other interested folks are welcome; contact DPAC or aldigner@aldingerlaw.com for an invite

Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling

- See attached presentation
- Jennifer Storey is wondering how the library is accessed. Jen F said with Dropbox you as the parent have to have a Dropbox account (which is free). If you click on the link you should be able to see the library of presentations.
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uu0gvglwbg8iv6q/AAA76j2PxIDef62eURRRhAeDa?dl=0>

Trustees

- Janice Caton: Policy committee meeting next week. The long range facilities plan which involves some boundary changes, specifically around Royston and the exploding population in that area. Budget advisory committee and they are asking for parents' feedback.
- Kat Equity in Action is also coming up this spring. Every District is reviewed by the Ministry and works with the Indigenous education to see how Indigenous students are being supported.
- Megan wonders if this was to do with Prince George that this Equity in Action came up? Janice said no, but they want to make sure what happened there doesn't happen in other districts.

- Megan asked if Criminal records checks are coming up at the individual schools. She was worried some PACs might not know the \$30 charge doesn't apply. Janice believes the schools are communicating that information.

7 *New Business*

- Nothing at this time

8 *Upcoming Events*

- Moms Against Racism Online Workshop: "How to Raise an Anti-Racist Child" January 20th on Zoom at 7pm
- Feb 2nd Christopher Burt- Promoting Peer Competence
- Feb 10th -BCCPAC, Understanding PAC's from A-Z, go to their website for further details
- Feb 24th - Mothers Against Racism -Cultural Appropriation

9 *PAC Sharing*

- Nothing at this time

10 *Next Meeting:* Monday February 7th 2022, via Zoom

11 *Adjourn at 8:30pm*

Any questions or comments please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).



SD71 DPAC SPEAKER SERIES 2021-2022 REPORT

SD71 DPAC Speaker Series:

Ways to Connect:

- through DPAC
- on Eventbrite
- on Facebook

Get the link for many past presentations recorded on DropBox. You have to have the Dropbox app to watch the entire presentation.

If your PAC wants to bring in a virtual guest speaker, please connect!

Please ask your principal or PAC to help advertise the presentations - getting the word out is the hardest part.

Upcoming Topics:

- Supporting Outdoor Education, Queer Competency, Anxiety "What to Say to Kids", Warning Signs & Drug Use, Healthy Lunch Ideas, Understanding Consent for Families, Raising Kids Who Love to Read, Executive Functioning and Study Skills, Online Reputation Management for Post-Secondary Applications, More About Dyslexia, and Understanding Emotional Development.

Spring 2021 Presentations and Prices:

2021:

January:

The White Hatter- "Internet/Social Media Safety and Digital Literacy" \$350

Christopher Burt - "The Problem With Discipline"* \$420

February:

The White Hatter: "Online Sexual Predation & Exploitation: What is the Threat and What Can Caregivers Do To Minimize the Risk?" \$300

The White Hatter: "Distribution of Intimate Images: Nudes, Sexting and the Canadian Law" \$300

The White Hatter: "Gaming: Concerns, Balance, Addictions and Opportunities" \$300

March:

BCCPAC: "Advocacy: Understanding the Appeals Process" Free

Christopher Burt: "Areas of Influence"* \$420

April:

Ted Leavitt Connectivity Counselling: "ADHD: What is it and what do we do with it?"* \$1260

Christopher Burt: "Family Systems"* \$420

May:

Moms Against Racism Canada: "How to Raise An Anti-Racist Child" \$650 (book baskets)

Fall 2021 Presentations and Prices:

2021:

September:

The White Hatter- "Online Gaming: What Parents Need to Know" \$350

October:

The White Hatter: "Supporting Youth Being Targeted by Online Aggression, Cyberbullying, Hacks, and Violence" \$300

The White Hatter: "Monitoring Filtering and Other Tools" \$300

The White Hatter: "Technology & Sleep" + "Sharenting" \$300

November:

December:

Amy Kelly: "Peers, Parents, and Pressure: Looking at the Tensions in the Lives of Teens"* \$500

Spring 2022 Presentations and Prices:

2022:

January:

Thursday Jan 20th - Moms Against Racism Canada: "How to Raise an Anti-Racist Child"

February:

Wednesday Feb 2nd - Christopher Burt: "Promoting Peer Competence"*

Thursday Feb 24th - Moms Against Racism Canada: "What is Cultural Appropriation?"

March:

April:

May:

**SEND YOUR REQUESTS TO:
MEGANRCOWLING@GMAIL.COM OR DPAC**

Thank You:

Jenn Fisher: co-coordinating, moderating,
emailing, storing, all things executive
functioning

Spring Halasz: payments, tracking, cheques

DPAC Exec and Reps: Thank you for sharing
and your help with sourcing ideas and
connecting!!!

Shout outs to the following people for extra help, time, and sharing of the events:
Trustee Sheila McDonnell, Josh Porter at SD71 Director of Information Technology,
Comox Valley Schools Counsellor Tara Ryan, and all of the SD71 Staff.