

MINUTES for the Annual General Meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held Isfeld Library & via Zoom, on **MONDAY May 6th** at 6:30pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Jennifer Fisher- DPAC Chair	Carly & Dan Wintschel - Brooklyn Parent
Joanne Barr - DPAC Vice Chair	Chris Parker* - NIDES
Megan Cowling* - DPAC Secretary - Brooklyn Alt	Vivian Valliant* - Highland DPAC Alt Rep
Dana Starritt*- Cumberland Community School	Justyne Smith* - Huband Park
Tara Pietrzak* - Vice Chair DPAC Rep Royston (via Zoom)	Emily Hanson* - Airport Elementary
Jim Tessman*- Valleyview Elementary	Dr Jeremy Morrow - Superintendent
Janice Caton- Trustee (via Zoom)	Mike Johnson* - Miracle Beach
	Karyn Parkinson* - Aspen Elementary

Guests: Mr. Klassen, Ms. Martens, Zane, Mikayla, Nick

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

***indicates DPAC Rep**

1 Call to Order 6:32pm

Recognition of Traditional Territories:

I respectfully acknowledge that I am living on the unceded territory of the Pentlatch, E'iksan, Satsila, and Sahtlout people, now collectively known as K'omoks First Nation.

May 5th was Red Dress Day, and we acknowledge the disproportionate harms that prompted Red Dress Day and the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGTBQI+ people are facing.

Find more information here:

<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/academic-integrity/indigenous-initiatives/national-mmiwg-awareness>

Introductions:

Approval of the Minutes from *Mar. 5th, 2024 Motion: Jim Seconded: Joanne Motion Carried*

Approval of the Agenda for *May 6th, 2024 Amended to May 6th Motion: Joanne Seconded: Karen Motion Carried*

2 Old Business

- Attendance at the Strategic Plan Session for April's Meeting - thanks (and regrets photo missed reps there.)

3 Correspondence: (see attached)

- Incoming Correspondence: ADHD Info
- Jina Taylor
- Carolyn McCarthy Family Smart

4 Presentation: Robotics

Mr Klassen has presented to many groups in the district over his years as an educator, but the one place he has not yet talked to is DPAC. Robotics 71 officially started four years (but has been around for longer.)

Nineties robots from Vanier were turfed which is sad because they provided historical context. Various sorts of the schools (Cumberland Aspen Vanier NIDES) all had different robotics teams and then VEXX robotics started

2008-2009 allowing for more accessibility. First Robotics started this year. Platforms used by students: Lego Mindstorm Gr 6&7, VEXX IQs, then further. Technologically-focused kids will find this is where you will struggle to put away your robotics. For the students, robotics become their life (in a good way.) 120K Schulitzer Award - Katie Brown. All different teachers were brought together to be one program. 50 Teams on Vancouver Island, 6 or 7 tournaments every year. Every couple of weeks they go to a tournament, over 50 kids grades 9-12. Entry fees aren't cheap (\$5000.00.) Court is the size of the entire library. We are trying to come earlier in the school year to the PACs, but now it's different because it's a District Program. Fundraisers have included a copper recovery fundraiser. The skills the students learn include talking to adults and presenting to adults. Grants from organizations and fundraising lead to \$30k of fundraising. No question of examples of youth and students hired right to jobs within the industry.

On the topic of the World Robotics Championships: Video of Robotics Competition. Entry fee is \$5000.00 for the tournament shows. World Championship video. A district team was partnered with a team from Paraguay. 800 highschool teams in the competition. First two days is 10 qualification matches. Challenges are different, this year was moving green balls into the nets. Networking with other kids to learn more and get better. Robot present is the fifth version. Number of lines of code for the bot 5-10 thousand, C++ proprietary through VEXX. A neat aspect is internal student sharing throughout the community, e.g. a motion library of code. Using Inventor to develop. 4 credits for VEXX Robotics, like the musicals. Team 7842 is widely known in competition circles. May 29th Girls in STEAM at Queneesh.

Question: How do kids interested get involved? An email goes out at the beginning of the year, re:Robotics71. It has a box to tick that says "are you interested in Robotics71?"

Question: Is this program accessible for NIDES students? Answer: We used to send kits out, not sure if we still do.

Concluded at: 7:18pm

5 Reports

Chair Report - Jennifer Fisher:

- April 24th & 25th - Executive team attended two full days as part of the Strategic Plan writing team. We joined over 40 people from all the different partner groups (Elders, CDTA, Cupe, IEC, Principals/Vice Principals.) The sessions were very engaging, with Lisa Bernoties-McCullough who was our facilitator. We have one more this week, on Wednesday, and then the last session at the end of this month.
- Executive representation at the hiring for Indigenous Associate Superintendent as well as hiring for Principals and Vice Principals for the Denman & Hornby Principalships.
- Met with Superintendent Morrow at our monthly check-in meeting, always a productive conversation, and we are always met with respect and appreciation for our time and perspectives.
- BCCPAC did not attend this year due to unexpected family commitments. Megan will refund the amount paid for admission when the refund from BCCPAC comes through.

DPAC Treasurer- Kendall Packham - sends regrets

- Reimbursed Jennifer for the DPAC Dropbox invoice

Sexual Health Committee - Megan Cowling

- Update Re: Gender-Based Violence Committee - The BOE unanimously accepted and approved (in a three-part motion) that GBV Committee Briefing Note, the GBVC Terms of Reference, and appointed Trustee Shannon Aldinger as Chair. As reps, many of you overlapped with Shannon's many years at DPAC for both Puntledge Park and Isfeld. Many of you were also instrumental in moving through BCCPAC the GBV motions that the formation of this committee seeks to expand upon and address. Our Sexual Health Committee members would like to extend the deepest thanks to Shannon for the continued advocacy and we are excited to see what the GBVC accomplishes. The Terms of Reference for the GBVC can be found here on Page 9 & 10: [Regular-Board-Meeting-Agenda-April-23-2024.pdf](#)

- Key points from the TOR: Initial meetings (2023/24) will aim to include introductions among committee members, a review of the norms of collaboration, a review of proposed steps and timeframe of committee, establishing an agreed upon definition of gender-based violence, and identifying existing district policies and administrative procedures relevant to the issue of gender-based violence, with a view for feedback and inclusion of other ideas from committee members.
The GBVC will also have membership from all partner groups, if you are interested in participating as a DPAC please let us know.

Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling

- Period Piece: On May 2nd via Zoom, Jessy Wollen of SHIFT Education (<https://shift-education.com>) Presented via Zoom. Big thanks to all the schools that sent out the invite and all the PVP that included in their weekly newsletters. Attendance wasn't high, but feedback was awesome. It appears the Zoom link may have been an issue and for all of those who tried to log on, when I have figured out how to save the recording and share it, I will be in touch, or email: DPAC@sd71.bc.ca
Stats from the evening worth noting: *The question "Are kids really getting their period earlier?" Answer: "Yes. Research shows that kids are getting their periods earlier by almost 3 months per decade from 1977 to 2013 and that we are hitting puberty earlier than our ancestors. Many researchers believe this shift can be attributed to our change in diet in addition to certain genes, chronic diseases, processed foods & chemicals, and lifestyle changes related to technology and health."*
- Parent Outreach Meeting: Attended a Parent Outreach Meeting for parents and families of non-binary and trans youth facilitated by community partners (Pride Comox Valley.)
- Send your topic requests for Speaker Series to: dpac@sd71.bc.ca

Addition: The Lake Trail Community Connections Day is June 1st, 2024 10:30am - 4pm and is open to all Comox Valley families for free. The event has free childcare provided by PuddleDuck Childcare Society. Invite on social media and here: [LakeTrailCommunityEducationSociety](https://www.laketrailcommunityeducation.com)

Transportation Committee - Joanne Barr:

- From the committee aspect, over the last couple of months there have been quite a few concerns about buses, so they decided to meet. This meeting was around compiling information. A key issue is availability to book buses for field trips. The Transportation Committee (TC) were left wondering "if it is a First Student issue of a school district issue?" Next step is to investigate if First Student is going rogue because different bus routes have different rules. Question: "is there any way for the TC as a new step to meet with the Superintendent or with the Director of Operations, and research what does the contract look like?" Answer: "Yes we can meet to discuss."
- Further questions included "Where are we losing communication? Eg. non-riders ride for childcare then all of a sudden are not allowed to have that."
- First Student's answer was to tell that family to just get a bus pass. How do you get a bus pass in less than 24 hours when some families wait months? Each bus route can have different rules. Email will go to the Superintendent an invite to meet.
- Superintendent Dr. Morrow: In Campbell River district the bus drivers are employees. Let's have that conversation to discover where the service rules are? Bus drivers are important in district culture - the first moment when that child gets on the bus, that is part of our district culture that needs to be attended to. Before we look at changing the contract to district-owned, it's important to note there is no language in our current agreements that supports bussing funding. Cost is an issue, because riders are not currently paying for services. Every year we need to find funding from classroom supports to fund the increase in bussing as enrollment and transportation costs grow with enrollment.

School Food Subcommittee - Shawn Thir

- Could not attend

Emergency Preparedness Committee - Shawn Thir

- Could not attend

Anti-Racism Committee - Dan & Carly

- Motion to approve the TOR (Terms of Reference): Jennifer Seconded: Karen Motion Carried.
- Carly - Just started and not sure of how the routes all go. Carly has had many schools and people reaching out, clubs, an Administrator, and parents reaching out. Trying to gather information to the question, "What are people wanting, what's missing, and where should we go?" A parent that recently reached out wanted to know where to find the policies, procedures, and guidelines. Carly can share documents and materials while noting these are the questions and also to be a listening ear.
- Karen: Do you want us to disseminate information?
- Carly: Great question, our first meeting will happen in the next couple weeks and we will start a conversation and find out what parents and families are looking for. First objective is to help advocate for families. Supporting families is important but we most want to move those pieces forward for families in learning and education on this topic. We need to be bringing in experts for this.
- Superintendent Dr. Morrow: As you start to get themes, we'll connect and we would like to discuss gaps and areas of concerns. We are looking at dedicated staff time to start implementing the anti-racism work in this area.

Superintendent Report - Dr. Jeremy Morrow

- Just a couple of things talking about the incidence of racism. It has been an interesting year in a position of responsibilities and stories and student data and surfacing the inequities there. In reviewing all of the feedback from the Strat Plan process as strips of paper, some feedback was troubling and not just from external sources. In the Strat Plan session with K'omoks Nation, district staff heard directly of persistent gaps and shortcomings in the system.
- Spouse is a Teacher Librarian and was listening to a news story about small streams and tributaries that were forced underground in the process of developing an urban environment. The work to bring these underground streams and rivers back up to the surface for irrigation and the overall health of the ecosystem from underground is called "daylighting." This process parallels uncovering incidences of racism (even from staff) that were included in Strat Plan feedback. It was said in the K'omoks Strategic Plan Circle, the hope that the school could "be a heart and a doorway." The weight of this after time in Circle was notable. Met with a parent today and repeated the theme of the complexity of the system. Part of the answer may be to engage parents on a fundamental level.
- Contrast in Transparency vs. Generative dialogue. Transparency would be taking all the data and sharing it. Generative dialogue is bringing all of us together to look at this data and move forward together. One of the things that is required is transformation of the system. The statistics show inequities for neurodiverse and Indigenous learners. It has been a gift to stand in Circle with Elders to bring wisdom and beauty to the work that we do. Transformation of the system is required.
- Also, Jeremy was in Vancouver on Friday, through former Acting Secretary Russell Horswill, to help with Tribune Bay Society, on a panel speaking with donors for Parks Canada. Possibly grant opportunities. The goal of additional funding could be plantings with 30% would be shade cover. Positive pieces without commitment but an exciting prospect. Best time to plant a tree was 30 years ago, the second best time is today.

Two things that are questions for DPAC reps present. Question: Really wanting this group of parents to help surface where our funding needs are? Cannot imagine trying to buy groceries for a family these days and what that would cost. Please think on this and we'll revisit it.

Thursday an email is coming directly to parents around parent survey the need to review our AP (Administrative Procedure) on cell phone use. We want to know how families feel around restricting use and want parent feedback. Will involve PVP, students, parents.

Student Family Affordability: Intended to be spent on school fees and school supplies but what are your considerations on this? How do we move towards socializing families to reaching out and away from the scarcity mindset. \$420K how do we distribute that equitably?

Vivian- reference the policy: No student will confidential respectful and discreet (course program activity)

Policy link: [Financial-Hardship-Policy.pdf](#)

Discussion around wording for stigma-free access. Joanne mentions that pride is a huge barrier to asking for help. There is hidden need in so many schools.

Trustees Report:

- Janice - In lieu of time, Jeremy's covered everything. Board will pass the Strategic Plan in May. Great work happening. The Strat Plan and Budget will determine the next five years. Many things will look forward on that one there. The Board's work is the budget and strategic plan. Five years of the plan will include: mental health, racism, safety.
- Question: "Is the Strat Plan over four years or five?"
- Superintendent Dr. Morrow: We have deleted references to time at this point, it could be a five-year plan.
- Janice: The Strategic Plan is a living, breathing document. The Ministry of Education (MOEC) throws nuggets at us.
- Superintendent Dr. Morrow: We received email from the Ministry of Education and Childcare about the provincial changes to school district policies on cell phones on a Friday at around 4:30pm.
- New release link to topic here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024PREM0004-000088>
- Joanne: Question: Is the COW (Committee of the Whole) open and what is the topic?
- Janice: Open. Topic is budget. Time is 5:30-8.

COW SCHEDULE:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-24-Committee-of-the-Whole-Schedule.pdf>

6 New Business

- Nothing at this time

7 Upcoming Events

- Lake Trail Community Education Society Community Connections Day is June 1st. Changed the schedule and it is a festival. Open house format with science fair style tables etc. Two times for workshops in the afternoon one is "Your Brain On Stress." All kinds of stuff for all ages.
- FamilySmart May 27th PAC Meeting at Highland - Peer Parent Support 7pm on Monday Track

8 PAC Sharing:

- Track and Field Jamboree
- Bike Swap May 11th Bike Swap Bike drop-off Friday 5-8 Sale is 9-5 on Saturday

9 Next Meeting: Monday, June 3rd

10 Adjourn Moved by: Jenn Seconded: Joanne Meeting concluded: 8:38pm.

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