

**MINUTES** for the General Meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held Isfeld Library & via Zoom, on **TUESDAY October 3rd** at 6:30pm.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Jennifer Fisher- DPAC Chair	Kendall Packham - Lake Trail Alternate Rep
Joanne Barr - DPAC Vice Chair	Vivian Vaillant* - Highland Alternate Rep
Megan Cowling* - DPAC Secretary - Brooklyn Alt	Shannon Aldinger- Trustee
Spring Halasz - DPAC Treasurer	Michelle Waite - Trustee
Sean Thir* - Lake Trail	Jeremy Morrow - SD71 Superintendent
Jen Storey* - Miracle Beach	JJ Morgan* - Arden Elementary
Chris Parker* - NIDES	Justyne Smith* - Huband Elementary
Tom Cutler*- Puntledge Elementary	Karen Parkinson*- Aspen Elementary
Dana Starritt*- Cumberland Community School	Tara Pietrzak*- Royston Elementary
Jim Tessman*- ValleyView Elementary	Christine Roh*- Royston Elementary
Rae Walsh*- Vanier Secondary	Ashley Hedstrom*- Queneesh Elementary

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

*\*indicates DPAC Rep*

## **1 Call to Order**

Recognition of Traditional Territories

Introductions

Approval of the Minutes from June 5th, 2023 **Motion:** To approve the minutes as circulated. Motioned by: Joanne. Motion seconded: Shawn. Motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda for Oct 3rd, 2023. **Motion:** to approve the agenda as presented. Motioned by: Jen Seconded by: Karen. Motion Carried

## **2 Old Business**

- Nothing at this time

## **3 Correspondence**

- **BCCPAC**
  - DPAC Summit, Nov. 17-18th, BCCPAC will cover the accommodation, mileage and transportation costs for two members to register before Oct 26th. Early registration deadline is October 26th. The theme for this year's DPAC Summit is "Community Reflections: Focusing on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion". What is covered by BCCPAC is the mileage, ferry, accommodation and buffet meals during the conference.
  - **Motion:** "To support sending more than 2 DPAC reps if there is interest." Motion moved by Jennifer. Seconded by: Karen. Motion Carried.
- Benoit Valliant - Letter and Speaker Series interest please see attached.

## 4 Reports

### Chair Report - Jennifer Fisher

- Welcome Back - hope everyone had a wonderful summer and thank you everyone for attending.
- BCCPAC Membership renewal
  - **Motion:** “for DPAC to renew our membership to BCCPAC for the 2023/24 year” Moved by Jennifer. Seconded by Joanne. Motion Carried.
- Website updates
  - IT we are not, but working on improving the website. Our web host has gone through an ownership change and is now owned and operated by VistaPrint.
  - Jennifer added a sign up button that leads to a form for families to fill out to receive Speaker Series information.
- Accessibility in SD71
  - [Accessibility in Comox Valley Schools - Comox Valley Schools](#)
  - Have you seen the open survey on the SD71 website? The provincially-mandated Accessibility Committee has met and will be pushed out to parents.
- Feeding Futures Updates: The total amount received by our district from the MOEC is 1.114 million, and that amount is guaranteed to be received annually for three years. Thank you for the homework you have done connecting with your admin and to the admin who have answered with data. When we meet to discuss with district representatives, it is helpful to reference what each of the school’s are doing with food in their school communities.
- After the initial Feeding Futures announcement, the consensus through meetings and partner feedback was that a survey of the food landscape within the school district would be an excellent starting point. Two admin have been given release time to create a report of the current practices and availability of school food. Yolanda Lehton and Kyle Timms are the two staff working on this. We should have inventory results to share with DPAC for December. Recommendations will also be presented within the report. DPAC reps asked if the admin were talking with Hot Lunch Coordinators, Salad Bar coordinators and other volunteer food roles. The goal is to be talking to all of the providers.
- Vanier question: Will they be working with the cafeteria at Vanier? Superintendent Morrow: The survey will show what we are doing currently and document the spending.
- Question from Kendall about the food service coordinator position? Position will be a 1.0 FTE. Money allocated by the MOE to support administration of that program. Question about current food programs? Are they still going? The District’s position has been to carry on as it was done before as the evaluation report is underway. Currently the funding is still processing but the figurative ‘cheque is in the mail.’
- Question from Tom: How is Feeding Futures the money allocated? Is it based on per student per school? The allocation for Family Affordability was based on formulas using EDI (Early Development Instrument survey) and MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument survey) These surveys use anonymous data to identify rates of vulnerability per capita in a school catchment and area. Question from Tom: Has anyone connected with local food suppliers (eg. Sysco) to see what can they provide?
- Superintendent Morrow: The Comox Valley has a passionate farming community, food aggregation community and whole foods community. We have a lot of people willing to subsidize food for kids in the community, and this is an amazing thing.
- Vivian: Is the Food Rescue Program currently connecting with the District? Follow up information and discussion on food rescue through the food bank.
- Clarification from Trustee Waite: New funding of Feeding Futures is specifically designed to support the 20% of students who come to school with inadequate nutrition. Nutrition is a fundamental support to education.

- Superintendent Morrow: Canada is the only country in the G7 that does not have a Universal Food Program. Nutrition and food are critical to learning. The program will be iterative as information develops. There will be more to share at the December DPAC meeting.
- Question from Kendall: The Feeding Futures meeting happened in May, it seemed like there were some initial plans made. What happened with the plans and the committee? Unfortunately the change in staffing paused and then reset the process. The committee may reform, and together we can approach this. Superintendent Morrow: A rising tide lifts all boats. Food programs in our district are thriving and we can work together to continue.
- Question: Do we know the BC Food Guidelines are going to be released? Shawn: Through our work on the School Food Policy Subcommittee, this is being reviewed right now by many partners within the school food community.

### **DPAC Treasurer- Spring Halasz**

Presenting remotely: Here's were we: Non gaming: \$8885.17, Gaming \$1091.39 - \$9976.56 total

- General (Non-gaming) Account Activity:
  - June 15th- etransfer to Jennifer Fisher for Dropbox
    - \$1.50 e transfer fee
    - July 7th - reimbursement from BCCPAC for travel for AGM, \$482.91
    - Sept 28th - received \$2500 from the Board Office for DPAC grant for Parent Education
  - Gaming Account Activity :
    - June 12th, paid MARS - \$800.00
    - June 30th, \$1300 LTCES, covered 4 workshops and child care for Community Connections workshops

### **Sexual Health Committee- Brooke Finlayson**

- Sends her regrets, unable to attend, looking forward to seeing everyone next month

### **Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling**

- MARS - Book baskets (Distribution will occur once the receiving schools are confirmed. Cumberland will receive an Elementary-aged basket tonight.)
- Consent with Jessy Wollen - huge thanks to all who attended and shared. The feedback was excellent. There was so much to learn.
- Future Education sessions (updates below)

Big thanks to all who shared and promoted the Consent Week speaker Jessy Wollen. Please note those presentations are recorded and viewable for a year. I would like to thank Isfeld VP Sherrie Martens for reaching out re: funding the Key To Scholarships presentation on October 18th via (see handout).

Feedback from Vivian: Grade 11 & 12 are too late to be getting scholarship information, the planning should begin in Grade 9 & 10.

Megan Motion: "To fund the Key to Scholarships presentation October 18th for \$525." Seconded by Dana. Motion Carried.

Currently I am working with the school district staff to present around information technology and digital safety. I am hoping to become more familiar with our district's resources around executive functioning to better acquaint parents/caregivers with free resources within the district. I would like to meet further with district resources to find ways to make the sometimes labyrinthian directories and resources more accessible.

FoodSafe was an issue brought up in meetings prior. After speaking with Maurita at Lush, they are willing to help us with putting on a Foodsafe Level 1 for school food volunteers. I need to gauge the interest and best timing for this class. I believe it could qualify as Parent Education and we could use DPAC funds to support PACs in covering their parents/caregivers. Please let me know if you have volunteers interested, the number

interested, and which weekends would be best (eg Sat vs Sun). I do not have a price yet, but I am hoping we can work with partners either in the community or the PACs themselves to bring down the cost and train the largest number of volunteers safely as possible.

**Action Item: Please ask your PACs if they have parents who would like to attend a weekend day class to take FoodSafe Level 1 to safely volunteer in schools. Please forward your school's name and number of parents to DPAC. Please indicate if there is a preference between Saturday vs. Sunday. Email: dpac@sd71.bc.ca**

Upcoming topics include: Bike Safety Week October 16-29, Executive Functioning, Climate Anxiety, Vaping, First periods and Endometriosis (what's normal & what's not), Cultivating a Social Media Profile for Scholarships (White Hatter.)

Question: Justyne from Huband: Can we host the White Hatter? Our PAC has requested the topic cell phone use. Megan: Please ask your PAC to review the White Hatter presentations and report back which one they would like to see with the caveat that DPAC funding can only be used for Parent Education.

### **Transportation & Busing Committee - Jo Barr/Jen Storey/Justyne Smith**

- October 15th meeting, if any interest to join, please email DPAC

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee- Shawn Thir/Jen Waller/Jen Storey**

- In the process of arranging a meeting. If you are interested please connect with Shawn through DPAC.
- In May, Shawn met with the past Superintendent to request a survey of emergency supplies in the SeaCans. Where is that data and could it be reviewed by the committee?

### **Superintendent Report - Jeremy Morrow**

- Noted that during our introductions, that fundraising was not mentioned. This means that as parents we are here to better the system. As we look at what we can do together, we are in a spot where we need to be different. In "DPAC" the "A" stands for "Advisory" (but could also include "advocates"), and the District will be seeking advice from PACs and schools. We also must find a way to be able to do this with students and hear their voices. Students, through their perspective and experience with the school system, can be much better than us at answers. Every educator is aware and knows the value of hearing feedback from their students.
- Critical to note the current Strategic Plan is end-of-life this year. The vision for the system is to reflect the needs being heard within the community. Anecdotes from being within the school system and hearing students articulate sentiments such as "I feel safe in school as long as no one notices me." We need to connect with the kids at the margins. The kids that the system has not served well or well enough. In this process we need to remember that tone matters and be mindful of reciprocal tone. We operate within an imperfect system. Kids have fallen through the gaps in our system and the way to mend this is through collective commitment.
- Released Principal of Glacierview Karma Taiji to research how we are working in anti-racism.
- Growth in the district is unprecedented. Currently we have 56 portables. A recent news story cited that we have a greater ratio of students in portables to students in brick-and-mortar schools than Surrey . This school year our enrollment was up 300 kids again. Portables continue to not be funded as specific funding from the province Superintendent Morrow: Through September he has been touring all the schools and will have been to look at each school in the Comox Valley by the end of next week.
- Mentioned the wildflower meadow project with Director of Operations Heselgrave and one of the schools. How exciting it is to see student engagement in the process as they undertake a project.

### **Trustees Report**

Trustee Waite: Enrollment numbers are up. It has been brought up that we have more portables per capita than any other district. Again this creates a funding problem because the cost of portables does not come from specific funding. (Note: See Select Standing Committee presentation by SD71 Board Chair Michelle Waite to the Select Standing Committee June 26th 2023 in Campbell River.)

There is an upcoming Committee of the Whole (COW), on Oct 10th 4:30-6:00. Topics will include the Strategic Plan, a presentation from NIDES, and an update on Literacy & Numeracy Frameworks.

SD71 Joint letter update: The letter signed by the Superintendent, Board Chair, CDTA President, and CUPE President. This letter showed our commitment and support for SOGI rights, and the work that will continue in schools for safety of students.

This fall, Trustees will continue to attend DPAC meetings. The Trustees have discussed decreasing attendance of PAC monthly meetings. If PACs have a specific need, they are always able to invite Trustees to a meeting. This change is intended to balance the work of the District that is required over the next two years.

## **5 Upcoming Events**

- Puntledge Salmon Day - October 17th Combined with Parent Teacher interviews, Salmon Day is right after-school (2:45pm) and runs all afternoon. Opportunity to paint with a salmon!

## **6 PAC Sharing**

**Action Item: Could PACs please ask their school, admins or community this question and return the responses to DPAC: What sort of interest-based in school programming is happening for Grades 1-3 lunch time or afterschool that staff or parent-led? Example: Board Game Club, Knitting club, Choir, and/or Coding Club.**

Question: What is the School Accountability Framework? Is grade 8 covering all the things they should be covering? How does a school gauge if they are in compliance with the Ministry requirements and the School Act? Response: The School Act is available online. School Accountability Framework is unfamiliar.

**7 Next Meeting:** Monday, November 6th

**8 Adjourn Motion** to adjourn: Moved By Megan. Seconded by Joanne. 8:37pm

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