

# General Meeting Minutes March 16, 2010 Henry Grube Educational Centre

Chair: Tibor B.

Attendees:

Tibor B. – Heffley Creek Elem.  
Tania V. – Norkam Sec.  
Sandra L. – Parkcrest Elem.  
Traci A. – B.E.S.T. Elem.  
LeahAnn L. – Rayleigh Elem.  
Gisela R. – Sa-Hali Sec.  
Renee A. – Westsyde Sec.  
Tia W. – Arthur Stevenson Elem.

Barbara C. – Valleyview Sec.  
Andy S. – Valleyview Sec.  
Todd S. – Parkcrest Elem.  
Zacharie J. – Lloyd George Elem.  
Denise Harper – Trustee  
Sharlene Bowers – Board office  
Terry Sullivan - Superintendent


1. **Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Tibor B. Introductions around the table.

2. **Agenda:**

MOTION (Tania V, Gisela R) to approve the agenda with the addition of items 9b & 9c – CARRIED.

3. **Minutes:**

MOTION (Gisela, Tania) to approve the minutes of the general meeting held February 16, 2010 as presented – CARRIED.

  
Minutes of Feb 16  
2010

4. **Financial Report:** March 2010 update provided by Gisela R.

  
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5. **Correspondence of Note:**

- a. BCCPAC advised us that a similar resolution to ours regarding children being used as couriers was submitted by Quamichan Middle School PAC in SD79. The DPAC exec agreed to append our name as joint submitters to that resolution and drop ours. A copy of the resolutions to be voted on is now available on the BCCPAC website ([www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca))

  
BCCPAC  
Resolution.doc

- b. Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid thanked us for the joint letter she received from SD73 regarding education funding. She advised that she would be pleased to meet with us next time she is in the area.
- c. DPAC received a copy of the letter jointly signed by the Board of Education and the KTTA regarding their dissatisfaction that the Fraser Institute publishes school rankings.

## 6. Executive Report:

- a. **March 11 executive meeting** – presentation by Cecile McVittie suggesting the formation of a special needs parent committee.
- b. **School Board meetings** – Several DPAC execs present at the Feb. 22 “decision meeting” on reconfiguration. Discussion re need to define **catchment areas** quickly so parents know where to register their children for Kindergarten. Trustee Harper indicated that there will likely be public consultations coming up regarding the catchment boundaries. March 8: Tibor reported that the Board is considering instituting a \$50/yr refundable **textbook fee** to be charged to high school students. This will be discussed by the Policy Committee, and we hope to be able to provide input. Also at that meeting, the First Nations Education Council made a presentation highlighting achievements to date and continuing challenges. Also, in response to a question, Supt. Sullivan indicated that PACs at closing schools will be consulted on whether they would like to see playground equipment moved or left as a community resource. He noted that some playground equipment cannot be safely moved.
- c. Gisela reported the welcome news that the provincial government has promised to restore **gaming funds** to PACs at traditional levels of \$20/student, and DPACs at \$2500/yr. With respect to bingo affiliations, the government has decided to honour existing contracts but not renew them beyond that. Thank you to the many PACs and parents who wrote letters protesting this year’s cuts to Direct Access funding.

## 7. Committee Reports:

- a. **Website** – In the absence of any other volunteers coming forward, Todd agreed to teach the DPAC executive members how to upload documents and maintain the website.
- b. **Corporate Sponsorship** – Trustee Harper reported that the policy is still in committee.
- c. **Parent Education**
  - **Merging Our Futures: Transition Planning for Our Kids – March 30, 7-9 pm Henry Grube Room 1A/1B** – This workshop is aimed mainly at the schools directly affected by the recent reconfiguration, and will focus on how to successfully build one united community out of two schools, how to make the changes go smoothly for kids, as well as facts and resources on what PACs need to do. Educational consultant Beverly Ruberg will facilitate. PACs are encouraged to send the topics they would like to see covered to [sd73dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpac@gmail.com). RSVPs are requested by March 29.
  - **Barry MacDonald: Effective Parenting Strategies for Boys – May 10, 7-9 pm at the Kamloops Alliance Church** – Supt. Sullivan confirmed that tickets will be distributed via principals for sale through school offices. Renee reported that advance tickets will be \$10, and \$15 at the door. More information at [MentoringBoys.com](http://MentoringBoys.com).
- d. **DPAC Rep reports & queries** – There was a suggestion that DPAC follow up with PACs to ensure that every school in our district applies for and benefits from gaming funds.

## 8. Old Business:

- a. **Parent Leadership Task Force** – Supt. Sullivan reported that the schedule has been pushed back by other priorities. He hopes to have the Board confirm the appointed parents by mid-April. DPAC will send out a notice advising parents of the delay.
- b. **BCCPAC AGM** – Tibor and Gisela have offered to represent SD73 at this conference. Gisela presented a financial summary of money already approved for this event, showing a shortfall of \$74 if both were to attend.

MOTION (Tania, Renee) to approve the spending of an additional \$200 (maximum) from the Regular Account to allow both Gisela and Tibor to attend the BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM – CARRIED.

- c. **Reconfiguration process** – Now that the decision-making process has formally ended, it was agreed to express a formal thank you for the consultation and presentations that took place.

MOTION (Barbara, LeahAnn) to acknowledge the Board, staff and parents of SD73 at the next Board meeting for the dedication they showed throughout the consultation process – CARRIED.

## 9. New Business:

- a. **Special needs parent committee** – Tania explained Cecile McVittie’s request that DPAC ask for interested parents to form a committee. Her eventual goal is that this will evolve into an advisory panel to the Board of Education, as is the case in some other districts. A suggestion was made that this group meet soon with Marilyn McLean, Asst. Supt. Student Support Services, and that agencies like Interior Health, Thompson Nicola Family Resource Society, etc. be contacted. All DPAC Reps are asked to talk this up at their schools and encourage interested parents to contact us via [sd73dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpac@gmail.com).
- b. **BCCPAC proxies** – There are currently 18 PACs and 1 DPAC in SD73 who are BCCPAC members. We would like to encourage all PACs to forward their proxies to DPAC so they can be carried to the AGM. PACs have the option of instructing DPAC how to vote on each resolution, or asking DPAC to vote on their behalf following the decisions made at the DPAC table on specific resolutions, or allowing DPAC delegates to vote according to their conscience at the time of the vote. DPAC will contact all member PACs and make them aware of the process.
- c. **BCCPAC resolutions** – There was discussion of how SD73 DPAC ought to vote on the resolutions being brought to the BCCPAC AGM. Agreement to vote Yes to resolutions 2, 3, 4, 6, & 7. Agreement to vote No to resolutions 8 & 9. Others will require further consultation by e-mail.

**10. Superintendent’s Remarks:** Supt. Sullivan stated that the **budget process** is underway. The funding allocation came from the province yesterday and is still being evaluated. The public meeting to present the draft budget is set for the evening of April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Henry Grube. **Education Week** is next week, March 22 – 26. Different team members are honoured each year. This year, it’s the Principals and Vice-Principals who will be singled out and thanked. School PACs are encouraged to use this opportunity to honour their school administrators, while

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acknowledging that this is the group that will suffer the biggest job losses as a result of the reconfiguration decisions. **March 30 is Principals/Vice-Principals Day.** A new **Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement** is being built with local bands and aboriginal communities. Our district consistently outperforms the provincial average on First Nations achievement scores, but much still needs to be done.

**11. Trustee's Remarks:** Trustee Harper stated that the textbook policy would be forwarded to DPAC for discussion as soon as the draft is ready. Public consultation re catchment boundaries will likely take place mid-April, with decisions to be made at the end of April.

**12. DPAC Rep Accountabilities:**

- a. Share info about upcoming transitions workshop and Barry MacDonald presentation (see page 2 for details)
- b. Solicit interest in special needs committee – contact [sd73dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpac@gmail.com)
- c. Publicize the SD73 budget consultation meeting: April 6 evening at the Henry Grube
- d. Consider joining the DPAC executive!

**NEXT MEETING: DPAC AGM APRIL 20, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM HENRY GRUBE CENTRE 1A**