



General Meeting Minutes May 19, 2015 Henry Grube Educational Centre

Chair: Wil Dekker-Lonquist (McGowan Elem)

Attendees:

Don K South Sahali Elem
Erin M Lloyd George Elem
Jessica K. Beattie
Peter H South Kam Sec
ValerieN David Thompson
Hilary R. Westsyde

Karl de Bruijn Superintendent
Meghan Wade SD73
Rhonda K SD73

1. **Introductions:** The meeting was called to order . Introductions.
2. **Agenda –** Agenda approved as presented.
3. **Minutes:** - Minutes of the April 21st meeting are available on the DPAC website. Hard copies will be available at the next meeting
4. **Financial Report:** -No report.
5. **Correspondence of Note: Rotaract Camp:** Camp Focus is a leadership, teamwork, and life skills diven camp that Rotaract offers once every year for students ages 13-18. We spend a weekend (May 29-31) at Camp Grafton working on those skills. A \$20 commitment fee is donated back into the program. The \$20 covers food, overnight accommodation and transportation and applications for youth participants are **due by May 22nd**.
6. **Executive Report:**
 - a. **Executive Report:** Wil and Karl met. The discussion surrounded the budget process (an attachment is attached).
7. **Committee Reports:**

Parent Education – Last meeting we discussed some of the following:

1. "What is a District Principal"
2. How are books chosen to be included in the curriculum?
3. How are learning outcomes determined?
4. Education as it pertains to elementary team sports and sportsmanship training (for coaches, teachers, parents and assistants), ex: "Coaches Clinic".

Karl has spoken to the Chairs of the elementary and secondary sports councils, who have been invited to give presentations to DPAC. There was some discussion around the table surrounding

parent/volunteer coaches vs. teacher-coaches. DPAC members would like clarification as to whether there is a coaching “course” available that would help all coaches (teacher/volunteer/parents) to “get on the same page” with regard to developing sportsmanship and fair play guidelines. Sports Council Chairpersons will speak to this at their presentation.

8. Old Business:

PAC Questionnaire

At the last meeting there was a discussion surrounding the re-distribution of the “What Is DPAC” information sheets. We are hoping to have all district PACs respond to the questions in the PAC Questionnaire and return them to DPAC. Ideas were circulated with regard to how to get more feedback.

Some ideas put forth included:

- Putting information in the newspaper/on Twitter/on Infotel/on CFJC Midday/CBC Daybreak
- Colouring contest for elementary kids (parents would fill out the back of the sheet, kids would colour the front, with a small prize awarded to a random draw winner)
- Scholarship funds awarded to a child whose parent participate in the PAC

The Executive will take these ideas forward to their next meeting.

LearnNow BC

Learn Now BC Survey: LNBC, in cooperation with the BC Ministry of Education, is undertaking a review of the services it offers to BC students, parents and educators. Those interested in providing input should go to <https://www.jitsulab.com/417/0005/> to complete the survey.

AGM Elections

The AGM this year was very small. Erin M was elected as secretary. Peter, Don and Wil will remain until April of 2016.

Jessica has put her name forward as Treasurer. Wil accepted the nomination. All were in favor. Motion carried.

We are also looking for at least one more Member at Large. Reps are asked to please bring this information forward to the PACs and ask for volunteers or nominations.

Our DPAC bylaws say that Vice-Chairs are only appointed on “odd-numbered” years. Therefore, Wil put forward a special motion that Don be appointed as Vice-Chair until April of 2016 at the AGM. Seconded by Peter. Carried.

9. New Business:

BCCPAC

Wil reminded the DPAC to go and check out the BCCPAC. It has a lot of information. There are only 4 schools in SD73 that are BCCPAC members. It is only \$75 for the year for the school to be a member, which allows for voting privileges and access to information. DPAC reps are asked to bring this information back to their school PACs.

SD73 Budget

The school district expects to be down 386 next year (more students graduating and leaving the school system than are entering Kindergarten). This is equivalent to about the size of Aberdeen elementary (think about having to close an entire school). When spread out over an entire school district this decline in enrollment means that some thoughtful and difficult decisions had to be made in terms of financing.

What this translates to is \$2.7 million dollars LESS in our budget and a reduction of 20 staff positions. It also means that administrative costs have to be reduced by \$786,000.

On the other side there has also been funding that has arrived from the Learning Improvement Fund. This means that 24 full time equivalent teaching staff and 12 full time equivalent support staff will be hired using this funding.

Overall Karl feels that the Board has done a good job of trying to soften the impact that these challenges have meant. Karl feels that our children can all be assured of a classroom with a reasonable class size and a qualified instructor with the programs and supports necessary for the variety of learners and learning environments.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion around the table surrounding the following issues:

- The new curriculum. How was it developed and are the learning outcomes the same. Karl directed people to “Ministry of Education” to see the draft curriculums.
- Capital Plan. Karl clarified that the Capital Plan is put together by the Board of Education with public input. Input by parents can added anytime, as well as at formal board meetings.
- This is the first of two or three years that the government will be reducing funding. How will this be accommodated going forward? Karl acknowledged that this may be the case and administrative costs and supply budgets will have to be tweaked again. Next year will again be a challenge and the Board has invited the MLAs to talk to them about our budget challenges and we hope they will go back and bring these issues forward. We continue to look for ways to generate revenues (raising rents, parking fees, etc). There will be some administrative savings as well when Stuart Wood closes.

- Identification of special needs students: Will students with special needs still be able to be identified and get extra support? Karl clarified that there are specific criteria that have to be met to identify children. The challenge is always still there to get the diagnosis, which is needed to get the funding. All of that funding is put back to the children who need it.
- International students: Do they pay to come to school? Karl clarifies that we do get funding from educational students (about \$12,000 per year), which goes directly to the operating budget.
- How are capital projects prioritized at a provincial level? Karl clarified that much of that money is going into seismic upgrades at the coast. The government didn't actually accept a capital plan this year, but we sent it anyway. The government then decides whether or not to do something with it.

DPAC and FACEBOOK: As a DPAC we would love to set up a Facebook page. Tracy Poelzer is the coordinator for technology at Henry Grube. The Executive will speak with Tracy and report back.

10. KTTA Remarks: None.

11. Trustee Remarks: Technology plan is available on the website. MLA report will be posted on website. School improvement plans are on a three year cycle. They are in Graduation Mode! District honors will be coming up at the end of May. This is the time where retirements are put in so that transfers of principals will be sorted and at the end of this process, positions will be opening up for teachers.

12. Superintendent Remarks: As presented in the Budget.

13. DPAC Rep Accountabilities: as presented

14. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday June 16, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM HENRY GRUBE CENTRE