



# General Meeting Minutes May 17, 2016 Henry Grube Educational Centre

**Chair: Don K.**

Attendees:

Wendy C.	LGES	Karl DeBruijn.	SD73 Superintendent.
Kira W.	SSES, McGowan	Valerie N.	David Thompson
Jessica K	Beattie Elem	Amber H.	Juniper R.
Lisa K.	McGowan Elementary	Erin M.	Lloyd George Elem.
Kira W.	SSES	Tibor B.	Brock Middle
Allison T.	SSES	Meghan W.	Trustee SD73
Meghan W.	Trustee SD73	Ginger T.	Westmount Elem.

1. **Meeting to order** at 7:05pm
2. **Adoption of Agenda.** Moved by Kira. Seconded by Allison.
3. **Nominations to Executive Committee:**
  - a. **Chair: Elected (all in favour): Wendy Cooluris**
  - b. **Vice Chair: Vacant**
  - c. **Member at Large: Tamara Vukusic**
  - d. **Member at Large: Allison Tremblay**
  - e. **Member at Large: Kira Lee**
4. **BCCPAC Conference Update (Submitted by Tibor B.)**

Approximately 170 attended. BCCPAC is at 50% of potential membership, about 650 of 1,300 PAC's, best number since about 2007. That year, membership was required in order to get additional playground grants, so they exceeded 1,000 that year. Apparently they paid two of their past members, for a week's work in November 2015, to call PAC reminding about membership, with significant value for their cost.

Opening Speaker: Opening speaker noted that BCCPAC in the past years has done considerable work in advocating for mental health considerations for kids. This is among the 'behind the scenes' things that BCCPAC does provincially.

Plenary Presentation: Presentation from F.R.I.E.N.D.S. program, including [friendsparentprogram.com](http://friendsparentprogram.com), a provincial program since 2004, to promote kids' well-being, dealing with anxiety, resiliency, etc

Ministry presenter session : Workshop by the bureaucrats soliciting feedback on how reporting should look in the future and how to transition to a new reporting system.

Provincial Exams are being reviewed in light of '21<sup>st</sup> century learning', they may drop that back to school-district responsibility. The bureaucrat in charge had taught math and science for 20 years in schools, so they have experiential knowledge.

They said report cards 'are not going away yet, but Ministry is allowing Districts some latitude in what/how they report'

Sidenote – there was discussion about Ft St John, where due to lack of classroom space, one 'school of choice' program is a Grade 10 class in the local winter arena ( hockey/curling) , and curriculum is geared to an experiential learning, not as much classroom learning.

Afternoon: MyEDBC – 56 of 60 districts are using this, the other 4 are using a really old software. Cost to each district for using BcESIS/MyEDBC is \$10 per child annually. BCEsis has now transitioned into MyEDBC , and most transitional issues are resolved. One of the implementers is a teacher of 15 years experience who is seconded, so there is knowledge of real needs, not just programmer's opinions of needs. They reviewed the Parent Portal of MyEDBC, which has the capability for parents to drill down as deep as School District allows, it can be to the point of seeing real-time daily attendance, seeing reports, seeing marks, seeing documentation, etc .The software administrators report that some districts have closed off all access except report cards, while others are allowing wider access – School District decides access – has our PAC/DPAC been asked for any input??? Do we know status?

There was discussion among PAC attendees about 'security concerns', not trusting the Ministry to ensure security, and wondering among themselves where the details are available. My personal thought is, do they know exactly how Feds maintain passport security? Or how the Feds maintain their tax records? Do they know how their bank maintains credit card security? I suspect the answer is no to these, they trust those government institutions, so why should School Districts be any less reliable?

Final Plenary session: Retired Education Minister George Abbott spoke for an hour. Upon analysis of content, he really said nothing of substance, but he was a funny speaker, with lots of one-liners and zingers and cartoons. ( So, I guess, he is really still a politician ☺ )

Candidate presentations – all seem to be intent in raising the profile of BCCPAC.

AGM- elections this year were relatively mundane ( past years, some had been quite lively). The last few years they have had a quite capable group of Executive.

Resolutions – typical AGM stuff, lots of quibbling over language, motions, amendments, and amendments to the amendments and such. However, almost all were related to 'Ask the Ministry to fund this' , and 'Ask the Ministry to fund that', so none of significant consequence, as we know that funding is tightly controlled.

5. Susan Wilson, a longtime BCCPAC past director and past treasurer, along with being awarded a lifetime membership, has been appointed to the BC Teacher Regulation Branch, another point signifying the value that Ministry of Ed places on BCCPAC.**Adoption of Previous Minutes: Moved by Kira. Seconded by Don.**

## 6. Financial Report.

- a. Statement provided by Treasurer. Gaming Account has current balance of \$1,734.63. Still to come out is Askable Adult and FoodSafe in May. General Account has current balance of \$11,047.51. By the end of the school year (after the withdrawal of funds to cover FoodSafe and Askable Adult) the Gaming Account should be depleted.
- b. **Bursary.** The \$5,500 will be withdrawn and put into a "Bursary Fund" (High Interest Savings Account).

## 7. Correspondence:

- a. Invitation to Retirement Party for Karl DeBruijn. Discussion surrounded attendance at the party and a thank you gift for his work over the years.
8. **Executive Report:** The executive met to discuss the executive slate, the bursary, parent education, and the BCCPAC conference, as well as the upcoming retirement of Superintendent DeBruijn.
9. **Parent Education:** Parent Education sessions have been completed for the 2015/16 school year. We will solicit suggestions from PACs in September as to what education they would like DPAC to offer. Included will be discussion around a First Aid course.

#### 10. Old Business:

- a. Focus Group Invitation: Don attended from DPAC. He was disappointed that only 9 people turned out (representing 5 schools) to answer such important questions. The discussion surrounded three questions: 1) What children need to be successful in the future, 2) in what ways can technology enhance learning further, and 3) in what ways can our schools best prepare the children. Good work was done with a well prepared facilitator, but it would have been heartening to see more people attend.

#### 11. New Business.

- a. **Aboriginal Head Start in Urban Setting.** Valerie was able to pick up information from Alberta. Aboriginal Head Start is a preschool (before Kindergarten) starting at age 3.5. It is aligned with an aboriginal organization and the program is sept-june mon-thur (morning or afternoon). The program is aligned with the Calgary Board of Education school year and coincides with the school programs. There is free transportation provided within site boundaries. They rent space in the public school. Culturally based. Preschool helps kids become familiar with the kindergarten routine. Valerie will approach the aboriginal organizations within town about aboriginal programming off reserve in Kamloops, as there does not appear to be much information about this available at the current time. Superintendent DeBruijn suggested that the First Nations Education Council might be a good place to start this discussion about starting this program in the urban schools.
- b. **Discussion around Report Cards.** Superintendent DeBruijn reports that there will indeed be a change in the way reporting is done. Feedback will be solicited from DPAC, PACs and Parents as to what we would like to see in a report card.
- c. **Discussion around new curriculum and when it will be implemented.** Next year will be a trial year. The following year it will be implemented.
- d. **Discussion around 2 week spring break.** 2016/17 will be a 2 week Spring Break. The Board will have to negotiate a new 3 year agreement after that. Parent support will be solicited.

**12. Superintendent's remarks:** Superintendent DeBruijn answered questions surrounding the new curriculum and reporting systems. Also discussed was the issue of how a principal for a school is selected. Superintendent DeBruijn said that information will be solicited from the school as to particularly desired criteria (French-speaking, technology based, aboriginal ancestry, etc) and then this helps select a candidate. Schools who have lost their principal and/or vice-principal will know who the replacement will be by the end of the school year. Discussion surrounding whether or not there is a contract/commitment that new employees (principals) must agree to. Superintendent DeBruijn says that there is a policy in place, but other variables are considered (people can be promoted, get sick, move out of the school district, etc).

**13. Trustee's Remarks:**

Budget has passed. Staffing issues are being sorted out, and this will continue until the end of the school year. Graduation season is just around the corner (the first convocation is in 10 days).

**14. KTTA Remarks:** No remarks.

Meeting adjourned: 8:33 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday June 21, 2016 @ 7pm at Henry Grube**