



**Minutes – March 21, 2006**  
**Henry Grube Educational Centre**

Attendance: Arnie Kidner, Sharlene McIwain, Lesley Davidson, Rob Schoen, Meghan Wade, John Harwood, Caroline Connor, Rio Bates, Paula Schmidt.

Highlights:

**Budget Participation Correspondence**

- Regarding memo “Parent Advisory Councils – Budget Participation for the 2006-2007 School Term”
- DPAC representatives were concerned that the memo as circulated did not give enough information to PACs regarding what type of input and commentary the Board of School Trustees was seeking. Further conversation suggested that commentary regarding board priorities would be appropriate (e.g. maintaining/addressing/increasing/focusing on things such as numeracy, literacy, fine arts, sciences, special education, gifted programs, etc).
- DPAC was also concerned that many parents did not understand the process of budget development for SD#73 and suggested that additional information outlining this process might increase the effectiveness of PAC participation.

**MOTION:**

*That DPAC send a letter to the Board of School Trustees requesting that additional information be sent to PACs during next year’s budget participation. Information should include: a list of questions PACs might consider, an outline of the process for budget development, recognition of the role of School Planning Councils in the development of SD#73 planning. The letter will also include a reminder to the Schoolboard of the timing constraints of PACs (i.e. most meet only monthly so request for input must be given with enough notice to consult at regular PAC meetings) as well as recommend that the Board of School Trustees develop a process for earlier/ongoing input from PACs.*

Moved: Leslie Davidson    Seconded: Caroline Connor  
Action: Paula Schmidt to draft letter for Chair’s signature

**CARRIED**

## MOTION

*That DPAC send a letter to Superintendent Sullivan requesting the development of training / information sessions for School Planning Council members regarding the role of SPCs in the budget process.*

Moved: Caroline Connor

Seconded: Leslie Davidson

CARRIED

Action: Paula Schmidt to draft letter for Chair's signature

## School Closure

- School closures will be addressed at the April 3 school board meeting. (Note: Schoolboard is not yet dealing with the "school of choice" proposal presented by parents of schools slated for closure. This is a longer process and will be addressed separately.)
- Information regarding questions and information is on the SD #73 website.
- *Action: Send link to this information to all PAC chairs*  
Arnie Kidner

## Health and Nutrition Committee (Rio Bates)

- Mandate of committee is to review existing programs and assess if they are actually meeting needs.
- Questions:  
What is the best way to use the available monies (are there other delivery models that work better than the current ones e.g. punch cards)?  
Are school lunch programs the best way to meet sthe social and community goals (might breakfast programs be more effective)?
- Another meeting scheduled – input is welcome...please contact Rio

## Trades Program and Grad Requirements

Some concern that students graduating with dogwood certificates not being adequately prepared for some trades programs.

*Action: Follow up for more information with letter to school board.*

Rio Bates

## Annual General Meeting

April 18 – 7:00 pm

Elections will be held for:

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Director at large

*Action: Email reminder and job descriptions for each position to members.*

Arnie Kidner