



#### What exactly is DPAC?

- DPAC stands for District Parent Advisory Council. We are the official parent voice for School District 73 (Kamloops/Thompson).
- Each PAC is encouraged to elect 2 DPAC reps to attend our monthly meetings.
- We elect an executive to conduct business between meetings, but our direction is determined by our members, just like at PACs.

#### What is the role of DPAC?

- Our mandate, according to the School Act, is to advise the Board of Education on any matter relating to education in the school district. We funnel parent input to decision-makers in our district.
- We facilitate communication – we send a lot of information out to the PACs on upcoming events and programs that might interest them.
- We provide training and education for parents, as well as opportunities for exchanging ideas. We host speakers and put on workshops and networking events.
- We function as a resource for individual parents and PACs as they do their work at the school level.

#### Executive Committee

**Don K:** Chair, **Sheri L** Vice-Chair, **Erin M** (Secretary)  
**Jessica K** (Treasurer), **Allison T** (Member at Large),  
**Kira W** (Member at Large) **Brad G** (Member at Large),  
**Katie C** (Member at Large), **Melinda H** (member at Large),  
**Valerie N** (member at Large)

## DPAC General Meeting Draft Agenda Tuesday February 20, 2018 Henry Grube Education Centre 7pm

- 1. Call to order at 7:07pm.** (Note: School District officers have been asked not to attend this meeting.) Introductions were made around the table. Attendees: Kira (SSES), Jessica (KSA), Don (SKSS), Brad (Dufferin), Tibor (Brock/NKS), Katie (Westmount), Melinda (Arthur Hatton), Sheri (Westmount), Chris (Marion Schilling), Glen (Marion Schilling), Doug (Beattie), Rhonda Kershaw (SD73 Trustee), Cara McKelvey (SD73 Trustee), Freddie (Arthur Hatton), Kerrie (Arthur Stevenson/Westsyde Sec), Valerie (David Thompson), Kim (KSA), Amanda (KTTA President), Allison (SSES)
- 2. Review of the Agenda.** Accepted with the following two additions: Book Exchange. Phone System. One amendment: KTTA presentation will be moved up to the first item after Minutes from the previous meeting. (Moved: Sheri. Seconded: Brad).
- 3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting.** Accepted with one amendment: Treasurer's Report: We continue to have a total of



\$13581.70 in all accounts. (moved by Kira. Seconded by Sheri).

4. **Presentation by KTTA:** Amanda Jensen, KTTA President, attended the DPAC meeting to speak to the FSA and the issue of “class size and composition”. **FSA:** The BCTF is running several campaigns including one related to the FSA test (the sealed envelope that parents may have received this year). There are two parts to this send-out: one was information on the FSA, and the other was a paper to hand to your child’s administrator to request to exclude your child from the FSA. It is the opinion of the BCTF that the FSA only assesses where a student is at the time the test is taken (a “snapshot”). There are other factors not taken into consideration, including anxiety factors, sleep the night before, factors in the child’s home (as examples) that have nothing to do with their skills. While the KTTA states that parents have the right to opt their child out of the test, parents at the meeting mentioned that this has not been the case this year. KTTA encourages parents to follow up with the district, as parents report Principals are told they must administer the test. Parents voiced concern as to whether there a better way to communicate with parents – the sealed envelope was worrisome to some children (“are we in trouble?”) and in the end , parents felt they were put in a bad position in that they had no power to affect any change. KTTA notes that the BCTF and the KTTA has discussed the letter, and the KTTA will bring it back to the table to talk about whether there is a better way to send information out to parents. There was discussion around the table about the validity of the FSA results as a whole. There was further question around whether any valuable resources/support has been put into a school based on the outcome of the FSA (ie. Whether the FSA has been used to help inform the allocation of additional learning resources in the school). **CLASS SIZE AND COMPOSITION:** KTTA notes that “class size” refers to the size of a classroom and the compositions refers to “ministry designation” of students. KTTA states that the late 1990s was the last time that class size and composition was negotiated, including negotiated language was to divide students into low and high incidents groups. Any student that was ministry designated as “low” would lower the

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class size and there is a provision allowing for a maximum of three such students per classroom. There was a provision in the collective agreement that in instances where there were new designations or a new student moved into the district, these class limits could be exceeded by one or two students. There are 3 areas of disagreement currently within the district including 1) flex factor, 2) composition, and 3) distributive learning. All three of these arguments will have to be heard by an arbitrator. KTTA is not excited about the process of going to arbitration – it is a lengthy, costly process. KTTA decided as an executive committee to mobilize the members to assure them that their association was on top of their concerns. They called their campaign “negotiate, don’t violate”. KTTA then posted the number of violations a school had in class size/composition on the KTTA website. They determined these numbers by looking at data provided by SD73 on an individual class-by-class basis and then tallying up how many classes had more than 3 “low” students, how many classes were over the class size limits. Parents noted that these numbers seemed deceptive because the language around “violations” is the BCTF’s definition. Further, parents noted that some teachers are being financially compensated when class size is exceeded. Parents also noted that the district seems willing to do whatever it can to fix the class size/composition issue, in that there are more than 80 new teachers in the district this year, and class sizes are at an all time low. Parents further noted that there has only been a year for the district to adapt to the Supreme Court’s decision, and it seems they are willing to negotiate with the teachers in good faith. The KTTA acknowledges that agreement language still is in dispute.

## **5. Old Business**

- a. *Bursary Committee*. No update. Will meet in March.
- b. *Askable Adult*. Motion for DPAC to partner with the school district on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm to put on the Askable Adult education session with a maximum funding contribution of up to \$750.00. Moved by Kira. Seconded by Allison. Kira and Erin will work with Carly to advertise.
- c. *Social Media Policy concerns*. Trustee Cara reports back: The updated policy is on the SD73 website. There is nothing in the updated policy to say that “pages” are prohibited. Parent question: If a parent at a school starts their own “closed group” not associated with PAC or school, but uses the school’s name in the group, and the discussions are very negative, what can be done? Trustees recommend bringing

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this to the attention of the principal. If this has already been done, the Trustees will bring it forward to the district and report back.

- d. *Presentation by RCMP – The EDGE.* Presentation April 17<sup>th</sup> at the DPAC General Meeting (by the RCMP).
- e. *BCCPAC upcoming conference. May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Richmond. Sheri will attend.*

#### **6. New Business:**

- a. *Westmount.* Trustees report that traffic has always been a problem, and increasing enrolment has exacerbated this. The SD has commissioned a traffic study. It will be back by the end of March. This will likely involve solutions we (the school district) are unable to enact, as our authority ends at the property line. This will mean that negotiations with the city of Kamloops will be required. This has been arranged for April at the latest and will be between the council and the Board. More information will be available at the next meeting. Parents were also concerned about snow removal around schools, which makes bad traffic even worse.
- b. *Sexual Assault.* Global News has reported on a story involving an alleged sexual assault of an elementary school student perpetrated by four of her classmates. This assault has been reported to the Kamloops RCMP and the Ministry of Children and Families is involved. Superintendent Sidow has started a task force on school safety. Board acknowledges that we can do better. We are going to review policies. We are going to look at our district as a whole. Kevin Cameron will come in from Safer Schools and going to work with the team to help develop and review some of the policies. They are seeking reps from partner agencies, parents, AEC, sexual assault centre. DPAC is being consulted on how parent engagement can be sought. It needs to be a somewhat smaller committee to be nimble enough to make recommendations by June. People will be chosen based on their ability to help inform policy.
- c. *Foodsafe: next class is Feb 26.*
- d. *Diversity Forum: Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm. Cost is \$20. Would DPAC consider funding parents to attend? Discussion: It's a good opportunity for parents, should we consider funding a specific number of parents? Is it too late? Should we just say it's too short notice? Trustee suggests perhaps we can get a list of upcoming education sessions well in advance and we can publicize/subsidize? Decision: too short notice.*

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- e. *BCCPAC. Several pieces of information have been forwarded to the group from BCCPAC.*
- f. *Notice of upcoming AGM (May meeting). We will be looking for nominations for Chair, Treasurer and 2 Members at Large. Please think about joining the executive team!*
- g. *Book Exchange: Marion Schilling just held a very successful book exchange at their school where students could bring their old books and select as many new books as they'd like. They still have extra books – if any PAC is interested in holding their own book exchange, please get in touch with Marion Schilling and they'd be happy to help with a few pointers (and books!).*
- h. *New Phone System. Room six at the Grube is the only room that can handle conference calls at the current time. We have a new system whereby people can participate from the outlying areas of the school district that are difficult to commute to. The trustees have also distributed this information to the schools. Currently we do not have a mechanism in place to vote over the phone.*
  - 7. Treasurer's Report** – Small amount more in the gaming account. Bursary account is giving us a credit of \$0.47 per month.
  - 8. Other Correspondence- none.**
  - 9. Next Meeting – April 17, 2017. (No general meeting in March due to Spring Break)**

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