



#### 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 Minutes Tuesday May 16, 2017 Henry Grube Educational Centre

### 1. Call to order and Introductions 7:05pm

Attendees: Don K (Skss), Doug S (Beattie), Meghan Wade (Chair, SD 73 Board), Alison Sidow (Superintendent, SD73 Board), Rhonda Kershaw (Trustee, SD73 Board), Brad G (Dufferin), Lisa Carson (Director, SD73 Board), Melinda H (Arthur Hatton), Katie C (Westmount), Claire T (Juniper Ridge), Valerie N (David Thompson), Rachelle (Westmount), Jessica K (KSA), Erin M. (Lloyd George), Kira W (South Sahali)

**2. Review of the Agenda :** Approved with the following additions: Presentation by Lisa Carson regarding the Student Learning Grant, Request from Juniper re: technology. **Motion to accept with amendments by Kira. Second by Claire.**

**3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting** (Amendment: Melinda is from Arthur Hatton, not Westmount.) **Motion to accept with amendment by Kira. Second by Melinda.**



4. **Lisa Carson: Information Director for SD73.** Invited to attend to talk about the Student Learning grant. Private money has come from the ministry of Education (one time dollars) going out to schools in support of resources. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> with a small group of stakeholders met (represented by DPAC, teacher's association and principal's/vice-principal's association). Discussion surrounded: What do we want to do with these dollars (keeping in mind they are one time only). The group had a lively discussion and there were some ideas about what this would look like. Decision made that there would be allocation to all schools, with a top up to schools with less than 200 students. A portion of the money received from the Ministry would be held back to address the needs of vulnerable schools who could request an additional allocation by demonstrating a pressing need. The ideas have been formulated into a draft budget which will be sent to the school board for board approval. The schools currently have an idea about their draft allocations. There will be final approval by the end of May. The dollars may be rolled into the next school year (there is a grace period of a year to spend them). The resources that are covered include learning resources (enrolling, non-enrolling teachers) and athletic equipment. Lisa will come back June 20<sup>th</sup> to report on the final budget approved. Principals have been tasked with talking to their PACs and their staffs. There are three points that were had as guidelines: to reach as many students as possible to improve student learning, to support access to the resources to support the new redesigned curriculum, and to support access to resources outside the usual/traditional textbooks. Principals asked to consider: What are PACs fundraising for? Can this money be used to support some of the resources that PACs are fundraising for?
- Draft Budget:** \$50/student. \$40 given back to school (per student) as a base allocation, then small top up based on school population for small schools (200 students or less). Then \$100,000 in a pot that will be allocated in the fall after grant applications have been processed. The \$40/student (plus any top up) is being sent to the principal of the school. The principal will meet with the PAC to discuss needs. The principal will then build a plan.
- Don thanked Ms. Carson for her information and for attending the meeting, and thanked Jessica for attending on behalf of DPAC.***

#### 5. Old Business

- a. **FoodSafe.** Next Foodsafe will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested can contact Karen. Please contact Karen asap – DPAC will pay for another 6 people to attend. Karen will invoice DPAC. June dates: June 13 and Jun 23.



- b. **BCCPAC.** Great networking opportunity for BC PACs and DPACs. BCCPAC provided information regarding money coming into the districts from the government and there was some discussion from parents about how they would like transparency in how the money is spent. Valerie attended a couple of workshops. One was on data collection. Parents had concerns about privacy and access for students, particularly around how is information protected by the ministry and within the school district. There was also a workshop on aboriginal affairs involvement, and another presentation on cultural change. There was discussion around how to change culture vis a vis growing together and changing logos and other affairs. Overall a wonderful opportunity for networking and a positive experience.
- c. **Student Learning Grant.** Per earlier discussion with Lisa Carson.
- d. **Social Media Policy.** Please collect information from your PAC, and send information forward to Cindy Hauk at the Board office before May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Bursary Committee:** Amber from Juniper Ridge was acknowledged for all of her hard work in putting together information on how to manage and disburse the moneys in our \$5000 bursary. At this time we are hoping to strike a new Bursary Committee. Please submit your name after the meeting.
- b. **Juniper Ridge.** Two teachers have been working with coding. Two "high tech toys" have been requested to help with primary/intermediate coding. Juniper would like 7 of these toys. However, it's cheaper to buy in groups of 12. Juniper is hoping that another school will "go in" with them to purchase additional units (to make up the 12). Erin has been asked to send out an email to the greater group to see if there is any uptake the costs are approx. \$150-\$180 each depending on the unit (each unit can be used by groups of 4-5 children. It pairs with an iPad program.
- c. **Advocacy.** Valerie brought forward a point that there is often a lot of focus on money, rather than advocacy at PAC levels. Valerie has mention that there was a discussion surrounding advocacy at the BCCPAC table. At this DPAC table, there was also a discussion surrounding how best to advocate for students, not just for money, at the PAC level. One member brought forward that some schools are quite lucky that they have teachers that advocate well for their students. Overall, however, it was brought up that PACs and DPACs can have a stronger voice to advocate for our children, especially in the challenges of bullying. The trustee and superintendent



have both appreciated Valerie's concerns, and are working at both the board and the staff levels to engage all parents to discuss both advocacy issues in general and first people's special concerns, especially in light of the current conversations regarding truth and reconciliation. They both encouraged the parents around the table to continue to engage the leadership at their school and at the district and provincial levels to voice their concerns and lend a voice to the conversation as it unfolds.

- 7. Correspondence – Lloyd George Funding Request.** Tabled. A request has been put forward to support the grade 7 students taking a "Dare To Care" program at Lloyd George. This program would cost approximately \$4,500 and Lloyd George was wondering if there are any district PAC moneys that might be able to support this program for the grade 7 children as they are about to enter high school. Superintendent Sidow would like to speak to Mr. Schoen to see if there are any resources at the school district level. In addition, there were concerns about whether district funding should be used for one particular school – perhaps we could open it up to other schools/parents to attend as well. There were also concerns about whether these types of presentations are successful.
- 8. Superintendent Remarks –** In the process of establishing the transfers of principals. They consider the school and the operational needs in this process. Postings will go up soon. Once those candidates are chosen, this may impact other schools' principals and vice-principals. We will be kept apprised as decisions are finalized. In other events, schools are taking on some really challenging goals with the new strategic plan and redesigned curriculum. For example we are addressing some critical thinking and competency, and being much more inclusive. Robert Koopmans, Communications Specialist, has been hired from the district (background is from the Daily News) and he will be working with SD73 to help push out the stories that they are very proud of. Three key areas: 21<sup>st</sup> c learning, partnerships (working in new ways and inclusive approach with decision making) and organizational excellence (accountable to parents, kids and tax payers). Finally, the superintendent would like to mention that our principals and teachers are doing tremendous work outside of the classroom to bring groups of kids together to celebrate and learn through their passions (like young artists, authors, heritage fair, science fair and heavy metal rocks). Last comment: social media: this DPAC has been involved in the social media policy. Provincial and national attention around this. BCCPAC has invited Rob Schoen to come present (we are the first district in the province to deal with this). In addition, Manitoba is also interested in this issue and would like to see what we've produced. Congratulations



to DPAC for making a difference in our schools. **Question from the floor re using the school for elections:** People running stop signs, fist fights in the parking lot, concerns regarding strangers and the public in the schools Can feedback be brought forward? Superintendent will be in touch with Elections BC to talk with them about how our schools are used and how to protect our students. **Question regarding the new communications hired by the district:** Can individual schools phone Robert to cover really cool events? Answers: Principals can do this.

9. **Trustee Remarks:** Chairwoman Wade mentioned that grad season is coming up. Budget passed on May 8<sup>th</sup>. On May 8<sup>th</sup> 2 facilities reports were presented (short term work 1.4 million for additional classes) and the next was an overview of the medium term plan. At this point growth areas have to be looked at and the district is going through the processes, options and this will come forward to the board in the Fall. In September we will be stretched to the max: the board is aware of this and working on a plan. Trustee Wade stated that she had a brief conversation with our new Communications Specialist and he hit the ground running visiting schools on the Pro D day and he was blown away at how much work goes on behind the scene on an inservice day. Schools getting portables for next school year to accommodate class sizes include: Westmount, McGowan, Valleyview (x2), David Thompson (x2), Lloyd George. The portables were ordered in February and there is great hope that they will be in place before schools open in September.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.**

**10. NEXT GENERAL MEETING: June 20 at 7 pm at the Henry Grube.**