



Regular Meeting Minutes September 22, 2009 Henry Grube Educational Centre

Attendees:

Tania V. – NorKam Sec.

Leigh-Anne L. – Juniper Elem.

Meghan W. – Beattie

Zacharie J. – Lloyd George Elem.

Sandra L. – Parkcrest Elem.

Lindsay J. – David Thompson Elem.

Leah F. – Stuart Wood Elem.

Beth M. – Stuart Wood Elem.

Patricia D. – Aberdeen Elem.

Fiona C. – Valleyview Sec.

Anne G. – South Sa-Hali Elem.

Gisela R. – Sa-Hali Sec.

Alison S. – Kay Bingham Elem.

Andrew S. – Valleyview Sec.

Lesley B. – Arthur Stevenson Elem.

Todd S. – Parkcrest Elem.

John Churchley – School Board Office

Denise Harper – School Trustee

Dr. Terry Sullivan – Superintendent SD73

1. **Introductions:** Meeting convened at 7:00 pm by Meghan Wade. Introductions around the table.

2. **Adoption of minutes:**

MOTION to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting approved as presented (Gisela R., Leigh-Anne L.) – **CARRIED.**



Minutes DPAC June
16, 2009.pdf

3. **Financial Report:** Final year end statement for 2008/2009 as well as September 2009 monthly update provided by Gisela R. Since our gaming funds have been reduced to half of what was expected, a new draft budget will be discussed next month. **ACTION: Gisela R. + Executive.**



Fin rpt Sept 22,
2009.xls



Fin stmt Fiscal Year
July 08 - June 09.xls

4. **Correspondence of Note:**

- a. Ministry of Education re our letter concerning student transportation funding
- b. BCCPAC membership renewal package

5. **Old Business:**

- a. **Speakers series** – Our first Parent Education night will go ahead at 7 pm on Wednesday, October 21 with Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg. He will address the topic of cybersafety for children and teens at the TRU Grand Hall (admission \$5). Lindsay J, Sandra L, Meghan W. and Leigh-Anne L. volunteered to assist with set-up, admission etc. on October 21. **ACTION: Gisela R.** will follow up with these volunteers. A proposal asking School District 73 to support two further Parent Education Nights (Barry MacDonald on mentoring boys and Bill Belsey on bullying) was submitted on August 6, 2009, with a request to advise us by September 30, 2009. Follow-up required. **ACTION: Meghan W., Leigh-Anne L.**
- b. **Facilities Report** – The report was presented to the trustees by School Board staff at the June 22 Board meeting. It is available online at the school district website:

www.sd73.bc.ca. Meghan W. reported on the meeting between the DPAC Executive and the Board of Trustees. There was general agreement on the position presented by the executive. The following statement was read aloud:

“The executive of SD73 DPAC has taken our direction in this matter from the BCCPAC document Guidelights on School Closures.

The DPAC represents all the schools in the district and will remain neutral in the decisions regarding which schools should or should not be closed. DPAC will be a source of information such as where to find school board policies, where to look for information and which district staff or trustee to talk to. DPAC will also offer assistance with the dissolution process to PACs whose schools are closing.

The executive of SD73 DPAC will be concerning itself with monitoring the process for public consultation; informing PACs of their rights and responsibilities in the process, providing PACs with the information and resources they seek in advocating for their children and advising the Board of Education if the process appears to be failing the parents.

We expect to have DPAC representation at all but one of the public closure meetings scheduled during the next five months.”

There were several questions regarding the criteria for closure (the trustees will look at factors in addition to dollars and numbers, such as bussing times, effect on community of school closure, social value of school, etc), and it was stressed that no decision has been made yet and that all parents should provide input at the upcoming consultation meetings. DPAC executives will endeavour to be present at all public meetings.

- c. **Parent Leadership Task Force** – The Terms of Reference for this task force have been completed with the involvement of DPAC representatives. The forms to express interest in sitting on the Task Force are being revised. All parents are encouraged to consider becoming involved with this project, which will develop a strategy to increase parent involvement and parent leadership in our district. Expression of Interest forms will be distributed through principals as well as through DPAC when they become available within a week or so.
- d. **Superintendent’s Committee on Assessment** – Dr. Sullivan reported that the report from this committee has gone through the Education Committee, and is expected to be presented to the Board at the October 5th meeting of the trustees. He also informed us that the topic for the 2010 fall conference hosted by SD73 will be assessment.

6. New Business:

- a. **Gaming fund cutbacks to PACSs/DPACs** – Gaming funds to PACs and DPACs have been cut by the Province to half of past amounts (now \$10/student to PACs, \$1250 total for DPACs).

MOTION: That the DPAC executive take action protesting cuts to gaming funds (Leigh-Anne L., Allison S.) – **CARRIED**. All PACs are encouraged to write letters to the Minister of Housing & Social Development, Minister of Education, and our MLAs. Please send a copy to DPAC at sd73dpac@gmail.com. **ACTION: DPAC Executive, All DPAC Reps.**

- b. **District budget issues** – SD73 has been put into a position of budget shortfall due to the elimination of the Annual Facilities Grant, the elimination of the right to charge rent to the Francophone school, a hike in MSP premiums, and the clawback of holdback funds, totalling over \$3M.

MOTION: That the DPAC Executive express its dissatisfaction with respect to educational funding in SD73 (Gisela R., Lesley B.) – **CARRIED.** **ACTION: DPAC Executive.**

- c. **Meeting with MLA's** -- DPAC execs will meet with our MLA's on October 13th at 4 pm. They will use this opportunity to discuss items 6a and 6b.
- d. **Call for nominations** – DPAC is functioning as an executive committee this year, since no chair or vice-chair was elected at the AGM. We would like to have a few more executive members.

MOTION: To elect Sandra L. and Lindsay J. as Members-At-Large to the DPAC executive (Leigh-Anne L., Gisela R.) – **CARRIED.**

Thank you, Sandra and Lindsay!

- e. **Call for interest in Tech It Up! Conference** -- SD73 and TRU are hosting Tech It Up! International 2009 from October 22 – 24, 2009. Funding has been made available to DPAC for 10 parents to attend. Expressions of interest are due in to DPAC by Friday, October 9, 2009. **ACTION: All DPAC reps** should discuss this opportunity with their PAC members.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Website – Todd S. reported that the redesigned School District website should be functioning by mid-October. **ACTION: Todd S.** will follow up regarding linking our website to the new SD73 site.
- b. Corporate sponsorship policy – The executive discussed the latest iteration of this Board policy at an executive meeting, and forwarded our input to Denise Harper, Chair of the SD73 Policy Committee. Trustee Harper reported that the policy will likely go to Notice of Motion within a month.
- c. Parent Education – Since so much time will be taken up by the school closure consultation meetings, DPAC would only like to do the training sessions that PACs request. **ACTION: All DPAC Reps** are to check with their PACs regarding training needs (e.g. HELP! I've Been Elected to the PAC Executive) and report back to DPAC. Fiona C. offered to send out information about a nutritionist who would like to work with PACs. **ACTION: Fiona C.** to send information to sd73dpac@gmail.com for distribution.

8. Executive report:

- a. Facilities Report meeting with trustees – Executive attended meeting September 15.
- b. 2 Exec Meetings (September 2, 2009 and September 22, 2009).
- c. G-mail list communications – A summary of notices sent to the e-mail list was presented.

9. **Superintendent's Remarks:** Dr. Sullivan discussed the new Synervoice technology which will allow PACs to send notices by phone very quickly. He reminded DPAC that two members are

invited to the SPC planning meeting on September 30. He pointed out that the SBO is receiving many questions regarding the reconfiguration, and that all questions and responses are being posted on a FAQ at the www.sd73.bc.ca website.

10. Trustee's remarks: Trustee Harper pointed out that other Districts are also suffering from the funding clawbacks, and are taking drastic measures. One school district implemented mass layoffs in the maintenance department. Another is now enforcing walk limits and charging for bussing. She encouraged PACs to express their views to government.

11. DPAC Rep Accountabilities:

- a. Make sure that the DPAC rep and at least one other executive member is getting the DPAC g-mails (more welcome to sign up).
- b. Make sure your PAC is aware of Dr. Carr-Gregg's upcoming parent presentation on Cybersafety (October 21, 7 pm at TRU Grand Hall, admission \$5). He is a fantastic speaker.
- c. Encourage your PAC members to apply to attend the Tech It Up! Conference by October 9. Send expressions of interest to sd73dpac@gmail.com.
- d. Encourage your PAC to send a letter to MLA's and Ministers regarding provincial funding cuts to the SD73 budget and/or gaming fund cutbacks to PACs/DPACs. Send a copy to DPAC before our October 13 meeting with the MLA's.
- e. Check with your PAC regarding training needs this year. Do you want us to run HELP! I've Been Elected to the PAC Executive? Other training needs?

12. DPAC meeting dates for this year:

October 27, 2009
November 10, 2009
December 8, 2009
January 26, 2010
February 16, 2010
March 16, 2010
April 20, 2010
May 18, 2010
June 15, 2010

All meetings will be held at the Henry Grube Centre from 7 to 9 pm in Room 1A.