***Executive Committee***

**Don K**: Chair, **Sheri L** Vice-Chair, **Erin M** (Secretary) **Jessica K** (Treasurer), **AllisonT** (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**

**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.

**Minutes**

**Tuesday September 19, 2017**

**Henry Grube Educational Centre**

1. **Call to order at 7:02pm.**

*Attendees: Melinda (Member at Large – DPAC), Katie (Member at Large – DPAC), Valerie (Member at Large – DPAC), Brad (Member at Large – DPAC), Kerrie (Arthur-Stevenson), Claire (Juniper), Chris (Marion Schilling), Stephanie W. (RL Clemitson), Shannon S (Beattie), Doug S (Beattie), Dori (Barriere Elementary), Robert K (SD73 Communications Manager), Allison Sidow (SD73 Superientendent), Megan Wade (Chair of SD 73 Board), Rhonda K (Board Liaison to DPAC), Cara McKelvie (Board DPAC Liaison), Sheri L (Vice Chair – DPAC), Jessica K (Treasurer – DPAC), Don K (Chair – DPAC), Erin M (DPAC Secretary).* Superintendent Sidow introduced Robert Koopmans, our SD’s new Communications Director. He will tell the great stories coming from our schools and help communicate some of the goings-on in the district. Mr. Koopman will focus on the 5 year strategic plan. He invites us to share information with him to help tell some of the stories from our SD. We can call/email him directly through the school board office.

1. **Review of the Agenda. Additions:** Treasurer’s report and Budget Approval. ***Motion to accept the agenda with additions***: Sheri. Seconded by Claire.
2. **Minutes from the Previous Meeting. *Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as submitted*:** Claire. Seconded by Brad.
3. **Financial Report.** Bank statements have not arrived (ending Aug 31st). There is $2230.28 in the gaming account. There is $4642.86 in the General Account. There is $5500 in the Bursary Account. The SD73 DPAC Draft Budget was presented. Budget assumes receipt of the $2500 in Gaming Funds, with expenses for the TD Bank monthly plan fee ($23.40), BCCPAC membership ($75), BCCPAC travel expense for one person to attend conference ($1500), KELLI literacy education/presenter ($500), Food Safe Course for 10 people ($900) and Parent Education $2000. ***Motion to adopt 2017/18 DPAC budget for year ending June 30, 2018:*** Sheri. Seconded by Katie. All in favour.
4. **Capital Advocacy Plan.** Our Board Chair, Megan Wade presented “Schools: An investment in our future”. This presentation can be found at [www.ourschoolsourfuturesd73.com](http://www.ourschoolsourfuturesd73.com). In June, the Board met to prepare a list of items that they would like to advocate for, with a “top 3” identified. The basis is that the SD needs new capital investment to ensure our children get the education they deserve. A brochure was created and was available at the DPAC meeting. SD 73 is one of BC’s largest districts. Student enrollment declines have turned around. We are one of this Province’s biggest districts, both by size and enrollment. We have 2.6% of the provincial student enrollment but only 0.5% of the funding. Schools are community assents. Schools are central to our neighbourhoods and help define the character of our cities. It’s been nearly 20 years since our district has seen significant investment in new infrastructure. But that’s not the case in other districts. From 2002 to 2016 the province of BC invested $2 Billion in provincial schools across all 60 school districts. SD 73 received only $10.7 million dollars (Kelowna received $114.7 million dollars in the same amount of time, Vernon received $57.5 million, and Prince George received $60.9 million). When you look at per capita funding, we received $742 per student for capital infrastructure funding from 2001 to 2017, compared to the provincial average of $6,888 per student. We in SD 73 have many pressing needs. Number 1 is Expansion at Valleyview Secondary, which is operating at 137 per cent capacity. By 2025 it will be up to 176 percent. This school currently has 8 portable classrooms. Number 2 is Expansion at Westmount Elementary School. 1/3 of the classrooms at Westmount are in portables. Number 3 is a new elementary school at Pineview Valley. Pineview Valley has seen significant development and growth over the last decade. It has no school. Bussed children must go to Dufferin or McGowan. McGowan now has 3 portables on site. Number 4 is Expansion at South Kamloops Secondary School. The school’s life can be extended with an addition. In particular, the 60-year old gymnasium at SKSS poorly serves the needs of this vibrant, busy school. Chair Wade reiterated that a community working together can achieve many things, and that the SD needs our help as parents and community stakeholders in order to push for improvements to the infrastructure that serves our communities in so many important ways. How can you help as a parent? Let our provincial government know you are concerned. And stay in touch with the SD73 initiatives via twitter and the web. The District will keep parents informed about efforts to improve the situation for our children. Parents are encouraged to visit [www.ourschoolsourfuturesd73.com](http://www.ourschoolsourfuturesd73.com) and help bring new investment in education to our local schools and communities. A list of SD73 Trustees will be sent out to DPAC reps so that every PAC will know how to get in touch with their Trustee. There was discussion around the table surrounding how boundaries are defined, opening closed schools again, and bussing options. All of these issues will come up at the board level again and will be brought forward to DPAC once these presentations have occurred at the board level. *DPAC thanks Mr. Koopmans, Board Chair Wade and Superintendent Sidow for this presentation.*
5. **Old Business – 2016/17 School year.**
	1. **Social Media Policy.** Going forward for notice of motion to the Monday Board Meeting. If PACs could watch for that, engage in the conversation and provide feedback before Oct 23 (when it will be up for approval). This will impact parents, so please watch for this after Monday on the Board website..
	2. **Bursary Committee.** Currently consists of Brad and Don. Goals will be to bring forward to the Exec and general membership the next steps necessary in order to get the bursary ready to disburse in the Spring of 2018. History: The DPAC had money in the bank from a past presentation, and will disburse it to one person from SD 73 who is coming back to complete their high school education after a break. There will be two annual bursaries of $500.
	3. **Using Schools for Elections.** Legislation requires schools to open for elections. There was concern for the children’s safety after several instances occurred this past election. The Superintendent has spoken with Elections BC, but unfortunately, we have no control over our schools being open to the public for elections - we must comply under the Act. We will do our best to secure our students’ privacy and safety for the next election (the upcoming civic election will occur on a Saturday, so students will not be present).
	4. **Aboriginal Parent Engagement.** Valerie updated the group: she received an email in the summertime asking for volunteers to provide recommendations to increase aboriginal parent engagement at SD and Provincial levels. Valerie will participate in a Sept 28 teleconference and will speak to system inability to listen comprehensively to parent voices, the loss of parent voices when in PACs, and reduced parent voices in the class.
6. **New Business:**
	1. **DPAC meetings via conference call**. Barriere notes that it is quite difficult to participate due to the travel requirement. Don notes that several years ago a remote option for meetings was attempted but attendance was not good. Superintendent Sidow states that the technology is in place, but that it would require a staff member. Superintendent Sidow states that she would be willing to help out with staff support of the technology. Discussion around the table occurred about how this might work – speaker phones where folks could call in from home, Skype, Video conference from schools. Mr. Koopmans will investigate and bring ideas back to DPAC for consideration.
	2. **Foodsafe: Motion to fund 10 spaces on a first come/first serve basis.** Motion not necessary. Line item in Budget.
	3. **Parent/PAC Education Session for the upcoming year:** Suggestions from around the DPAC table: Askable Adult, Anxiety/Mental Health, Gord Newfeld (“Hold on to your kids”), Jesse Miller, Vanessa Lapointe (Anxiety and Children, Discipline without Damaging your Child), . Erin to cost out these suggestions and bring back to the next meeting.
	4. **DPAC Meeting Dates:** November 21 will be held either at a school or the board office. Exact location to be determined. December 19 and March 20th meetings will be cancelled Moved By Sheri. Seconded by Claire.
	5. **BLSC:** Fun happenings at the BLSC coming up this Fall. Please check out their website and pass the info on to your PAC for posting in schools.
	6. **Community Gaming Grants – Capital Project Grant.** Tibor brought forth information that the grant closes Sept 30th. http:/gov.bc.ca/gaminggrants
	7. **Additional item: Concern from Beattie over increased traffic due to Starbucks/Dominos.** Superintendent Sidow will bring the traffic concerns and parking concerns forward.
7. **NEXT GENERAL MEETING: October 17th at 7 pm at the Henry Grube.**