



Executive Committee

Sheri L: Chair **Brad G:** Vice-Chair **Heather A:** Secretary **Erin M:** Treasurer
Chris P: Member-at-Large. **Valerie N:** Member-at-Large

2021 January 19th General Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome/Call to Order: 6:31pm

a) In Attendance:

Holly - KSA
Janine - Beattie
April W. and Crystal - Marion Schilling
Katie C - Westmount
Melanie - RLC
Kristy - Aberdeen Elementary
Steve and Tamara W. - Westsyde Secondary
Candace - Dufferin Elementary
Darcy M. - KTTA
Melinda H. - Arthur Hatton
Julie - SKSS
Gina - SSES/KSA
Clare - SKSS
Executive Member of SD73 DPAC
Laurel M. - KTTA
Shelley S. - SD73
Vessy M. - SD73
Grant R. - SD73
Sherry S. - SD73
Rhonda K. - SD73
Superintendent Sullivan - SD73

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 as well as workshops and networking events.
- We function as a resource for individual parents and PACs as they do their work at the school level.



2. Presentation by Vessy Mochikas:

- Vessy, District SOGI Lead (Zoom screen name—Vessy (She/Her).
 - District Vision for SOGI
 - SOGI Implementation Plan
 - SOGI in Practice
- Sherry Stade and Grant Reilly to present Mental Health and literacy supports in SD 73.
- Vessy presents SOGI and what they are doing in the district. (attached slides from SOGI presentation in email)
- Grant Reilly:
- Supports include 3-tiers: Universal Support (mostly used), Targeted Support and Specialized Support. Focus of today's presentation is Universal Support. Specialized support focuses on a group that needs more intensive care support.
 - K-9 written in curriculum for mental well-being. Past 5 years Sherry's focuses has been on supports
 - Mental health disorders start to present around puberty ages 12-25
 - what it means to be mental health literate, 4 components, 1) understanding good mental health (exercise, diet, etc.), 2) Understanding mental illness and their treatments, 3) Decrease stigma, 4) Enhancing help seeking abilities.
 - Role of Teacher: recognize potential illness NOT diagnose or suggest treatment.
 - Model, Scaffold, Coach *target age-groups, professional development for teachers, targeted support and guidance, capturing the learning
 - Addressing a knowledge gap for Mental Health/Mental illness—Secondary Implementation grades 9/10, Unit comprehensive with goals to reduce stigma, gain knowledge on common mental illnesses, and how it impacts lives and how to access support.
 - Elementary Implementation grades 6/7 – understand and be more aware of mental health, recognize early signs and symptoms, reflect and share ideas, new this year—build emotional vocabulary.
 - Assessment of Mental Health looking at core competency: building resilience.
 - Connecting online for Support, BC FOUNDRY, ANXIETY CANADA, KIDS HELP PHONE Text 686868
 - 2nd tier of support: **Targeted Support**, more common challenges District anxiety groups *worry bugs/worry dragons, *Y Mind (piloting this year partnered with YMCA) School level supports: 6 aboriginal family counsellors, secondary counsellors, school and family consultants.

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



-3rd Tier of support: **Specialized, Intensive support:** *Suicide risk screening and interim safeplan (SRSIS), *Problematic sexual behaviour (PSB), etc. Have clinicians and outside agencies, drug and alcohol counsellor, CYMH, SCFS, LMO
-(Sheri L) Question: do all the teachers have the ability to recognize the signs of some of the mental health disorders discussed? Answer: not all of them but opportunities are being developed to make sure there are opportunities for them to learn.

Question: where in the curriculum in the grade 9/10 is the mental health competencies found? Answer: delivered in physical health classes.

Question: accessibility of “worry dragons” was not previously available, how are we ensuring that kids have access? Answer: with covid-19 concerns worry dragon has now been being presented on zoom and accessibility is has not been a concern.

Vessy Mochikas School Lead (See presentation slides in email):

SOGI education in school District No. 73:

-What is SOGI? Sexual Orientation: refers to romantic or sexual attraction, Gender identity.

The SD 73 SOGI plan:

- to ensure free from discrimination

-ensure students who identify as LGBTQ2s+ see themselves reflected in curriculum

-to ensure learning about diversity

-articulate clear goals objectives, and strategies.

-<https://www.nohomophobes.com/#!/today/>

-everyone has the right to feel safe regardless of who they are or identify

- DPAC Representative call to join next meeting January 26th, 3:15pm – Student SOGI champions * elementary school January 26th—Secondary school: January 11th (call for students).

-The how procedure, AP 174 sexual orientation and gender identity, profession development, intranet, inclusive sexual Health, out in schools, resources (library learning commons).

-Literature regarding SOGI is accessible in all libraries

-SOGI is meant to be embedded throughout the curriculum throughout all subject areas – encouraging that it is introduced in a positive light.

- February 16th parent engagement “askable adult” with the SD 73 school board.

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



3. **Review of the Agenda:** Added 6f. Chris P Moved, 2nd by Erin M. Approved
-

4. **Minutes from the Previous Meeting:** Chris P. moved, 2nd by Val - Approved
-

5. **Old Business:**

- a) **Electronic Submissions of PAC Contacts (Heather):**
- received and in distribution now. Much earlier than has been in previous years.
- b) **Bursary Committee (Sheri):**
-bursary money was put aside—original goal to give to an adult trying to finish their education. Have new supporters to meet and stepping in the right direction to move bursary money.
- c) **SD 73 Indigenous Education Family Voices (Previously IDPAC) (Valerie):**
- Had Vessy at their last meeting and she requested input from their group which they have put forward.
- Culturally sensitive indigenous perspectives, topic in plain sight
- Next meeting February 4th. Will meet once a month.
- is there a generic email to reach IEFV –answer, not yet, still working on social media engagement.
-Val will pass on zoom information to be passed on to other families.
- d) **FoodSafe (Erin):** Nothing as of yet received. Unknown if that has been accessed at all. One parent was told by the provider that she would have to pay for the course and DPAC would reimburse her. Will reach out to provider to explain they are expected to submit invoice directly to DPAC and cost should not go to parents trying to access the program.
- e) **Future of Schools Committee (Chris):**
- Is meeting with Todd Stone and Peter Millobar, to discuss SD 73 long range facility plans.

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



-Was the Superintendents original committee developing long range facility plans, meeting as discussed is just to further plans

f) Zoom Licenses (Erin)

-no new information, but reminder that if grad committees want use of zoom to organize or host events it would be available through DPAC zoom licenses.

6. New Business:

a) New Superintendent:

- A new superintendent and CEO has been hired for SD73. The Board of Education of School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) has appointed Dr. Rhonda Nixon to the role starting July 1, 2021

b) Education for Parents:


FREE SESSIONS!

NAVIGATING THE TALK(S): SEXUAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

SD73 DPAC PRESENTS FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS WITH MARTHA SOLOMON, CERTIFIED SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATOR

**PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED
ALL WORKSHOPS FROM 6:30-8:30PM**

DATES:
February 11th, The Early Years (preschool–grade 3)
February 18th: The Middle Years (grades 4-7)
March 4th: The Teen Years (grades 8+)



- unfortunately will not be recorded but will have printable material for those that would like if they can't make the event. Please email sd73dpaczoom@gmail.com for registration. This is paid for by DPAC but you will need to register in order to receive the zoom link.

-School Board 73 Parent Education: Social Media awareness, Thursday, Jan 28th: 6:30 – 8:30

c) School PAC Email Addresses:

- Discussing the possibility for schools to have example: @sd73.bc.ca
- Exploring the idea

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



- d) Capital Funding and Growth:**
 - Still working with the School board.
- e) Indoor Air Quality Funding:**
 - District received 1 time grant – superintendent had talked about placing some money with Art MacDonald regarding HVAC improvements. – tabled for superintendent report.
- f) Grade 8 registration and Westmount questions (Katie Cavaletto):**
 - Westmount frustrated with the process of grade 8 registration, had limited time and many parents had a hard time accessing scanners/printers. Would have been easier if it was easier online (like kindergarten is this year). Parents were wondering why parents had to verify seemingly redundant information (example age, proof of address, who the child lives with) Why the need. Would have done all of this when registered for Westmount.
 - Field at Westmount is shaded and iced at the top. When begins to thaw, huge puddle there. Creates a hazard when parents have to push strollers etc. through puddles. What can be done. Superintendent to include in report to follow.

7. Reports:

- a) Treasurer's Report:** Only fee used: \$189.23 Christmas cards
 - Call to parents to put on thinking caps what they want to spend from DPAC funds. About \$1200 left.
- b) Superintendent Report (Terry Sullivan):**
 - Concentrating on 2 items: school visits (communication enhancement), and Covid-19 concerns – increased number of exposures since Christmas. Provincial numbers seem to be slowly declining so hoping to have that continue.
 - Indoor air quality 5.4 million earmarked for Covid concerns- air filter improvement is being implemented with part of these funds, but unsure where in the process this is for now.
 - Will investigate grade 8 registration concerns tomorrow.
 - Will email DPAC with investigation

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



-The field concerns at Westmount, will investigate and see what can be done and see if neighbors will cooperate to cut hedges blocking field and allowing faster drying of field.

-Question (Gina): Can parents find out more information on the sophisticated air filters that are being placed in schools. Also, how else can we improve air quality in schools (example some schools have painted windows, perhaps paint can be removed to allow those windows to open). Answer (Terry): Art Macdonald will know more about this issue. Problem, in winter, balance between allowing open air into school but also maintaining temperature.

-Question (Erin M): Where are we in the projection with covid-19 concerns with ebb and flow of student return or distant learners? Answer (Terry): We are pretty much right on track with what we expected, as cases spike, parents withdraw children. And as cases decline again, students have been returning. A very fluid situation. Hoping for the 5% of withdrawn students (distance learns) that they will return again slowly.

Question (Clare): Is it a consideration to mandate mask wearing in our school communities now that CDC has released transmission is happening air born. Answer (Terry): Has noticed at the high school level that the protocol is to wear a mask and this is being implemented. In elementary kids, transmission rates have been very low at these ages and surroundings. Comment that recent spike in cases happened outside of our schools (Christmas and New years break). Point well taken, but as of now not mandating mask wearing.

c) **BCCPAC Report:** Andrea Sinclair, BCCPAC Chair to attend the next meeting.

-Resolutions are due, nominations for BCCPAC board of directors upcoming. Jan. 8th, they posted a report of BCCPAC reps of what is happening regarding covid-19 protocols. Report "supporting the K-12 Education response to covid-19 in B.C.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administratio/n/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/covid-19-protocols-for-administrators.pdf>

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



see report at the end of the minutes

d) Trustee Report (Trustee Sim and Trustee Sullivan):

-Really excited for the appointment of Rhonda Nixon as incoming superintendent.

-Transmission of schools has been very minimal and that has to do with a lot of work to enforce strict protocols, improved janitorial services, and maintaining social distance.

-Trustee Sim: Student voice and their experience with Covid-19. Students felt gratitude to be able to be at school and overall felt ability to talk to peers and ensure that all followed protocol. One of the topics that came up out of clearwater is parent concerns regarding Covid-19 that they were maybe thinking of withdrawing kids from school communities and involve in distance learning. It was reiterated and discussed that transmission has not been happening due to protocols in place. Kids are explaining the school community is a safe place.

-Concern regarding new Superintendent: previous report that within the district she came from in Alberta a teacher was terminated who came from the LGBTQ2s+ community. Answer: Inclusiveness is a huge part of our district culture, and the school board has no concerns regarding her upcoming leadership. This district is very concerned with diversity and inclusiveness and have confidence that Dr. Rhonda Nixon will fit in perfectly.

e) KTTA Report (Laurel):

-Of the teachers that have been reached out to regarding the new reporting system they are overall enjoying it. challenges regarding language-- not resonating with parents. Need more clarification to parents and they recognize this need.

-positive reviews: encouraging student engagement and ease of use for teachers. Overall, this is proving to be a positive change and preferred method of reporting.

8. Other Correspondence:

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



-Covid-19 response plan from BCCPAC and communication flow chart to be provided again from Terry Sullivan. If change is to happen then needs to happen from provincial level.

9. **Adjournment:** 8:41p

[Updates from Erin: BCCPAC Updates re COVID](#)

DPAC meeting tonight.

Sign in Jan 19, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/67696594412?pwd=Q29ENmVFdTdWcFJKdEttK3JOcjQyQT09>

Meeting ID: 676 9659 4412

Passcode: Lw0A.&=2

District COVID Update: as of Jan 18/21

We have had four exposures in our schools since our last update.

The district was informed of the following positive cases of COVID-19 on:

- Sunday, Jan. 17: Juniper Ridge Elementary, exposure Jan. 11, 2021
- Sunday, Jan. 17: South Kamloops Secondary, exposure Jan. 12 and 13, 2021
- Sunday, Jan. 17: Valleyview Secondary, exposure Jan. 11, 2021
- Monday, Jan. 18: Marion Schilling Elementary, exposure Jan. 14, 2021

In the case of a confirmed or unconfirmed case of COVID-19 in a school, the school district will follow the

process outlined in **COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators document** ([SUPPORTING THE K-12 EDUCATION RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN B.C. \(gov.bc.ca\)](#))

BCCPAC COVID Report – Update for K-12 - January 8

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



A reminder that we post all our updates and the relevant materials and documentation on our Education Covid resources page: <https://bccpac.bc.ca/.../reso.../21-advocacy/861-c19-updates>

President Sinclair attended two meetings with the Minister and Education, other stakeholder presidents and Dr Reka Gustafson of the office of the PHO. She has and will continue to raise these key issues which are being discussed at the provincial table:

- remote and flexible learning options availability and continuance for those who have not returned to in-class learning
- adherence to the Guiding Principles ensuring that Special Needs students are receiving a full day/full week of education
- the resolution of the existing equity gap
- ensuring all students are receiving a full educational program in all districts
- plans to address the reality of learning loss being experienced by students across K-12
- continued plans and resources to address the mental health needs of students

Information from the Deputy Provincial Health Officer. President Sinclair attended an education partners meeting with the Ministry of Education and Dr. Reka Gustafson on Jan 6 during which two reports were shared.

The first report was from the EU CDC (<https://bccpac.bc.ca/.../EU-CDC-C9-in-children-and-the...>) regarding COVID-19 in children and the role of school settings in transmission.

Key Messages in the Report:

- There is a general consensus that the decision to close schools to control the COVID-19 pandemic should be used as a last resort. The negative physical, mental health and educational impact of proactive school closures on children, as well as the economic impact on society more broadly, would likely outweigh the benefits. - In surveillance data, among childhood COVID-19 cases, children between 1-18 years of age have lower rates of hospitalisation, severe hospitalisation and death than do all other age groups.
- Children of all ages are susceptible to and can transmit SARS-CoV-2. Younger children appear to be less susceptible to infection, and when infected, less often lead to onward transmission than older children and adults.
- School closures can contribute to a reduction in SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but by themselves are insufficient to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 in the absence of other nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) such as restrictions on mass gathering.
- Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 can occur within school settings and clusters have been reported in preschools, primary and secondary schools. Incidence of COVID-19 in school settings appear to be impacted by levels of community transmission. Where

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm



epidemiological investigation has occurred, transmission in schools has accounted for a minority of all COVID-19 cases in each country.

- Educational staff and adults within the school setting are generally not seen to be at a higher risk of infection than other occupations, although educational roles that put one in contact with older children and/or many adults may be associated with a higher risk. |

The second report shared was from McMaster University in Ontario
(<https://bccpac.bc.ca/.../McMasterRapid-Review-re-Schools...>)

Key Messages in the Report:

- Based on the published reports to date from both prior to COVID-19 lockdown and following reopening, the risk of transmission from children to children and children to adults in primary school and daycare settings appears low, when infection control measures are in place. The certainty of the evidence is low (GRADE), and findings may change as new data become available.
- Within clusters and outbreaks, adult to adult transmission seems to be more common than child to adult or adult to child. Certainty of the evidence is very low (GRADE), and findings are very likely to change as new data become available.
- Implementation of infection control measures appear to be important to limiting spread as evidenced by several outbreaks where limited or no measures were in place. Across jurisdictions reviewed, there is wide variability in policies in place limiting the ability to evaluate the impact of specific infection prevention and control measures or make best practice recommendations for daycare or school settings due to variability in measures implemented.

Next Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 6:30pm