



'Unadopted' DPAC MEETING NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Attendees:

DPAC Executive: Don Sabo, Chris Finke, Michelle Hourie, Cliff MacLachlan and Steve Shannon, Sarah Holland

Partner Groups: Brian Pepper, Lois Boone, Lorraine Prouse, Cindy Heitman, Linada Naess, Matt Pearce

School Reps: Buckhorn (Connie Kragt), Edgewood (Cara Vandekraats), Giscome (Michelle Hourie), Heather Park (Sarah Holland), Highlen (Denise Magrath), Kelly Road (Cliff Maclachlan), Ecole Lac Des Bois (Shannon Connor), Nukko Lake (Sharmon Thompson, Laura Muise, Gillian Bumett, Karen Welch), PGSS (Carole Whitner), and Quinson (Ryan Clarke).

Meeting Start Time: 7:07 pm

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by PGSS; 2nd by Edgewood

Adoption of Minutes: Motion by Nukko Lake; 2nd by Heather Park

PAC Networking

- Nukko Lake expressed transportation concern regarding picking up children on Sims Road. Nukko lake does not feel that they are receiving equal access to transportation services because other students in district receive courtesy rides. Nukko Lake indicated that they lost 3 students due to this unresolved transportation issue.
- Nicole Lac de Bois, currently at a student population of 220, is in a school designed for 700 junior high students. There is an expressed concern that there is no small gym equipment for the younger children.
- Discussed the need for increasing pac outreach and involvement regarding closures, urban and rural issues, and larger school set up (economies of scale).

7:35 PM Invited Stakeholders In

Announcements/New Business

- **DPAC Laptop and Filing Cabinet (Steve & Chris):** On behalf of DPAC Director Chris Finke expressed appreciation to SD57 for the filing cabinet.
- DPAC Director Steve Shannon reported that he will have illuminate up and running and plans to advertise in Valemont, Mackenzie and other rural communities to increase parent involvement.

- Website Updates: DPAC Director Sarah Holland requests that increased resources be forwarded to share on the website, such as: workbooks, links and research for pacs.
- Consensus to set up DPAC facebook account to increase networking with parents.
- DPAC Director Dennis Fudge recommended that the web address be inserted into the DPAC correspondence header.
- ESC, EPPC and Policy / Governance Committees DPAC Reps.
Education Service Committee Chair - Steve Shannon; Alternate – Michelle Hourie
Education Program Planning Committees will be held on the third Tuesday and will cover programming issues that affect diverse groups of students, for example the Track Program at CNC, Aboriginal Choice, and other issues.
Superintendent Brian Pepper indicated that there were no partner representatives for the government policy committee of trustees.
Appointed by consensus: Governance Committee Alternate – Dennis Fudge
Past Director Cara Vandercrat unable to chair Parent Involvement Committee as the chair needs to be a current DPAC director.
- Financial/Treasury Related Questions:
Question from Edgewood DPAC Representative, Cara Vandekraat: How does PAC go about fundraising?
Question from DPAC Director Michelle Hourie: Will the donors receive a tax deductible receipt?
Response from Superintendent Brian Pepper: That he will follow up the conversation with Allan Reed.
- Discussion about inherent risk and liability.
 - PGSS DPAC Representative Carol Whitner shared that PGSS have been administering their pac trust account for 4 years with no liability insurance and with 3 signing officers. For the dry grad fundraising the licence was purchased for the raffle fundraiser.
 - Superintendent Brian Pepper advised that an In Service Information Meeting for about 15-20 people may be facilitated by SD57 Staff. Mr Pepper wrote down the insurance and other financial questions and will report back after discussing details with Mr. Allan Reed, Mr. Mix, and Ms. Jan Cote.
 - Nukko Lake DPAC Representative, Sharmon Thompson enquired about setting up workshop for pac treasurers and clarification on budget items.
 - Director Chris Finke raised the idea about web conferencing training for ongoing additional support for treasurers.
 - Director Michelle Hourie emphasized that parents have expressed that they would like the financial process to remain simple and straightforward, as the treasurers are volunteers.

- Director Chris Finke motioned for DPAC to pay for a financial training seminar and to purchase a CD Rom. Seconded by Director Steve Shannon. 5 People voted in favour. Motion was dropped.
 - DPAC Chair, Don Sabo raised the theme of 'Economies of Scale' referring to the trends how the smaller communities are being shipped into larger schools. According to 2009 data, Sabo stated that SD57 has the 2nd largest elementary school in the district and that with Dunster, the cost per student is \$1,600.00. Don Sabo asked, "At what point are we beginning to warehouse our school?"

Implications:

- Larger school catchment areas increase, for example: Salmon Valley (a rural community now placed into an urban environment).
- With increased traffic, there is a statistical increase in travel risk exposure to the children, for example: the situation with 17 busses at Heather Park.
- There are a number of concerns that continue to be expressed by parents.

Superintendent Brian Pepper responded that there were cost savings to 'Economies of Scale' – "as costs dry up, use economies of scale".
- DPAC Director Michelle Hourie enquired into the progress of the Rural Education Policy developments, particularly the funding formula for those rural students who live in excess of 2 hours from a public school. Michelle Hourie emphasized the importance of public education being equally accessible by all students.

Superintendent Brian Pepper stated that "Everything will stay the same. The way things are."

- Discussion regarding November 12 to 15th BCPAC Conference DPAC representation with the possibility of 1 to 2 board members to represent SD57 parents. Proxies were going out to the pacs.
- The Education and Services Committee has been discussing the issues of bussing and transportation as the #1 priority – safety of the children.
- Lakewood Elementary changed their name to Ecole Lac Les Vois
- Question from DPAC Director Michelle Hourie was directed to Brian Pepper regarding the procedures for policy changes, with reference to recent amendments to policy 1223.

Response: Superintendent Brian Pepper states that policy amendments are done by the request of the board, then the staff brings it forward, and then the decision rests with the board.
- DPAC Director Michelle Hourie reported that Carol James advised that parents prioritize 3 goals, stay united in solidarity and engage all sectors on the important educational issues.

Reports

DPAC Chair Report – Don Sabo reported that NDP contacted the chair to request DPAC attendance at the NDP Education Kickoff at Fort George Park on August 26, 2010. DPAC is a non-partisan organization representing all parents in SD57. DPAC will meet with current MLA and governments officials in private meetings. Some board members met with Carol James. All members were encouraged to attend to campaign as parents.

Treasurer's Report – Chris Finke reported that signing officers were being updated. (See report attached.)

Superintendent's Report – Brian Pepper expressed his appreciating for donating time. Mr. Pepper reported that minor repairs have not been done in the areas of general maintenance and that this project list is fairly lengthy. There are a number of changes in the consolidation, reorganization, model changes, school organization, maintenance, tracking and assigning areas. With regard to track, there is a 5 year phase in realignment related to closure and outlook.

Trustee Report – Lois Boone: reported on an upcoming meeting with Dunster.

CUPE Report – Lorraine Prouse in attendance.

PGPVPA – Cindy Heitman in attendance.

PGDTA – Linda Naess and Matt Pearce in attendance.

DSAC – Did not have a representative in attendance.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. Next Meeting will be held on October 4, 2010.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 4, 2010 at 7:00 pm Van Bien Training and Development Centre.