

District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
—DPAC MINUTES—
Thursday, April 23, 2015

Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

APPROVALS

- Motion to adopt minutes from Mar. 26, 2015 DPAC meeting: Sharon MacKenzie (first motion), Jo Thomson (second motion). Passed.
- Motion to adopt Apr. 23, 2015 Agenda: Marilyn Baines (first motion), Jo Thomson (second motion). Passed.

REGULAR REPORTS

DPAC Chair's Report: Allyson Fawcus

- Nothing to Report

Treasurer's Report: Allen Stevenson

- Tabled. Allen unable to attend meeting tonight.

Board's Report: Dave Mewhort, SD46 DPAC Liaison (Trustee Report attached)

Highlights:

- SD46 is in the middle of finalizing both next year's budget and the District's new Strategic Plan by the end of June.

Additional Committee Reports:

Sunshine Coast Health Promoting Schools Committee Report: Marilyn Baines, DPAC Liaison

- Most recent SCHPSC meeting on April 21, 2015 addressed mental health. Many important issues were identified as a result of conversations with parents about their experiences.
- For Marilyn, the best part of the meeting was her realization that SD46 is aware of issues and a lot is already being done to navigate gaps—i.e. how do people know when and how to get help, where do you go for information, etc. The District is working on mental health awareness/literacy for all students, school-based initiatives, and is breaking down geographic barriers by using Skype conferencing.
- A Children and Youth Mental Health representative was not able to attend on April 21, and there will be another meeting on the same issue (a new date hasn't been set yet). Two professionals working in the community who attended the meeting were:
 - Victoria Keddiss of FORCE Society for Kids' Mental Health, www.forcesociety.com
 - Casey La Violette, a social worker at St. Mary's who is now hired in a new position in the Division of Family Practice, as Patient Navigator.
- Vanessa White, District Principal of Student Support Services, has created a 2-page list of contact names at different organizations representing community health, mental services on the Sunshine Coast. Once the list has been finalized and approved for distribution, it will be made available to DPAC and parents.

Superintendent's Report: Patrick Bocking (Full Superintendent's Report is available on the SD46 website: <http://www.sd46.bc.ca/index.php/superintendents-desk>)

Highlights:

- Both Vanessa White and Patrick Bocking sit on the "Shared Care Committee" (approximately 20 members). Their last meeting also included a children and mental health discussion. Bocking sits on the "GP for Me Committee" as well, which addresses the importance and need for students and families to have access to a family doctor.
- At the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) AGM in April, Student Trustee Kailyn Pritchard supported a motion put forward that additional provincial support for mental health is needed. She gave an impassioned speech (details in Dave Mewhort's report). Kailyn was the only student in a room of 300 adults, and it was powerful to hear her provide a voice for her fellow students. She is 1 of only 2 Student Trustees in the BCSTA.
- SD46 acknowledges the work of David Barnum and Valerie Ryden who created the "Healthy Buddies" program which is currently being used in other jurisdictions and was a finalist for a provincial public education prize.
- My Education BC is rolling out its data management and communications tool, which will eventually be used to facilitate active interaction between families and educators. In-service training will be provided by David Barnum, Bev Craig and others.
- The annual Early Years Fair will be held on May 2. It's wonderful to cooperate with other community agencies that support families and children on the coast.
- The Joint Use Committee meets in April. There are solid connections between SCRd and SD46. Discussion on how to share facilities and resources is ongoing and positive.
- There was a good meeting with the Board to discuss the data that is coming in around the new Strategic Plan. Social-emotional learning and mental health is addressed. Board Chair Betty Baxter and Patrick Bocking are drafting the plan and then will go to the Board on May 12 for a first presentation. They will then bring the draft to the community for further input, with the final plan being rolled out in September.

Presentation on Aboriginal Education: Kerry Mahlman, District Principal of Aboriginal Education (Handout attached)

Highlights:

- In order for us to go forward to build a strong foundation for Aboriginal students to succeed, we must acknowledge them and their culture within school walls, and recognize the Euro-centred filter we possess.
- The Ministry of Education is responsible for Aboriginal Education through K-12. There is a First Nations Education Steering Committee (103 members), representing First Nations from all over BC. They are our knowledge keepers and they offer guidance and information about how we can promote healing and reconciliation through education.
- There are approximately 500,000 students in BC. 60,000 of these students are Aboriginal. In SD46, approximately 19% of our students have Aboriginal ancestry.
- The Ministry provides enhanced funding if an Aboriginal student's family allows him/her to participate in additional programming. Therefore Aboriginal education operates outside of the regular District operating budget, with regulations about how to spend enhanced funding being:
 - Promoting Aboriginal students' success in school
 - Including Aboriginal culture in schools. Aboriginal students must see themselves reflected in education and as an integral part of their schools' foundations.

- BC is one of the best provinces for Aboriginal education. They have acquired a lot of data over time and use it to facilitate programming. Some positive statistics:
 - Many Aboriginal students are succeeding close to, at par or better than non-Aboriginal students in FSA tests
 - Typically 100% pass provincial exams
 - Transition rates are going up. In the past, grades 9 and 10 used to be problem years, but now students are making it past those grades successfully.
 - In many other districts, Aboriginal children in care have a greater chance of going to jail than graduating from high school. In SD46, most of our Aboriginal children in care graduate from high school and live healthy lives. We believe that our long-term investment in Aboriginal education is showing signs of paying off!
 - On the Sunshine Coast, 13-14 years ago, our graduation rate for Aboriginal students used to be 12%. Currently, our graduation rate for Aboriginal students is 72%, among one of the top rates in the province.
- SD46's specific goals, Aboriginal Education teachers and programming and services is outlined in the attached brochure.

Changes to DPAC Constitution and Bylaws: Allyson Fawcus

- Proposed changes to the DPAC Constitution and Bylaws include:
 - Removing Appendix D, which allows DPAC to act on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Alternative School (SCAS), once SCAS has its own Constitution and Bylaws written.
 - Changing election dates from November to October.
 - In terms of reimbursing for expenses, the maximum will be \$100.00 unless moved for approval.
 - Removing "written" notice from Section XIII (Changing the Constitution and Bylaws) to allow for communication via email.
- Allyson to create final draft with above changes and bring it to the next DPAC meeting for approval.

Spending Approvals: (DPAC Funding Requests attached)

- Allyson Fawcus reports that DPAC can roll over our gaming grant until next year, but that means we won't be eligible for a full grant next year. She will look at whether we can apply for a partial grant in this case.
- Proposals:
 - SCAS PAC: Alternative Voices arts event and SCAS graduation (\$500.00). Tabled. Allyson to ask Jo Crane to clarify parent advantage in SCAS request.
 - Chatelech Secondary: educational parent evening May 20 with Victoria Keddis (Force Society) and May 28 parent evening tour and presentation (\$325.00).
 - Motion to approve \$325.00 of DPAC's gaming grant to support Chatelech Secondary's two parent events: Janice Nelson (first motion), Marilyn Baines (second motion). Passed.
 - Pender Harbour Secondary School: busing between MPES and PHSS for students, non-traditionally structured parent evening (\$180.00). Tabled. Busing is not something the DPAC grant typically supports. David Barnum to ask PHSS Principal Paul Bishop for more information about parent evening and clarify costs.

- Elphinstone Secondary: evening session on "Askable Adult Workshop" for parents of children transitioning to high school and a Grade 7 parent night on June 7 (\$350.00).
 - Motion to approve \$350.00 of DPAC's gaming grant to support Elphinstone Secondary's two parent events: Udo Rosenberg (first motion), Jo Thomson (second motion). Passed.
- It is suggested from the floor that perhaps next year DPAC can look at setting up regular educational sessions for parents with its gaming grant funds. DPAC should also determine whether monies earmarked by the end of the school year but spent in the following school year are still considered part of this year's funding cycle.

ACEbc Conference Feedback: Allen Stevenson and Andy Lewis, DPAC reps

- Tabled. Allen and Andy unable to attend meeting tonight.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2015. 7:00 p.m. Chatelech Secondary Library

Meeting adjourned: 8:36 p.m.