

**District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)**  
**—DPAC MINUTES—**  
**Thursday, September 24, 2015**

Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

**APPROVALS**

- Motion to adopt minutes from May 28, 2015 DPAC meeting: Marilyn Baines (first motion), Natasha Mural (second motion). Passed.
- Motion to adopt Sep. 24, 2015 Agenda: Patty Shields (first motion), Christabelle Kux-Kardos (second motion). Passed.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**DPAC Chair's Report: Allyson Fawcus**

- Would like DPAC to decide how to spend our gaming funds early on in the year so that there is time to implement the plans as necessary. The executive will come up with ideas to present to the membership to vote on. She would like to see a firm direction on spending the funds before the Christmas break.
  - If you have ideas for spending the DPAC gaming grant that you would like considered, please email Allyson at [allysonfawcus@gmail.com](mailto:allysonfawcus@gmail.com).
- DPAC is calling for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If you know of anyone suitable, or would like to volunteer yourself, please bring names forward to the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report: Allen Stevenson**

- Tabled. Allen Stevenson unable to attend meeting tonight, but Allyson Fawcus confirms that there is still approximately \$1,500 left from last year's gaming grant.

**Board's Report: Betty Baxter, SD46 Board Chair**

- The first Board Meeting was held on September 8, 2015.
- The beginning of the year is a busy time for the Board and SD46. The fiscal year end is June 30, and the auditors go through the books in August.
  - Legislation means it's mandatory for all school districts to run a surplus. The recommended surplus is 2%, which in the case of SD46 would equal approximately \$700,000. After the audit, it was discovered that the surplus was significantly over 2%; it actually came in at \$1.3 million.
    - The Board's first motion was to take two thirds of the surplus and send it directly to the schools so principals can factor the monies into their yearly budgets.
    - \$100,000 was kept back to help implement the new Strategic Plan.
    - The remaining \$475,000 will be used in the amended budget in February, once the final numbers of students have been calculated and this year's government funding has been received.
- Unfortunately, Trustee Lori Dixon is currently on medical leave and is temporarily unable to meet her liaison commitments. Other Trustees will be filling in for her at meetings as needed. Everyone wishes her well and hopes she has a speedy recovery.
- The Board is happy to report that this September, Superintendent Bocking signed a 5-year employment contract with SD46, and so he will be around for awhile!

**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:

- Communication is a priority for SD46. Up-to-date information is available on the website, Facebook and Twitter feeds. Please feel free to email if you have questions.
- Assistant Superintendent Greg Kitchen is leaving SD46 after 3.5 years. He loved working here but is moving to Victoria as it is a better place for him for family reasons.
- The Assistant Superintendent position is being replaced by two new positions:
  - Director of Instruction: Student Support Services. Vanessa White has been hired and will start October 1, 2015. Her previous position as District Principal of Student Services will no longer exist, but those duties will be rolled into the new position (including Social-Emotional Learning, Student Safety, Mental Health).
  - Director of Instruction: Human Resources and Secondary Programs. They hope to hire someone for this position in November.
- SD46's Board and administration team loves working with the District Student Leadership Team (DSLTL) so they can get insight from students' perspectives and witness their enthusiasm. It is one aspect of our District that makes us particularly unique! The DSLTL consists of two student reps (grades 11-12) from each high school. Students must apply for the "job," and are chosen by the Principal/Vice-Principal. The DSLTL meets regularly, and each member takes a turn at being both the Secretary and the Chair at a meeting so they gain important leadership experience. The Student Trustee is chosen by vote by the DSLTL. This year's new Student Trustee will be revealed in October.
- Patrick Bocking and Marilyn Baines (DPAC Liaison) recently attended a Shared Care meeting to identify ways in which we can support youth with mental health issues.
- SD46 continues its emphasis on music programming. Two music teachers are starting a musical theatre club. They now have 4 full-time music teachers in the District, providing two 30-minute sessions per week for all students at the primary level and two 45-minute sessions of band instruction at the secondary level for enrolled students.
  - Udo Rosenburg, SCAS rep, brought up the Endeavour Program. How do these students access the music programming? What about SPIDER?
    - Patrick Bocking was unsure about the Endeavour Program's access. Full-time SPIDER students do have access to some funding for extra programming that could be used for private music lessons.

#### **Additional Committee Reports:**

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

- Jo Thomson and Marilyn Baines are the DPAC reps on the HPSC.
- The last couple of meetings were about mental health and it will continue to be on the agenda this year. On the Sunshine Coast, getting help for mental health issues can be a stigmatizing experience and it is a confusing system to navigate as a parent. Jo and Marilyn would like to represent the experiences of parents, so please contact them if you have any issues, questions, concerns or stories to share: [mbaines@dccnet.com](mailto:mbaines@dccnet.com).
- A Shared Care working group is putting together a pilot presentation at Kinnikinnick at 12:30 on Oct. 26 with a panel focussing on issues concerning young people, specifically grade 7s. Statistical research has shown that the summer between grades 7 and 8 is a critical time when children can start experimenting with drugs and alcohol. Vanessa White, physicians, community services representatives and parents will be on the panel.
  - If the presentation is successful, they hope to offer it at other schools too.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent, and Betty Baxter, Board Chair**

- The finished Strategic Plan is available to view online at <http://www.sd46.bc.ca/files/Community%20Info/StratPlanweb-use.pdf>
- It's an ambitious and exciting Strategic Plan—it is hoped that we will recognize all of our voices (including those of students, teachers and parents) in it. Attractive posters (with QR codes) and brochures are available and have been distributed to the schools.
- To address implementation of the Strategic Plan, working committees have been struck (consisting of teachers, vice-principals and principals), to develop specific expectations and measures for each goal.
  - For example, under 1-g: **“Our students will experience, respect and enhance the natural world by actively participating in sustainable practices and outdoor education,”**
    - For sustainability, the committee might address the study of garbology, the integration of community gardens, recycling, and the use of commercial composters in the schools, and then put programs and supports in place to implement these practices.
    - SD46 hopes to plan a conference on environmental education on the Sunshine Coast—not this year, but in the future.
- For accountability, staff has drafted up a communication plan (to be updated regularly) for the topics/goals that will be presented to the Board at each meeting. Approximately 2-3 items will be reported on each month. Parents and interested community groups can contact Erica Reimer, SD46 Administrative Assistant ([ereimer@sd46.bc.ca](mailto:ereimer@sd46.bc.ca)), to find out the date and time when the District will be discussing a certain topic/goal (for example, environmental education) in the Strategic Plan.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

- Marilyn Baines: Finds the Strategic Plan very exciting. With the elimination of School Planning Councils (SPC), communication about implementation enables parents to participate via feedback which helps address the loss of parent voice that has occurred.
  - Bocking clarifies that while SPCs are no longer mandated in the School Act, there is still the inherent expectation that school districts and schools will have to consult with parents.
  - It is suggested that Trustees can give reports/updates about implementation at PAC meetings, distribute the updated communication plan to PAC Chairs, or that PACs can routinely get information from Erica Reimer about what will be discussed/presented on at the next meeting.
  - Our DPAC Chair might also cut and paste info about upcoming Board Meeting agendas to include with DPAC notes and summaries.
- Christabelle Kux-Kardos: Asks how can PACs support implementation of the different areas of the Strategic Plan?
  - As the working committees formulate their plans and expectations, they should ask how PACs can be involved at different levels.

Next Meeting: October 22, 2015\* at 7:00 p.m. at Elphinstone Secondary

\*Gibsons Elementary has a “Fun Fair” on October 22 too, so come a little early to enjoy!

Meeting adjourned: 8:28 p.m.