



DPAC

District Parent Advisory Council
School District 46 - Sunshine Coast

Date: November 25, 2021 | Time: 7pm

Location: Zoom meeting ID: 696 5586 5641 passcode: 566556

7:00 PM Greetings and Introductions

In Attendance: Scott Davis (Chair), Tracey McClelland (Treasurer/ MPE), Miyuki Shinkai (Secretary/ BCCPAC Rep/ ESS), Andrea Gilckman (Director/ RCCE), Karla Shield (LES), Udo Rosenberg (SCAlts), Emily Doyle (GES), Urszula Dragowska (CGE), Jane Van Klinken (CSS), Nicole Andresassen (HMBE), Racheal Eastman (MPE), Jen Bolton (DBE), Kate Kerr (Superintendent), Stacia Leech (Trustee), Sue Girard (Trustee)

Regrets: Ewa Kusnierek (VP/ KES)

7:15 PM Approvals:

- October 28, 2021 Meeting minutes – Moved by Miyuki, Seconded by Tracey. m/s/c
- November 25, 2021 Agenda – Addition to tonight's agenda – Sharing letter in Healthy Community, Active School Travel Report, PACs Communication roundtable if time permitted. – Moved by Miyuki, Seconded by Emily. m/s/c

7:20 PM Nicolas Weswick, SD46 Secretary-Treasurer: Budget Consultation Presentation - in relation to the District Strategic Plan's model funding and allocation. PACs are encouraged to communicate with their principal on parents' feedback and suggestion. You are welcome to send your comment to nweswick@sd46.bc.ca by mid February. Contact your Trustee liaisons about clarification and your ideas, too.

7:45 PM Regular reports:

- Chair report: Scott Davies – Thank you card and bouquet were sent to Former Chair, Jo Thomson. Transitioning to the new board, banking, new DPAC Rep list Communication.

- Miyuki added that a few of our executives attended BCCPAC's DPAC Summit online on November 19 & 20. Presentation highlights were Educational Rights of Indigenous students and Special Needs students. DPAC/PAC Treasurer 101 will be hosted by BCCPAC in spring. More information will come. Following up with BCCPAC's AST resolution, BCCPAC AST Working Group contacted Miyuki about submitting the list of sites MOTI could assist these areas – LES, CGE, DBE, Pender. CEO of BCCPAC had a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on October 25.

- Treasurer's report: Tracey McClelland
 - **Balance: Gaming Account- \$4,021.42** (Kim Barthel's fee \$2,500)
 - **Balance: Saving Account \$913.32**

Online Food Safe Course is still available to PAC members. Up to 2 members per PAC. Question/ Receipts – contact to Tracey via email.

8:00 PM Board's report

- Superintendent's report: Kate Kerr
- SD46 Sleep Week coming up
- Coding / Technology introduction
- Parents Interview and Early Dismissal on Dec 1 & 2
- Reporting K-9 shifting to new model in Sept, 2022
- Circle of Care
- Travel Restrictions, Fuel Prioritization and Impact for School District
- Vaccination 5-11, 65% of parents in our district have pre-registered.
- Dr. Katharine Smart', CMA President – Joint DPAC Presentation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJbmoJmzGQE>
- Budget Consultation
- Sunny Hill Outreach

<https://sd46.bc.ca/superintendents-report-to-the-board-november-2021/>

- Trustee report: Stacia Leech
- Revised Admin regulation 4160 'Transportation of students'. It can be found on the SD46 web page (District info/board of education governance/policies, bylaws etc., circulating regulations) after the December 8th board meeting. Important that parents take a look at the suggested changes that incorporate cross boundary and courtesy riders.
- The Board is in communication with the District of Sechelt, advocating for improved infrastructure to support active travel for Sechelt area schools.
- The Joint Use committee starting up again with staff and Trustees/Directors from both the SCR and SD46 to consider the implications and benefits of moving closer to collaborative use of joint facilities (field, gyms, pools, arenas).
- Our international student program has 27 students this year from all over the world - and our first student from Kenya. As always, we are looking for home stays for the students. If you are interested please contact Director Bishop at pbishop@sd46.bc.ca

Next public board meeting: December 8th 2021 7pm – on the SD46 you tube channel.

<https://sd46.bc.ca/district-information/board-of-education-and-governance/board-meeting-schedule/>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SD46Schools>

Next committee meeting day is December 14th: 10 am to 4pm

8:20 PM Committee reports:

- Healthy Schools

- Andrea and Karla presented their Drafted Open Letter to BC Provincial Health Officer, VCH officers in regards to Urgent Structural Issues with Current Provincial and VCH Covid Protocols Impacting Schools. (Draft attached)

After extensive discussion was held, Miyuki moved that DPAC would ask DPAC Rep to share this letter with their local PAC and make an action plan, and in January DPAC meeting, Reps will report back on this. Seconded by Andrea, All in Favour. m/s/c

- Andrea also suggested DPAC to host an information session about vaccine for 5-11 years old for parents by working with the School District and VCH Representative.

Miyuki moved that DPAC would be hosting vaccine information session for children in collaboration with VCH and the District in December or January. Seconded by Karla.

All in favour. m/s/c DPAC appreciate Andrea and Karla's time spending with the draft.

- Family Engagement - Not met, yet. Miyuki asked Kate to give DPAC meeting dates on Family Engagement Committee and Healthy Schools Committee as soon as she has. DPAC is seeking new reps to go to these committee meets.

- Education, Operations, Committee of the whole - 4th Tues of month

Stacia confirmed December 14 is the date for these committees to meet. Watch via YouTube streaming.

- Active School Travel Report: Miyuki Shinkai

- AT Committee met on November 17.

- Transportation meeting with Town of Gibsons for Upper Gibsons happening in early December. Emily and Miyuki will attend.

- SD46 AT Policy will be released in December

- Vision Zero Grant available – Deadline December 12

<https://www.injuryresearch.bc.ca/vision-zero-in-road-safety-grant-program/>

- LES PAC wrapping up AST Pilot Program - guest speaker, Chief Craigan and Sandy Buck from Deer Crossing the Art Farm. LES will be receiving additional \$2,000 AST grant for 2022 consecutive AST initiatives.

- PACs Communication topic was omitted due to the meeting went overtime. It will be moved to the new business in January meeting.
- No meeting in December.

8:49 PM Meeting to Adjourn m/s/c

Next meeting: January 27th, 7pm | Zoom

Data to review in advance of next meeting:

- Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) Data presented by Director Christa Rive:
<http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/mdi/nh/sd46/>

ATTACHMENT: DRAFT LETTER WRITTEN BY ANDREA & KARLA

Date

Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC Provincial Health Officer
Via email only: bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
Vivian Eliopoulos, CEO VCH
Via email only: vivian.eliopoulos@vch.ca

Penny Ballem, Board Chair VCH
Via email only: penny.ballem@vch.ca

Dr. Patty Daly, VP Public Health and CMHO, VCH
Via email only: patty.daly@vch.ca

Dr. John Harding, MHO VCH
Via email only: John.Harding@vch.ca

OPEN LETTER: Urgent Parent Concerns with Current Provincial and VCH COVID Protocols Impacting Schools

Dear Dr. Henry, Vivian Eliopoulos, Penny Ballem, Dr. Daly, and Dr. Harding:

We are writing to urgently identify parent concerns with the current COVID protocols that VCH is operating under and that school districts must follow.

We are writing as the [District Parent Advisory Council for School District 46](#). At the district level, the DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council) is an opportunity for parents, principals, senior administration, and trustees to learn together about how we can support our schools right across the district to be as effective as possible. We have presentations on curriculum issues, operational issues (budget, staffing, facilities), and conversations about parent and guardian perspectives of where we should be focusing our efforts in our district. Each school has a PAC (Parent Advisory Council), and each school is encouraged to send a delegate or two (or more!) to the DPAC meeting.

We are writing to you following recent cases of COVID-19 at elementary and secondary schools in School District 46 (SD46). Parents in our district are concerned they have not had all of the information needed to make informed decisions on how to best protect their families, due to the lack of clear, transparent, and timely communication to families about confirmed COVID cases in the respective school communities.

From October 24-31, at least 6 cases of COVID were reported in schools in our district. Five cases were self-reported to the BC School Covid Tracker, a citizen initiative that uses crowdsourcing to provide data on schools affected by COVID. Only one case was reported by VCH as a letter to Chatelech Secondary community.

The lack of official communication resulted in word of mouth, which is both exclusionary to families not “in the know” and creates rumors open to error. The presence of COVID exposures in our schools is information all families require so that they can take the precautionary steps their personal situations require to protect higher-risk students, family members, or the elderly they may come into contact with.

This lack of communication causes further delays in people becoming aware of exposures and leads to delays in isolation, testing, and acquiring results. Students experiencing mild symptoms are more likely to book testing sooner if their family knows of a school exposure. Delays in VCH contact tracing and the absence of formal notification of covid cases to the broader school community can lead to students delaying or not accessing testing and increases the potential for spreading of the virus in both our schools and the broader community.

Schools are not using the cohort system this year, which has a lot of advantages for students; however, the ramifications in regards to COVID are that kids are engaging with each other across grades and classes and in all school spaces. Therefore, notifications should not be limited to only those who VCH identifies as close contacts from interviewing COVID positive students, or even the full class of a confirmed case because that does not cover the scope of interactions kids are having.

The other concern we have in this district is the impact the current local testing capacity and location is having on families and could have on future clusters and outbreaks. Currently, during peak times on the coast, the wait for a test can be up to 4 days, plus 24-72 hours for results. With the increase in the amount of regular illness circulation in schools this year, many families have had to take extended amounts of time off work as illness cycles through a family and each family member waits to be tested. This is having a financial impact on many families without access to sick days that will only increase as the school year continues.

For families without a vehicle accessing the testing center in Sechelt by transit with a sick child can be lengthy and difficult for families at either end of the coast. This consideration, plus the extended amount of time off work may leave families to abandon getting a test, putting our community at further risk.

We have compiled recommendations for Dr. Henry and VCH to address these parental concerns: :

- Provide immediate and transparent notification to the full school when there are any COVID cases in a school so that parents do not have to rely on word of mouth or delayed communications.
- Increase the speed and scope of contact tracing, keeping in mind the increased mixing of students with the removal of the cohort system and recognizing unmasked indoor lunch and gym times.
- Increase Sunshine Coast testing capacity

- Expand testing locations and testing times.
- Create access to take home PCR gargle tests so students can test at home and someone else can take it to the testing centre, which increases accessibility.
- Provide school families with rapid tests, especially when COVID-positive cases are identified in a school.
- Provide science-based, non-political, public health education on COVID-vaccines specifically to the school community including students, parents, and staff so families are prepared. Increased community vaccination rates are directly connected to reduced risk of COVID transmission in schools.

In order to prevent COVID transmission in SD46 and empower our families who have varying risk factors for COVID to take appropriate actions to protect their loved one’s health, we must address continuing parental concerns that are outstanding in the Province and VCH’s approach on the Sunshine Coast. We request an immediate response to the concerns we’ve identified.

Sincerely,

[signatures]

- CC: Superintendent Kate Kerr, SD46
 SD46 School Trustees, Board Chair Amanda Amaral
 BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
 Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education
 Fraser Health Authority
 Vancouver Island Health Authority
 Northern Health Authority
 Interior Health Authority
 First Nations Health Authority
 First Nations Education Steering Committee