

** DRAFT**

SD46 District Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2020 | Meeting called to order by Chair: Jo Thomson 7:04pm

In Attendance

Jo Thomson	Patrick Bocking	Maria Hampvent	Miyuki Shinkai	Lorena Ruth
Marilyn Baines	Kelsey Oxley	Troy Lacher	Rachel Eastman	Amy Robinson
Matt Rockall				

Approval of Minutes

February minutes to be presented as motion to approve next meeting September 24, 2020

Agenda

Opening comments and introduction – Jo Thomson

This meeting was brought together to address the re-opening of schools September 2020 and Covid19 protocol.

Presentation

Update on School Start up September 2020 – Patrick Bocking, Superintendent

- <https://sd46.bc.ca> School District website, Facebook and school messenger also being used to keep community well informed of back to school process this fall.
- Speaking to parent's in this form, DPAC meeting particularly important as to hear the important questions coming up.
- Voices from as many schools as possible important to hear feedback.

September Restart:

- Excited to be opening our schools in a safe and healthy way for all students.
- Lots of appreciation to Paul Bishop, Director. Ensured plans brought to our District and included staff training. Carefully considered process.
- Proudly confident that we are providing safe and healthy learning environment for our students.
- Emerging Pandemic information. School districts continue to follow the advice of the Ministry of Health.
- Everyone is assured that in taking any learning option, no one will be penalized because of the pandemic.

Information gathering survey closed today. This survey was sent out for students to choose their program.

Survey was sent out to all parents and requested to complete for each child in their family.

SD46 Restart plan:

Option 1 -All schools are prepared to offer full time in class instruction.

SD46 following all directives of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to make sure that every school is safe and healthy for our students and staff.

Staff trained in safety protocol and are developing what the learning groups will be.

Interactions in school require physical distancing and masks will be provided.

Students with immune suppression

Some students may have some immune deficiencies that may require an alternative plan.

- May be a difference place in the school
- Another approach to learning
- Potentially based at home

The schools will work with these families on that.

It will be required that a Doctor's note to be provided in this case.

There are a lot of things that are safe in the view of medical health professionals to return to school.

For example: Asthma - Is it a dangerous thing for this time?

No, it is not. Many children have asthma. With the safety precautions we have in place public health officials confirm it is not criteria to miss school.

With a doctor's recommendation we support Home Instructional Program. We have always offered this option.

Option 2 – Transition Phase

A little bit of a wait period as not everyone is comfortable or ready to return to classrooms.

- Making sure we have a place for these students in the classroom
- Will require students to return every two weeks
- Child can return to full time at set time
- A simple structure and materials list will be provided (online resources etc)
- This is NOT remote learning instruction provided by teachers

All children will be trained on the new protocol for learning and moving about the school.

Option 3 – NEW Sunshine Coast Online Program (This is not SPIDER Program)

The online program is individual families working with online teachers.

The learning plan is developed with a District teacher and supported by parents at home.

- Yearlong commitment to this plan required
- No connection with the homeschool
- No physical attendance at any school
- Child will be eligible to return to same school for fall 2021

Option 4 -Traditional Homeschooling (This is not SPIDER Program)

The parent creates and delivers their own curriculum. Does not necessarily follow BC curriculum.

This is a right all Canadians have. In grade 10, 11 & 12 It is required to complete online courses to achieve graduation certificate.

Survey Results

SD46 has about 3500 students

- 2003 students completed the survey. Almost two thirds participated.
- 1576 students indicated they are ready to return to full time in class instruction. 79%
- 322 students are in transition phase 16%

These combined totals show that 95% of our students want to return.

- 96 students are interested in online learning program 5%
- 6 students returning to home schooling. .4%

Sunshine Coast Online Program

Program development continuing this week.

Programs will start rolling out after programs in schools roll out.

These numbers are still to be finalized as the school is doing call outs to families who did not complete survey.

Treasurers Report

TBA October DPAC scheduled meeting.

Executive question period

Rachel Eastman

Pleasant surprise to learnt of SD46 options for students return.

Lorena Ruth

Questions:

1. What are the expectations of the curriculum?

Going in at the start of the year as well as the end of the year. With the understanding that a lot of students have not been in school since March 2020 and assuming it is going to be a gradual start back to academics.

How will this look at the end of the year, if teachers are slowly bringing the students back up to the where we would like them to be?

2. Are we expecting the year to end in the curriculum as planned or has that been looked at already?

Patrick Bocking

Response:

The BC curriculum has not changed.

Understanding that some students have been completely away from school. It is expected that some students have shifted back in their reading, their numeracy and even their oral language. It will need to be brought up. The teachers will assess where their students are and bring them up as far as they can based on the curriculum. Not all students will catch up as quickly as others. We expect the spread that teachers work with will be wider. It is going to require a lot of consideration by the teachers to identify where the children are. This is a concern that we all have. Referencing to the American Model of Education which focuses on a lot of standardized tests, reading writing and less arts. We can see that emphasizing solely on literacy or numeracy is an ineffective model. We will continue to the global education in BC and that works well. We will continue to work hard to bring our students up as best we can.

Amy Robinson

Questions:

1. With the classroom setting. Is each school going to have a different idea of how their placement of the students will be for social distancing?
2. How will the reading groups be affected? Are the reading groups going to continue?
3. With flu season to arrive in October/November, what is the policy going to be around asking children to go home when they have cold or flu symptoms?

Patrick Bocking

Response:

The learning groups have required a lot of time for us all to get our heads around.

The Ministry indicates the learning groups of up to 60 for elementary and 120 at secondary.

States this model is a good healthy model. That the group of 60 students can interact a little more closely than 2 meters that we are used and with masks. That as a learning cohort is reasonable in terms the numbers of students coming into that group and going out and potentially bringing a virus in. If that were the situation, they would be able to contact trace. While they expect that the likely hood is extremely remote in any given classroom. With 500,00 students in the Province. Dr. Henry says that there is a chance it could happen. The notion is that should there be virus in a learning group, the contact tracing is much easier. That is how they contact trace. If you are within a 2m distance for 15mins or more. That learning group can be clearly identified.

The 60 students are almost never necessary at Elementary because we are organized per classroom at 20-24 students. We are going to consider the learning group the classroom. Buddy reading may not be continued. It would require to be distanced 2m apart as they are not in the same learning group.

Secondary schools are more complicated with block rotation and how students intact taking different courses.

Thus the 120 is a maximum group. The ministry of health says that is a reasonable number.

Any new person who enters a learning group must wear a mask and stay 2m apart due to the fact they are not part of that group. This includes the principle.

Reading groups instructional strategy and reading assessment. That can happen. The kids would be spread out a little more and will not required to be 2m apart because they are in the same group.

Flu/Cold Symptoms

Anyone who has flu or cold symptoms is not allowed to be at school. Parent will be called.

Q: Is there a time limit on that. If you do not know what it is. Do you treat it as Covid19 and self-isolate for 14 days?

A: That is a medical decision that staff would not make. If it is asymptomatic such as cold symptoms students can come back.

Staff or students are not permitted at school with any flu/cold symptoms.

Kelsey Oxley

Questions:

1. Is there going to be a process for unwell children to sit and wait for parents to be contacted at work?

As some parents are not immediately able to be contacted. With many families using grandparents being a backup option maybe unable for pick up in such scenario.

What kind of tolerance will there be on the pick-up policy in this case? Also, will the schools have most recent contact information that could be changing rapidly on a weekly or daily basis with children?

2. In Halfmoon Bay, children will be bussed to afterschool care. They will be mixing with children from different schools in one afterschool care location. There is currently no alternative. Is there going to be communication between schools if a child has been in contact with a child from a different cohort for contact tracing?

Patrick Bocking

Response:

Parents have a responsibility to update the contact information if it changes. The school administrative assistant is to be advised with this information so parents can be contacted. There is back up information also for who to be contacted if the parents unreachable.

There is also a specific direction on how to support a child who is sick.

- a) Put on mask
- b) Brought to designated waiting room
- c) Education assistant, teacher, or person with child also to put on mask
- d) Placed and taken care of in allocated space until picked up

There is no alternative for afterschool care. We are only in control during school hours. The afterschool care is not related to our work. Parents will have difficult choices around afterschool care. I would expect that if the children are not in the same learning cohorts that the facility will develop strategies to keep these children separated. It has been a common question if parents will be notified if a case of Covid19 is in child's school. The answer is that it is very circumstantial. Vancouver Coastal Health would work thru that. It is deliberately taken out of the school districts hands and VCH makes decisions about that. If a child was exposed thru the afterschool program, tracing would be investigated.

Transportation

- 72 seat busses cannot be full of kids under the guidelines of Ministry of Health
- We are encouraging anyone who needs the bus to take it
- If child can walk, bike, or drive close distance to do that
- The walk limit is Elementary kids within 2km and Secondary students 3.4km
- Students are expected to get to school on their own with regulated distances
- No longer offering curtesy rides

Amy Robinson

Questions:

In response to transportation. In past years, the buses have been full for Secondary students from Roberts Creek. Will they be offering more bus service to off set this for social distancing?

With the new budgeting available for the schools, has there been decisions on where this will be allocated? For example, outdoor portable tents or what other measures will be used for this new budget?

Patrick Bocking

Response:

Roberts Creek is beyond 3.4km so service required but no details on that bus route has been provided. The bus should not be as full because we are being more careful about the number of people riding. We do not have another bus to put there.

The funds we are receiving from the Ministry, thirteen thousand for our District mostly spent on masks. We have ordered seven thousand masks. They are on their way. For students and staff. They were ordered at Provincial Level. There is also funds being used for additional cleaning time and that we have staff to do that. Additional cleaning materials are also covered with that.

There are some discussions that people are looking for alternative activity space outside. One thought some schools are considering is large tents that you could go out even if it is raining. Those would be paid for at a school level. That would be a school decision not a district decision. I do support it.

Miyuki Shinkai

Questions:

1. Do you have any percentage on the SPIDER group returning?
2. Also Question for Executive if we can invite a representative from SPIDER on DPAC?

Miyuki applied Zero Vision Seating Grant last June, didn't get.

Vancouver Coastal Health going to organize Active Travel. Promoting children to walk, bike to school. Langdale PAC and VCH would like to organize a workshop for parents for this matter. We are planning something for October. Stay Tuned.

Patrick Bocking

Response:

SPIDER program was already full pre-covid. It was emphasized on our survey, when we are talking about online learning, we are not talking about the SPIDER program. We are talking about a program where a district teacher will support students who are learning from home and need a little bit of support. There are about 58% SPIDER students returning

The constitution for DPAC does say that the members of District PAC are representing schools not individual programs. So, for instance we do not have a NEST program representative. That would be a good idea if that were something that people wanted.

Amy Robinson

Question:

Is there any resolution with the travel club insurance?

Patrick Bocking

Response:

We had to cancel 4 international trips March 2020. The insurance payout is taking forever. They have not honored the insurance payments yet. We are involved (my office) as is the schools. It is not yet resolved. Lawyers are getting involved. It is an issue between the individual parents and the travel company, and we are helping wherever we can.

Superintendent and Board Report

Scheduled for September DPAC Meetings

Healthy Schools Committee

Scheduled update for September Meeting

Discussion

Jo Thomson

We will be having our official DPAC Meeting September 24.

It would be great if we could have more parents participate with start up questions then as well.

Lorena Ruth

Q: The support for the teachers. In regards for the emotional and mental health for the children?

The needs are higher. Has there been additional training or education available for the teachers for them to help support the kids?

Patrick Bocking

Response:

This has been hard on teachers, principles and all our staff. Interesting to review the results of staff survey in June regarding that. We found that there is a whole range. A small number of teachers were anxious. Others were thinking it was blown out of proportion while everyone else was right in the middle. Bell Curve Model. Most people are adjusting. People with high anxiety we do our best to work with them and listen to them. Our counselors are incredibly supportive of that. But our counselors are student's counselors. Teachers who are trained how to support our students. We do not have professional counselors for our staff, but we do have an employee assistance program. They can participate in them through Human Resources. We have a lot of dialogue around that. Our principles are extremely sensitive to what you are asking about. We will be making that an emphasis to work with our principles to continually work on this topic. It is an absolute focus that we are taking care of our staff and students.

Recognizing what is important right now.

- Academics
- Making sure in all our positions, that we do the best we can to communicate
- Lots of listening, lots of support, lots of care

Kate Kerr, Director of Instruction for student support to be invited as guest speaker September.

Interested parents invited to take part in Executive Elections October 2020.

Looking for Davis Bay Representative among possible others.

Please advise PACs that we are looking for new reps.

Meeting adjourned 8:04

Next Meeting

September 24, 2020

ZOOM scheduled