

District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
—DPAC MINUTES—
Thursday, November 27, 2014

Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

Motion to adopt minutes from Oct. 30, 2014 DPAC meeting: Allen Stevenson (first motion), Marilyn Baines (second motion). Passed.

Motion to disregard Minutes from May 22, 2014 DPAC meeting due to lack of availability: Approved. Passed.

Amendments to Nov. 27, 2014 Agenda:

- Add Sunshine Coast Health Promoting Schools Committee Report (Marilyn Baines)
- No spending approvals required
- Motion to adopt amended Agenda. Passed.

REGULAR REPORTS

DPAC Chair's Report: Allyson Fawcus

- Recognition and thanks to Erin Books-Wilson for her excellent work chairing DPAC for the past 2 years. DPAC is still looking for a Vice Chair and Treasurer and a standing parent on the SD46 Education Committee (Leanne Ennis attends meetings whenever she can). Meetings are once a month, approximately 90 minutes long.
- DPAC's membership application to the BCCPAC is in the mail.
- Would like to propose that we develop a DPAC brochure similar to the one produced by SD62 (example attached).
 - Consensus is that a DPAC brochure would be a valuable awareness tool.
 - Sample logos circulated for evaluation, but attendees were interested in a logo with more development, perhaps a logo contest with student involvement?
 - Allyson to investigate and come back with ideas at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Allyson Fawcus (Treasurer's Report attached):

- Gaming grant money of \$2,750.00 has been deposited. No withdrawals (besides bank fees). Current balance is \$1,554.94 (chequing account) and \$2,748.56 (gaming account) for a total of \$4303.50.
 - Leanne Ennis makes a motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Allen Stevenson seconds. Passed.
- Sharon Mackenzie notes she is still receiving paper statements at her house and thinks we should cancel the service, especially as the statement fee is \$2.00 per month.

Trustee's Report: Christine Younghusband, SD46 DPAC Liaison

Highlights:

- Dec. 9, 2014 is the inaugural meeting with the new SD46 Board.
- SD46 Trustees will be attending a Professional Development Academy Dec. 4-6, 2014.
- Board had a presentation by PHESS teacher Jay Walls and students about their project "plight of the Sakinaw Salmon" which garnered Walls a national science teaching award. Project was an excellent example of how the new curriculum can be implemented. An article about the project is featured in the *Coast Reporter* (Oct. 31, 2014).

- Nov. 26 Education Committee meeting featured presentations about welcoming new immigrants to the community; review of sexual orientation policy; and early learning in SD46. No Education Committee meeting in Dec.
- Committee of the Whole (open to the public) meeting on Nov. 25 included school calendar consultation; a preliminary budget review; MOU regarding co-governance relationships; external community reports (including a DPAC report from Christine). No Operations Committee meeting in Nov. and Dec.

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

Highlights:

- Progress report on SD46 health manual: a manual was not developed, but what has emerged from the initial discussion is that SD46 is looking at including health information on its website. Right now there is discussion on what might go on the drop-down menu (public health information and contacts, prevention, links).
- Vanessa White spoke about the MDI (Middle Year Development Instruments) results for the District. MDI is a survey of Grade 4-7 students (administered through UBC) with questions about physical health, social and emotional development, connectedness to adults and peers, school experiences, and use of after-school time. Could be a good presentation for future DPAC meeting! Results and more information are available at <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi/>

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:

- One of the initiatives of SD46 this year is exploring is how we report to parents (Parent-Teacher Communication Committee) and what constitutes meaningful communication.
 - Report cards (formal reports) are not necessarily providing all the information parents need to support kids and their learning at home.
 - Looking at online tools to show how kids are doing at school on a day-to-day basis; portfolios; fostering connections between teachers and parents.
 - Davis Bay NEST program (Nature Program) is piloting a new reporting system that will not include a formal performance scale, but will feature an anecdotal report card, a "wonder walk" show and tell, and portfolios.
- SD46 is looking at a 3-year timeline for implementation of the new curriculum (though this could change depending on curriculum development).
 - New curriculum focuses on inquiry or project-based learning, providing more flexibility for teachers. Learning strategies are based on research, problem-solving, less on rote learning.
- New Pro-D day of January 19, 2015 has been approved at Board level.
- SD46 now has a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SD46Schools>
- Student District Leadership Team (SDLT) met on Nov. 27. Team includes 2 students from each high school. They talked about the school calendar and had some interesting ideas.

Question: A parent had question about SD46 FSA results. Patrick Bocking said results are available at <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/results/>

2014/2015 Budget Consultation: Nicolas Weswick, Secretary Treasurer

Highlights:

- Expenses comparison with similar School Districts:
 - SD46 is in the middle of the pack, with \$35,000,000/year in operational expenses (85% salaries and benefits).
 - Lower on scale in terms of overhead, fixed costs and administrative costs.
 - Average on scale in terms of Teacher salaries.
 - High on scale in terms of Educational Assistant salaries.
 - Low on scale when it comes to maintenance and transportation.
 - High on scale when it comes to Special Education budget and expenditures (much higher than other comparative districts).
- SD46's Strategic Plan informs budgetary decisions. The "big picture" goals in current plan (2012-2015) include:
 - Student achievement/experience:
 - Improving technology.
 - Elearning programs
 - Promotion of environmental learning.
 - Expanding career and apprenticeship programs.
 - Relationship building:
 - Working with SCRCD to promote access to community facilities, Sechelt Indian Band.
 - Learning environments:
 - Gibsons Elementary School rebuild.
 - International program.
 - Health and safety issues.
 - Reducing carbon emissions/energy consumption (there is now solar hot water at Elphinstone, 90% heated by solar panels).
 - Overcrowding at West Sechelt Elementary.
- What we've changed:
 - More accurate estimates.
 - More equitable funding allocations.
 - Improved supports for special needs students.
 - Improvements to organizational structures to provide music instruction time (now centralized at District level).
 - Maintenance department changes.
- Consultation for SD46's new Strategic Plan will begin in spring 2015.

DISCUSSION:

- What priorities do you see for the 2015-16 budget? Where can we make operational improvements?
 - Parent suggested we use more solar power, especially as cost of panels is decreasing. News about Elphinstone's use of solar power is encouraging.
 - Parent asked about International Program:
 - Greg Kitchen said there are currently 20 (fee paying, not immigrant) students from a number of countries attending schools on the Coast. Would like to realize more students, create more home stay programs.

Open Dialogue Topic: Hungry kids at School will be moved to next meeting (due to time constraints) when Megan Molnar will be presenting on nutrition.

Emergency Preparedness in Our Communities: Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent
(Draft document attached)

Highlights:

- Bill Elsner, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the SCR D was not able to attend tonight's meeting. He plans to attend a future DPAC meeting, perhaps to talk to parents about what we can do to be prepared as a family (each household) in case of an emergency.
- SD46 plans to post the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response draft document on the website in early 2015. An earlier draft was sent to principals who were asked to share with PAC Chairs.
 - Lockdown procedures (per a Violent Incident Response Plan) were developed with extensive input from the RCMP and have been circulated to school staff.
 - Would like feedback on what information is missing from the draft document.
 - What else would you like to see that is not there?
 - Parent had question about BC Ferries—our lifeline for supplies and evacuation. Greg Kitchen reassured us that BC Ferries is a strategic part of the overall S.C. Emergency Response Program.
 - Please email Greg Kitchen at gkitchen@sd46.bc.ca with suggestions about what could be added.

Next Meeting: January 22, 2015. 7:00 p.m. Chatelech Secondary Library

Meeting adjourned: 8:33 p.m.