

District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
—DPAC MINUTES—
Thursday, January 22, 2015

Call to order: 7:11 p.m.

GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS

- Betty Baxter announces that School Trustee David Mewhort will be SD46's new DPAC Liaison. Unfortunately he is unable to attend this evening but looks forward to future meetings.

APPROVALS

- Motion to adopt minutes from Nov. 27, 2014 DPAC meeting: Allen Stevenson (first motion), Sarah Bradley (second motion). Passed.
- Amendments to Jan. 22, 2015 Agenda:
 - No spending approvals required.
 - Motion to adopt amended Agenda: Deb Shorthouse (first motion), Natasha Mural (second motion). Passed.

REGULAR REPORTS

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

- No withdrawals (besides bank fees and cheque order). Current balance is \$1,469.94 (chequing account) and \$2,609.81 (gaming account) for a total of \$4,079.75.
 - Allen Stevenson makes a motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Marilyn Baines seconds. Passed.
- Allyson to inquire at other financial institutions to see if we can find an option that will not cost us regular maintenance/statement fees and will report back next meeting.

DPAC Chair's Report: Allyson Fawcus

- Allyson has been visiting PACs up and down the coast (LES and PHESS so far, other school visits booked) to talk about DPAC, get feedback on discussion topics, answer questions and invite people to attend meetings. Has enjoyed seeing the different dynamics at each school and thanks everyone for welcoming her to their PAC meetings.
- There has been a call for nominations to the BCCPAC Board, with a Feb. 28 deadline. Nominations accepted for 1st Vice chair, Treasurer, Secretary and 2 directors. Allyson will email out a link with more information.
- As Treasurer for WSES, has discovered that if a PAC receives a gaming license (i.e. for a raffle), income generated from the license should be deposited into the PAC's gaming account, not general account, and those monies are subject to gaming account rules.
- Invites feedback on the draft DPAC brochure distributed at the meeting.
 - Purpose of the brochure is to raise profile of DPAC and generate interest and involvement. Copies will be made available at each school office once approved.
 - Thanks to Diane Wagner who contributed the design and logo. Allyson provided the text. The idea of a "DPAC logo contest" was withdrawn as process would have taken too long and delayed the availability of the brochure.
 - Please email Allyson with any suggestions. A finalized version of the brochure will be available at the next meeting.

Elections cont'd.

Vice-Chair:

- A nomination is put forward for Sarah Bradley as Vice-Chair.
 - Sarah Bradley accepts the nomination.
 - No other nominations forthcoming. Passed.

Treasurer:

- A nomination is put forward for Allen Stevenson as Treasurer.
 - Allen Stevenson accepts the nomination.
 - No other nominations forthcoming. Passed.

Board's Report: Betty Baxter, SD46 Board Chair

- Board liaisons for each school have been assigned. Please check in with your principal to find out who your Trustee liaison is.
- Student Trustee Kailyn Pritchard reported to Board on student perspectives/concerns.
- All Board school visits have been completed. Kailyn Pritchard also visited some schools and noted she would like to get feedback/hear from grade 6/7 students in the District!
- Board would like to see DPAC reps on the Operations and Education Committees and would appreciate the valuable contributions a parent/PAC voice would bring.
 - Operations Committee meets 3rd Thursday of each month (12:30-2pm)
 - Education Committee meets 4th Wednesday of each month (1-2:30pm)
- Renewing SD46's Strategic Plan will be a big focus for the Board in the next 3 months. They are planning public forums and will speak to DPAC and school PACs. By end of the school year SD46 wants a new Strategic Plan to roll out in September.

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:

- Success of students is the number one reason we are here. The experience of visiting all the schools in the District, talking to the principals and vice-principals and seeing the students and teachers engaging together in the classroom was very energizing.
- Delivered a Report on Achievement to the Board. Some notable statistics:
 - Aboriginal Students currently have a 72% graduation rate. Increase in rate attributed to the Aboriginal education program and students having an increased sense of belonging in the school system.
 - 82-83% graduation rate overall. (This doesn't mean that 18% of students aren't graduating. Some students move away from SD46 and data is lost.) Overall, transitions between grades 10-11 and 11-12 are becoming more successful.
 - Please go to the SD46 website and visit the link for Agendas-Reports under the January 13, 2015 Board Meeting to see the rest of the report:
http://www.sd46.bc.ca/files/14-15%20Board%20Meetings/011315_RegMtg_Agenda.pdf
- Exciting plans in place for Literacy Week, with readers visiting schools on January 27.
- Met with SCTA to discuss new curriculum and to develop a good model and framework for rolling out the new program. Training will take place over 2-3 years, a very intensive process. Teachers are engaged and interested in the new curriculum.
- Patrick Bocking and Betty Baxter plan to visit each school PAC starting in February to talk about the new Strategic Plan for SD46 and get feedback from parents and direction for priorities within the District.

Overview of Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools: Meghan Molnar, Vancouver Coastal Health Community Dietician

Highlights:

- Meghan Molnar has been in her position for 3 years, and has visited some PACs to give presentations. Updated guidelines for food and beverage sales in BC Schools have been available since 2013, and there are a lot of supporting materials available, such as:
 - Information on how to implement guidelines
 - Recipes to try. It's important to encourage kids to like new foods by giving them access to different types of healthy foods. It can take 10-20 tastes/attempts for kids to like a new food!
 - Scoring checklists for both packaged food and freshly made food (food brought in by outside sources such as restaurants should also use checklists)
 - Guidelines available at:
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/health/healthy_eating/food_guidelines/
 - For extra resources, please visit:
<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthyeating/everyone/schools-communities.html>
- Meghan says she could look at putting together a workshop for SD46, "Foods that Fit." Food providers (including local restaurants) would present food samples at different price points for parents to try and get ideas for hot lunch programs. Would take awhile to organize, but will investigate if PACs are interested (one in Sechelt, one in Gibsons).
- Recommends documentary *Just Eat It: A Food Waste Movie*, a Vancouver documentary available on the Knowledge Network—thinks every student should see it! (Did you know that we waste up to 40% of all food that we produce, and 30% of all food that we buy?)

DISCUSSION:

- Some PACS have been told that they can't bring food made at home into the schools for sale. Low risk foods (baked goods, like muffins) are under different regulations than high risk foods made with a mixture of eggs or meat. Different regulations are also in place for food that is for sale versus food that is donated or given away.
 - Meghan can talk to the health inspector about steps schools/PACs can take to provide healthy food for hot lunch and breakfast programs.
- There are three commercial kitchens currently in the school district. Could these kitchens or culinary programs help provide hot lunches for schools?
- David Barnum says there is a grant available through www.healthyschoolsbc.ca to support school districts in promoting partnerships and to create plans for shared healthy schools priorities. Grant provides up to \$7,500. Applications due Jan. 31, 2015.
- Meghan Molnar also works with SD46 counsellor Emily Davis to provide workshops for parents about eating well for life and supporting healthy body image in kids. A workshop will be offered February 4 at DBES; it is available to other PACs if requested.

OPEN DIALOGUE TOPIC: Hungry Kids at School. What Breakfast/Lunch Programs Are in Place at Your School? (DPAC attendees broke into small groups.)

- Reports from groups brought up the following points and ideas:
 - There is a huge disparity in services currently being offered—some schools are not offering any hot lunch or breakfast programs (though programs are in development) while other schools have breakfast programs and hot lunches available every day. Most schools have some sort of breakfast or hot lunch program being offered on a regular basis (though not necessarily every day).

- GES is one example of a school that provides a lot of food services for its students, in part because they have unified community support, including contributions from a local church group and an after school club providing snacks.
 - It was suggested that schools/PACs utilize organizations within their communities to help with hot lunch programs: church groups, seniors groups, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs.
 - Another suggestion is that breakfast/lunch programs should be coordinated at the Board level, as right now schools and PACs run programs individually.

In regards to SD46 Operations and Education Committee meetings, Allen Stevenson, Sarah Bradley and Allyson Fawcus have agreed to share in the duty of attending these meetings regularly on behalf of DPAC.

Next Meeting: February 26, 2015. 7:00 p.m. Chatelech Secondary Library

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.