

District Parent Advisory Council
Meeting: May 26 2016, Elphinstone Library

Attendance: Lorena Ruth, Patrick Bocking, Udo Rosenberg, Sally Thicke, Phil Luporini, Maria Hampvent, Kerry Mahlman, Shannon Burnick, Dave Mewhort, Sahron MacKenzie, David Barnum, Miyuki Shinkai, Marilyn Baines, Jo Thomson

Apologies: Allyson Fawcus, Patty Shields

Meeting began -7:07pm

-Greetings and intro

Approvals:

April 28th meeting minutes

- First: Udo Rosenberg

-Second: Lorena Ruth

May 26th Agenda

-First: Lorena Ruth

-Second: Udo Rosenberg

Chairs report –Jo Thomson

Looking for executives, including, perhaps treasurer.

Board's report –Dave Mehort

Health Promoting Schools Committee report –Marilyn Baines

Marilyn will be late and will discuss later

Superintendent's report –Patrick Bocking

-Positive Discipline course, beneficial philosophy of support. Looking at how to continue, expand and use with teachers.

-funds from the BC Liquor foundation for dry grad

-Middle year development, data was gathered from grades 4 to 7 (for example: hours sleeping, exercise etc.). Information is public and on website. A presentation is to come.

-as of today, more information of students graduation year and assessment for the trial year 2017-18 high school curriculum. A letter will be coming to teacher and parents, outlining the assessment.

-Summer Book Mobile is in the district this summer reaching to children without access to books. There is information on signs at the libraries, summer camps and a campaign on the ferries. More information is available on the website.

Udo Rosenberg –How did the information come? Teacher's involvement

Patrick Bocking –information was from the children with clarification from the teacher if necessary. It was accessed by computer

Kerry Mahlman - For the Middle Year Development at the end of the questions the children were asked if they were feeling safe. If the child answered no –an email was automatically sent to the principle to start a discussion. It is a great process

Parent Teacher Communication Committee survey results -David Barnum

-The survey went to schools and was on the website. Comments were grouped by “theme” and they generally reflect the statics, for example: receiving information from the school -email vs paper to kids.

- Miyuki -Differences due to different individuals, types of families and even different grades

-Question 6 - an example that the comments did not reflected the average of the answers.

-Question 7 - discussion involvement vs engagement

- Marilyn Barnes –involvement and school from PAC/DPAC. The moving from elementary to high school there is considerably less involvement of the PAC. How to do more at the elementary level? To encourage involvement of the PACs when children don't want parents involved as much during middle school age.

-David Barnum- message from survey –what do you think?

- Discussion -unwelcoming and Elphinstone being a physical barrier, for example: the colour, the entrance wall, the location of the office.
- Discussion -forms of communication
 - Generally email is preferred. Fresh Grade has had positive responses.
 - Discussion of Grade 8 start-up Parent sessions and creating a social gathering.
 - Phil Luporini–parents want to know what is being taught, the subjects discussed. For example in Pender parent and children know everyone, then move to High School and suddenly they do not know everyone. Therefore information is needed before and not after
 - Kerry Mahlman –there is first a confirmation of ancestry for bands outside of Sechelt/Gibson bands. Information is sent to all parents about the program available and what will be discussed. The process for a new child to the program is about building an individual relationship. For example: there can be resistance to coming to a school so each relationship is individual.
 - Sally Thicke- response by email is good and there is the website to go to as well. Communication can be small and intimate or general for everyone. There is engagement with Spider and Nest to discuss with parents want, the, how to use what is needed. There needs to engagement of what parents want and what there are for resources. Communication needs to have engagement and sharing.
 - Phil-Luporini - there is twitter, email or text. What would parents want?
 - Comments included: PAC Facebook page, mass text from the school, text if responses are needed.

- There are times when communication is needed before the first report card and children's work is not being complete.
 - New pilot of "My Education" a student driven program for student so update
 - Google calendars can be loaded to the parents, there are calendars on the TV's in most school lobbies
- Discussion –Satisfaction survey. A survey was sent to parents grades 4 and 10. It ended late March. The results are soon to come out. Parent's response was *very low*. An email was sent to the schools via the principle to be sent to the parents.
- Discussion –parents to join PACS. In High School, there can be groups of parents depending on the children's interest. More fund raising in the elementary levels are needed for PAC
 - Considering a welcome in September, a social to have fun and raise awareness of PAC and be a meeting with staff
 - PAC is more of a voice to share information and involve the principle. There is a lack of awareness. Should there be a change to the time? Virtual meetings?
 - Social evening could include potluck dinner and movie for kids
 - Third week in September is better for teachers. Teacher can be invited to attend. Start by discussing with individual Principles
 - Lack of volunteer and people for fund raising in effecting PAC especially Cedar Grove.
 - As a public school system there cannot be charges for PAC

Health Promoting Schools Committee report –Marilyn Baines

-A panel of speakers is being arranged by the Collaborative for Mid-Oct to help parents with navigating mental Health resources.

-There is a special speaker from Vancouver, Michelle Kambolis, at Chatelech Theatre on June 13th, entitled "Generation Stressed"- poster attached.

Dave Mewhort – trustee report attached.

Meeting adjourned – 8.45pm