

AGENDA for the Annual General Meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held Isfeld Library & via Zoom, on **MONDAY October 7th** at 6:30pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Jennifer Fisher* - DPAC Chair (Isfeld Alt)
Joanne Barr - DPAC Vice Chair
Megan Cowling - DPAC Secretary - Brooklyn Alt
Kendall Packham* - DPAC Treasurer - Glacierview
Michelle Waite - Trustee
Shannon Aldinger - Trustee
Emily Hanson* - Airport
Tom Cutler* - Puntledge
Mackenzie Leslie* - Courtenay Elementary
Chris Parker* - NIDES

Carly Wintschel* - Brooklyn DPAC Rep
Dan Wintschel - Brooklyn Parent
Dr Jeremy Morrow - Superintendent
Shawn Thir*- Lake Trail Community School
Thea Cockerton - District Food Service Coordinator
Rae Walsh*- Vanier
Brooke Finlayson*- Highland
Karyn Parkinson*- Aspen Elementary
Justyne Smith*- Huband Elementary
Tara Pietrzak* - Royston

13 of 21 voting reps (min. of 7 req'd for quorum)

**indicates DPAC Rep*

1 Call to Order - 6:31pm

Recognition of Traditional Territories:

I respectfully acknowledge that I am living on the unceded territory of the Pentlatch, E'iksan, Satsila, and Sahtlout people, now collectively known as K'omoks First Nation.

Introductions

Approval of the Minutes from *June 3rd 2024 Moved by Joanne, Seconded by Shawn. Motion carried.*

Approval of the Agenda for *October 7th 2024 Moved by Emily, seconded by Kendall. Motion carried.*

2 Old Business

- Nothing at this time

3 Correspondence:

- Nothing at this time

4 Reports:

Chair Report - Jennifer Fisher

- Education Forum: Thank you to CUPE and the CDTA for continuing to be great partners in Education. They have been very supportive and willing to say yes and help. We have been lucky to have good connections with leadership in both organizations. Thank you to the DPAC reps who were able to get the forum info to their school communities. It is always hard to hold events on weekdays for families, because inevitably there is a kids commitment requiring parents. But we were able to record the event and posted it to the DPAC YouTube page and DPAC Facebook Page.
- School start-up, during our Executive meeting with Jeremy, he requested that Reps provide feedback on the start of school, reflecting on what worked, what maybe didn't and anything in between. The following is a synopsis of the discussion at DPAC:

- Cell phone rules applied in highschool, phone usage discouraged in a healthy way and new rules communicated in a clear manner to students
- Communication to school communities & at the PAC level needs to be improved, info at the district-level needs to trickle down more clearly to the school communities
- Dedicated first day startup is great for new Grade 8 kids and new kids to that school community - helps with anxiety and familiarity
- Return to school was really good with the process of how to mix the kids before they are assigned to classrooms. Pro-D was helpful for time to organize. It is worthwhile to invest time in getting to know the kids and how to place them.
- The bus situation was not great, first day of school the buses didn't come. Neighbors drove kids because they noticed them waiting on the curb past the time they should have been picked up.
- Beginning PAC meeting first week of school had great attendance - mostly Zoom format with an occasional in-person, hybrid meetings have great accessibility for parents.
- Drop-off zone mechanics and management can be good or bad depending on organized and followed the system is by drivers and parents.
- Kindergarten transition was good because staff took the time to get to know the kids and familiarize themselves with their learning profiles and place them appropriately.
- Reintroduced exploratories which was great because of the change in specialized content e.g. peer-mentoring is exciting for students
- Classroom placement and dynamics of needs distribution. When it became evident one classroom had a disproportionate amount of complex needs, the staff responded by rearranging classrooms to balance the designations.
- Lack of communication and clear direction at some start-ups.
- Administrative assistant staff in the office are unsung heroes of school start-up.

DPAC Treasurer- Kendall Packham

- \$2500 gaming grant given, total \$4136.89
- General account - \$4269.77
- Request letter to Carrie McVeigh & Candice Hilton for the District grant (traditionally this amount matches the gaming grant.) Procedure of requesting the grant has changed over the years (grant was automatically awarded for some years, then not, and now procedurally the best practice is to write a letter to the Secretary Treasurer in early fall.)

Sexual Health Committee - Brooke Finlayson

- Gender-based violence committee first meeting in June and second meeting last week. Basically set up some interviews with community partners such as outside agencies outreach education and interaction with youth. What areas for collaboration are there and any gaps in approach or opportunities for improvement. Suggestions around policies or APs for the district to consider and to develop a best practice checklist. Have interviewed VS Foundry, Youth Outreach, Youth Counselors, LINC program manager, AVI Manager, CV Transition Society, SART, Girls Group, CB VS, Comox Valley Pride and Indigenous Women's Sharing Circle, and Restorative Justice.
- Super busy with start-up but the counselors, especially Highland (especially Molly Dixon is an outstanding resource), were amazing. It is understood that everyone working on the Consent Week initiatives come into the schools understanding the policies and landscape and have a trauma-informed approach.
- Kids are honest, open and curious about consent.
- Desire for consistency among schools could be helpful.
- **ACTION** : Order More "Is it Legal" and distribute it to schools.

Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling

- Tech talk - amazing in house experts in the District, we are thankful and have worked with Shannon and Kara before. They will walk parents through how to better use the tech supports that our kids use through school. Learn about licences available through the SD, e.g. Office, Canva and more.

- Working with Paul Jones, local police officer, regarding Drug Use, Secondary themed. Discussion with cover current drug landscape in the CV and what parents need to know. Power Point with Question & Answer period after. Looking at November for booking.

Transportation Committee- Joanne Barr

Transportation Committee Report

I had the opportunity to meet with Superintendent Dr. Morrow and the new Director of Operations, Molly Proudfoot, earlier today. This meeting was notably more productive and respectful than previous ones, and we covered several important topics regarding the district's transportation services.

Relationship with First Student

Molly confirmed that she holds weekly meetings with First Student to discuss a range of topics, including what is going well, areas needing improvement, and upcoming technological advancements. This ongoing communication ensures that both the district and First Student are aligned in delivering effective transportation services to our students.

Potential Implementation of Pass Scanners

Molly also shared that First Student is considering the introduction of a pass scanner system on certain routes. This technology would help gather data on the number of registered students using their passes, as well as the frequency of stop usage. Initially, this will be rolled out as a pilot on one or two routes to determine its effectiveness before potentially being implemented fleet-wide. This will help with route adjustment as well.

If you have questions pertaining to stops, routes changes or passes please send an email busing@sd71.bc.ca

Updates to the First View App

The First View app has seen some updates, those who use the app have likely experienced these changes, the app remains a valuable tool for parents to track their child's bus. For those who haven't yet adopted the app, I highly encourage its use, as it provides helpful real-time updates.

Behavioral Issues and Orientation for New Riders

Behavioral issues on the buses should be promptly reported to the school principals, as they are responsible for handling discipline and can effectively communicate with bus drivers to gather necessary details.

We also discussed the potential opportunity to provide an orientation for young students during the "Welcome to Kindergarten" events. By having a bus on site, children can be introduced to the experience of riding a bus, learn about safety protocols, and understand the expectations for behavior while on board. This initiative would help familiarize new riders early on and promote a safer, more comfortable environment for all.

Active Travel Plans and High-Traffic Areas

For those who are not bussed by first student, We also discussed the connection Molly has made with the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) to address high-traffic areas by implementing ongoing active travel plans. These plans aim to improve traffic flow, encourage alternate modes of transport and safety around high-congestion areas, which will positively impact the overall transportation experience for students and families.

School Food Subcommittee - Shawn Thir

- Not much to report, community meet and sent letter to Thea. In terms of school food, federal gov't committed Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, first two provinces to begin universal provincial programs.
- Thea is the Food Service Coordinator and exciting to see where we will go as a district.

Emergency Preparedness Committee - Shawn Thir

- Shawn is meeting with Superintendent tomorrow

Anti-Racism Committee - Dan & Carly Wintschel

- Nothing to report at this time. Carly is collating data and pulling in resources. Plan to meet regularly and move forward. Flow-Chart like the one distributed at the meeting but for racism response.
- Question about ERASE? Who sees the tips and is there a response?
- ERASE - can be anonymous, info goes to Ministry, Ministry distributes to appropriate school District. There is a district contact that receives that info. What happens to that is a question? If the info includes contact info, is the District contact getting back to those families? Is that a hole that we can fill?

Superintendent Report - Jeremy Morrow

- Need for communication to expand and reflect importance. After twenty-plus years in education, communication always seems to be an issue that can be improved.
- Deeply appreciative of the curiosities that are surfaced by parents and that these curiosities come with proposed potential solutions. Eg. Kindergarten orientation for bus ridership.
- Assistive Technology - guaranteed access can be written into the IEP but it is important to do it in a stigma-free way.
- At the District-level, school start-up was generally smooth with some bumps.
- Appreciation to see so many familiar faces amongst the DPAC reps and recognize our commitment.
- 1701 Counts are into the province Enrollment: projected new students was 165, the actual received enrollment was 250 new students.
- Higher than expected enrollment at NIDES, but through grade 10-12, the province funds per course.
- Higher amounts of designations in Level 1, 2 and 3 students.
- Close to 40 students for the Student Voice event, and it is troubling number of students who have experienced racism. As a district we need to be tenacious about making it better.
- District started meaningfully in circle as a new district practice and discussion format for more meaningful connection.
- Have submitted Enhanced Student Learning Report (Previously known as FESL) to the Province. Improvements in communication through clearer graphs, previous data was sometimes unclear.
- If there is interest, Dr. Morrow would provide a further look at student data, possibly presenting data to DPAC.
- Construction is underway at Aspen EI, as per the gov't funding, it needs to be ready for occupancy by next school year. Cumberland also approved but not going nearly the same speed.
- Consistent moderate growth in our district. Not on par with Sooke and Surrey, although at one time we had the fourth highest students per capita in modulars.
- Boundary and Catchment consultations for Brooklyn, Aspen, Airport and Valleyview. Not anticipating current students being moved. Open public consultation and meetings. Plan for Spring registration to have the new boundaries in place. Hoping to have it done by December. Interactive feedback portal will be open at the end of October.
- New Strat Plan
[-https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/StrategicPlan_Sept27-1-1.pdf](https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/StrategicPlan_Sept27-1-1.pdf).
Work is currently on meaningfully aligning and incorporating the mission and values within the Strat Plan into our system.
- Continue the process of daylighting, renewing and resurfacing streams that had been put underground for progress. Returning those streams and rivers to daylight for health, environment and community benefit.

1701: Link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/data-collections/september>

Trustees Report:

- Michelle Waite Board Chair: Express thanks to DPAC Executive for their summer invite for more trustees to attend DPAC meetings. The Board is still working through the logistics.

- Speak about Open Committee of the Whole tomorrow night. Things to share discussion tomorrow night. One item is a Feeding Futures update. Second agenda item is a presentation about LEA with the K'omoks First Nation. And a third agenda item: Regional District is working on recreation expansion. Presenting ideas for the fields around Vanier that are school district property. Coming forward with a couple of ventures that they are looking forward to asking for BOE feedback. Second turf field update - the presenters are attending virtually to provide information. About partnerships and how we work together in the community. Welcome to attend 7pm tomorrow night at the new board office in-person and via CV Schools Youtube channel.
- Shannon Aldinger: Thank you all for attending and your time tonight. All of the meetings can take up a lot of time and multiple meetings upon meetings. Recognize the time commitment of parents.
- The District has hired an anti-racism principal in a half-time role: Karma Taiji.
- Consent Week: the province adds webinars and they have put together presentations with greater space between presentations than previously. Topics include: Digital responsibility and consent education. MOE and Province have developed, funded and presented through ERASE. <https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>
- First Board of Education meeting was finished with a song from Associate Superintendent Joe Heslip to counter and recognize the heaviness of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- Link to CV Schools Youtube- <https://www.youtube.com/@comoxvalleyschools6771/streams>

6 ***New Business***

- Nothing at this time

7 ***Upcoming Events***

- Vanier Counselors are putting together info sessions - connecting with our kids Family Smart October 9th in-person and more online events. <https://familysmart.ca/monthly-events/>
- Grad Attire Program - all kids in the district have access to a free grad outfit if needed in Dodge Building upstairs. Bookings open for 2024. <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/grad-attire-program/>

8 ***PAC Sharing***

- Question: Vanier Music Parents Association: required to pay for a PO Box.
- Volunteer numbers plummeting, canceling Hot Lunch.

9 ***Next Meeting:*** Monday, November 4th 2024

- New Business for next meeting - PAC engagement/Culture of Volunteerism

10 ***Adjourn Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, adjourned at 8:34pm.***

Any questions or comments please don't hesitate to [contact us](#)