



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

Minutes: September 21, 2017 Regular Meeting
Cowichan Secondary School, Cowichan Campus (James St.) Library

1. Call to Order 7:04 p.m.
Welcome and Introductions

Voting Attendees

Carmen Sundstrom – DPAC Chair, Drinkwater Elementary DPAC Rep
Sonja Clarke – DPAC Treasurer, École Cobble Hill DPAC Rep
Christine Heal – DPAC Secretary, Frances Kelsey Secondary Secretary/DPAC Rep
Cristin Smith – Maple Bay Elementary DPAC Rep
Caroline Kirman – Cowichan Secondary Treasurer/DPAC Rep
Shelby Buchan – Alex Aiken Elementary Vice Chair/DPAC Co-Rep
Jessica Erickson – Tansor Elementary DPAC Rep
Aurelia MacInnis – George Bonner Elementary Secretary/DPAC Rep

Non-Voting Attendees

Rod Allen – Superintendent
Jason Sandquist – Secretary-Treasurer

Regrets

Amber Marsh – DPAC Vice Chair, École Mt. Prevost DPAC Rep
Cathy Schmidt – School Board Trustee

2. MOTION to adopt agenda moved by CSS; seconded by Bonner. Carried.

3. MOTION to approve minutes from April 20, 2017 meeting moved by Tansor; seconded by Alex Aiken. Carried.

4. Old Business

4.1 Anxiety presentation with Julie-Anne Richards Childhood Stress & Anxiety: Building Resilience

- Free presentations geared for parents, caregivers and educators of children 5-11
- Funded by the Eric Palmer Foundation
- Drinkwater: Oct. 11, 6-8 p.m. (child care will not be provided) – free but pre-registration is required via EventBrite
- Bonner: Nov. 22 – to be confirmed

4.2 Upcoming Parent Workshops

- Cindy Andrews (Program Consultant, Helping Schools Centre, for Addictions and Research BC) from UVic – how to speak to educators about substance use and abuse

MOTION: DPAC set aside \$1,000 to host a district-wide substance use/abuse workshop/panel/forum. Moved by CSS; seconded by Bonner. Carried.

- CSS hosted Darren Laur, The White Hatter
- Oct. 23: Digital Hallway with Sean Smith – 7 p.m. in Quamichan Theatre
- Sept. 28: Jesse Miller, Mediated Reality – 6:45-8 p.m. in FKSS Theatre – internet and social media safety
- Oct. 25: Darren Laur, The White Hatter – start time TBD at Bonner Elementary
- Rod Allen stated Safe Schools BC really supports Jesse Miller of Mediated Reality. We are lucky as he has moved to the Cowichan Valley and is keen to work with local schools.
- BCTF – brochures outlining various free workshops put on by volunteer teachers. Topics are listed on their website:
<http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Parents/HomeAndSchoolComm/PresentationsForParents.pdf>
<http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Parents/HomeAndSchoolComm/AbEdPresentationForParents.pdf>

5. Reports

5.1 Chair Report – Carmen Sundstrom

Nourish Cowichan Society – currently provides breakfast program at 5 schools but would like to help additional schools. They would like to make a 10-15 minute presentation before the next DPAC meeting.

Other schools:

- FKSS – has breakfast food out for any student; a PAC mum bakes healthy muffins weekly and PAC pays for ingredients
- Tansor – breakfast program
- Quamichan and Maple Bay – have food out for anyone

5.2 Treasurer's Report – Sonja Clarke

- Regular account balance: \$3,789.48
- Gaming account balance: \$543.42
- Term Deposit: \$8,424.11
- Total \$12,757.01

MOTION to accept Treasurer's report moved by Tansor; seconded by CSS. Carried.

5.3 SD79 Administration – Superintendent Rod Allen and Secretary-Treasurer Jason Sandquist

- Very busy summer for staff preparing classrooms and 11 new portables. Portables were completely refurbished incl. bathrooms, air conditioners. With the portables we are at capacity with very little room for growth.

- Still have 3 modulars destined for Quamichan for second semester.
- Added 67 more classroom positions (teachers)
- Added ~100 more kids
- Significantly smaller classrooms in some schools depending on composition.
- Board has hired Bob Yates, demographer, to report at Oct. board and education committee meeting on enrollment projections, birth rates, etc. The last report was done 4-5 yrs ago.
- Hiring had been completed, but then had resignations so need 3 French immersion teachers.
- For first time in many years are hiring new teachers and actively recruiting university students for practicums who hopefully will want to stay and work in the Cowichan Valley after graduating.
- EAs: still needed but significantly less than last year
- As we are defined as a rural community by the government, we get up to \$35,000 for recruitment incentives to attract teachers.
- Teachers On Call: hard to find out how many are still available. Try to have ~110 TOCs.
- We have no one on the recall list: we have never had that happen.
- Keep in mind we are 2 yrs. away from bargaining agreements.
- One of the smoothest start-ups we've had.
- Carmen praised CUPE and Steelworkers for amount of work they did through the summer. Asked if old work orders would need to be resubmitted.
Rod: No. But staff is prioritizing Bill 28 work orders.
- Jason: we don't have any more portables. We have to be compliant by Sept. 30.
- Alex Aiken raised concerns about storage for musical instruments and asked if they would get a music room. Rod: Unfortunately no.
- CSS asked if the \$50/student funding could be used for storage. Jason: No as it has to be used for resources.
- Jason: Over \$100,000 to purchase and install a portable. ~\$35,000 to renovate and ~\$35,000 to move and hook up a portable. Approx. \$80,000 to move a modular as they need to be put on permanent foundations.
- Drinkwater suggested storage space/music rooms be something BCCPAC could advocate for.
- FKSS asked if there were any bylaws preventing schools from putting shipping containers on school property for storage. Jason: No.
- CSS raised a concern about bus passes. Apparently a student swiped their bus pass on and off the bus but it registered for a different route and the parents were very concerned. Are there any test runs or known glitches?
Rod and Jason will look into it.
- Maple Bay school bus arrives 5 minutes after school starts. Rod stated that busing schedules are still being adjusted and it's not okay that kids arrive late.
- Other concerns about incorrect bus schedules, and that routes were no longer posted on the transportation website.
- New SD79 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CowichanValleySD79>
- Katie is still tinkering with the SD website, but it is likely we will need a new one. She will be setting up a portal to get parents' feedback on what they want in a website.

6. New Business

6.1 BCCPAC Registration

\$75 membership each year. Benefits: gets your voting card, great conference, great resources. Need to register by Dec. 15 to vote at next year's AGM.

6.2 Survey: special needs children who are not receiving a full day at school – survey closes Oct. 6

Carmen: Is this a case in our District?

Rod: Yes, it did occur last year, partially due to safety concerns. We have more staff to work with our students this year, but cannot guarantee it won't happen. Possible reasons: support person is ill, child's needs changed in the short term and the school does not have the qualified people to work with child, busing issues.

6.3 Update on staffing levels, and

6.4 Update on readiness of schools that underwent upgrades and/or portables.

Previously discussed.

6.5 DPAC AGM - Thursday, November 16.

Nomination forms available. People interested in running for an executive position have to be either their school's DPAC rep or on their PAC's executive.

7. Next Meeting - ** NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION **

October 19, 2017 at 7pm, School Board Office Board Room.
Carmen will notify rentals that we will not be using the CSS library.

8. Adjournment at 8:40 pm by Drinkwater.

Submitted by Christine Heal, DPAC Secretary