

DUNSMUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL
Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 24, 2023, 6:30pm

Attendees:

Teresa Janisch, April Flannagan, Stephanie Tomlinson, Rebecca Pacey, Tara Campbell, Mary-Anne Showers, Tanya Lajoie, Donna Wilner, Sahye Cummings, Candice McLeod, Allison Hyatt, Lana Kirk., Alexis McKean – Vice Principal

Absent:

Meagan Bagnall, Alicia Hayes, Hayley Nesbitt, and Lori Ball, Kim McMillan, Lauren Smith, and Mark Kaercher, Cynthia Major; EA at school, Heather Anderson, Raechelle Wuolle, Gabriela Santos, Sarath Dissanayaka, and Heather Pilon

1. Call to Order

- Meeting started at 6:30PM

2. Introductions

3. Adoption of previous minutes – June 20, 2023

- Motion to adopt the previous minutes as distributed - approved by Stephanie and seconded by April.

4. Principal's Report

- Bystander training – ICA
 - Training for the grade 6's has started
- Report card changes
 - Report card reporting changes are happening
 - Keep eyes open for teacher information/communication

5. Old Business

- None

6. Treasurer's Report as of October 24, 2023

- Operating / Non-gaming = \$14,807.30
- Gaming = \$18,894.25
- \$425 online pack fundraiser/donation
- \$385 Emergency

7. SPEAC Update

- See attached SPEAC meeting notes attached to the bottom of these minutes.

8. New Business

- Pizza Fridays - 6 volunteers are going to help with pickup/drop off at the schools with Pizza Hut
- Night of light tickets on sale fat the hotlunch site. For the event at hillside

- Arrange bottle drives to help fundraiser

9. Emergency preparedness

- Received list of items we have in our seacan
- What do we need to supplement in the seacan
- Table for next meeting

10. Budget

- Reviewed budget requests and allocated amounts

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM; Next meeting November 28 , 2023

SPEAC Meeting – October 18

Welcome & Intro – 6:30pm – Melissa DaSilva

Agenda & Minutes approved

Partner Groups

Trustees Report – Trudy Spiller

- Next Board meeting is Oct 24th
- Advocating to the MoE for our additional 500 students.
- We've done round table and interviews for the associate superintendent. Thank you Joanna for representing SPEAC at the interviews. Doing reference checks now and should have a result tomorrow.

Superintendent Report – Dave Strange

- **Feeding Futures Program** – last year we had the Affordability Fund and that was focused on offsetting economic impacts and food security. This year we have the Feeding Futures Program for a 3yr pilot program. SD62 received \$1.5M for this school year. We're using a multi-pronged approach. 17 schools in our district have some sort of daily food program such as a breakfast or lunch program and work with non-profits or other. We will ramp that up so that all schools in our district have a food program. In the secondary schools, we've used the funding to provide a grant to the school; an example of this is Edward Milne has put that money towards local food providers and culinary programs so there is always one food item on their lunch menu that is free and it changes every week. Royal Bay gives out Munch Cards for students to use at their cafeteria throughout the year. We've also provided school grants to purchase foods to keep in schools for kids who need it on an ad-hoc basis such as yogurt, granola bars, etc.

Q: What is the criteria/reason that 17 schools have a daily food program and others don't?

A: It was mostly about capacity both in resources and space, kitchen availability, etc. So we used some considerations such as level of need from the ministry as well as from the schools in addition to those availabilities. While this is a 3yr program, we're hoping to add more schools in a much quicker turn around time than the full three years.

Long term goal would be to have pooled funding from the Ministry of Education, Child & Families, and Agriculture as shared stakeholders to build purpose built kitchens through districts to feed kids in our schools. Also looking into bulk purchasing and wholesale pricing to stretch our dollars further.

Q: What does it look like in the schools? Like for lunches, how do they keep them warm?

A: Good question and that is part of it. Schools need space to accept the amount of food coming in; they need fridges, maybe warmers, dishwashers, counter space, etc. We do have \$115k in capital for the equipment that we're assessing. We've also funded Food Safe training for school meal coordinators.

Q: Would there be situations where students who could afford the food would pay and those who couldn't, wouldn't? Then the money coming in could further subsidize the program?

A: Yes; looking at Ruth King (RK), we did a 'pay as you go' model. RK serves about 150 meals per day and some families have contributed but not a huge uptake. We want to be conscious that we're meeting a need and not creating a burden.

Q: How will this affect PAC's Hot Lunch programs?

A: This is meant to compliment that, not replace it. We recognize that PACs get some fundraising from Hot Lunches to support their schools and that can continue. This should not be a detriment to the PAC efforts. (RK commented that they have a meal program and hot lunch and there's been little to no impact as each program serves different needs)

Q: We've heard about **increases in racism and homophobia on the playgrounds**. How are admin being supported to combat this?

A: We do feel like we're dealing with that more and more across the province and across the world. Part of our work around that is in the curriculum and healthy schools, to deliver education on diversity, equity, and inclusion, which includes delivering age-appropriate lessons around respect and healthy relationships, etc, in our day-to-day learning. Other pieces from safe schools is doing a scan to develop a baseline of where we're at with our own biases etc and developing a training plan, a plan of action, to help staff recognize and intervene and respond to those situations when they occur. We're also working with PVP to develop a plan of action because this issue is present, and it is growing, and we want to have safer spaces for our kids.

Additionally, I (Dave) am the district SOGI lead, and we are revisiting all of our policies and updating those. Each school has SOGI leads and the district has been doing diversity training with the leads, the schools, and the PVP. Today was the provincial SOGI summit, and there was conversations around really want to move from talking/planning to doing more, taking more action.

Q: What about the audit done last year by a third party around equity, diversity and inclusion?

A: We're soon to get the finalized report and then will start looking at a communications plan of what and when to share the results of that.

Q: Lot of families in our school are new to Canada and teachers have to teach the curriculum as well as English. The school has asked our PAC to fund new iPads, but who should be providing those because that seems more like something the district would fund.

A: Yes and that affects quite a few of our schools. We want to focus on celebrating the diversity that multiple languages and cultures bring to our schools but recognize that with that also brings greater needs around languages or food security or other things. The superintendent has been having system-wide conversations on how to best support this. What are both the tech needs and the education needs to support ELL students and their families? We're trying to learn from other districts such as on the lower mainland to get ideas and discussing with District Solutions around tech options.

Q: **District stance on kids staying on the school grounds after hours**, say at middle school, to play on basketball courts etc? Admin has been telling the kids they have to leave school grounds.

A: That's an interesting one. The school assumes duty of care as soon as child arrives at school, and if you follow the letter of the law, that extends until they're home; but after school there is no supervision, there may be safety concerns or concerns around legal responsibility etc. I'd like to hear more if you could reach out to me directly outside this meeting. We definitely don't want to discourage kids from being active outdoors.

Q: Our school wants to **put in a garden bed** but there seem to be a lot of unrealistic hoops

we're having to jump through such as putting in a chain link fence and having it near a water source? We got a quote and it was astronomically high. And the timelines are quite long. We have a lot of parents wanting to just build it themselves but we know that isn't allowed.

A: Often these projects involve Facilities staff not just in the installation but also in the ongoing maintenance and protection of that garden. So we're trying to get consistency across the schools; things like a concrete barrier to prevent the garden being mowed over, a fence to prevent vandalism, and a water source for maintenance. Another consideration is the potential growth of the school and will that space still be viable in a few years if there is expansion or upgrades? I would encourage you to reach out to me directly and we can discuss and link up with the district garden coordinator. There is also some money as part of the Feeding Futures grant that we've set aside to hopefully use towards garden builds because we recognize the costs associated.

Confirmed parents cannot build or supply materials for a garden as it must meet the district requirements and cannot take work away from union workers.

CUPE Report – Trudy Court

- Reminder on safety around parking and bus routes and pick up/drop off areas. As the weather gets worse, parents are coming earlier and parking right out front for a long time. **Please give way and do not block or impede busses so we keep on schedules**
- Thank you for **staying home when sick**. It is cold and flu and Covid season.
- Lots of user groups in our schools but they are scheduled and custodial staff are aware of them. Custodial starts cleaning as soon as school is over. On the topic of students staying at school after hours – if students are coming back in the building to the washrooms or lockers etc, it can become a safety and responsibility concern with the custodians.
- There are **job openings in the district** such as supervision assistants or the meal coordinator programs etc. Some are just a couple hours a week and it is a great way to be involved and also earn some extra income.

Principals/Vice-Principals Report – Lisa Leclerc

- **Costume guidelines and expectations were shared out**; please also consider impacts on their school day Nov 1st of late night and lots of sugar on Halloween. Thank you PACs and staff for hosting Halloween events around the schools.
- Great BC Shake Out tomorrow. Most schools will be participating at 10:15am; some schools may alter that time base don their bell schedule or the needs of their students. Want to practice the differences in an earthquake drill vs fire.
- Please **ensure the Student Emergency Release Form have been completed and returned** to your child's school. There may be an Emergency Release drill later this year and that form is what is used to contact and release students for pick up.

Q: IEP meetings haven't happened yet; some students need accommodations in these kind of drills, how is that done prior to IEP?

A: For students with existing designations, the staff should be aware of who those students are. Students who don't have designations or new students - hopefully we have gotten to know the students by this point in the year, and it's part of the reason we do the drill in late October, so that we see how students are functioning in school and with regular bells and we've also let families know this drill is coming up. If you're concerned about your

child, please call the school office before the drill tomorrow and let staff know and they will pass that information on and make sure the student is supported.

- Lots of sports have started and have been widely supported; very exciting!

Sooke Teachers Association report – no one present

Canadian Parents for French report – no one present

Question of The Month

What's OK to Fund and What Isn't?

- **Technology** (iPads, Chrome books, laptops, etc)?
No! Unless in the case of like a photography club, where you might buy a camera or two and they're not used for curriculum.
Funding tech makes 'have' and 'have-not' schools... if wealthy PACs fund lots of tech and other PACs cannot
There's ongoing maintenance and replacement of tech that needs to be considered
When PACs fund tech, the district and the province do not fund or don't know they need to fund these tech pieces
- **TTOC** to cover a Club teacher leaving school for a club event (e.g. Choir)?
Not recommended. Gaming specifically say no to funding staff wages.
Has come up before in split classes and the Grade 5s go to a grad outing and the grade 4s stay behind and a TTOC has been requested. PAC has previously said no to this because it's teacher wages.
- How are PACs doing reimbursements / how are PACs reducing impact on people being out of pocket when they buy PAC items and then have to wait for reimbursement?
PACs can't/shouldn't use credit cards; Most PACs stick with just doing cheques but some do use e-Transfers in some cases even though there may be a fee attached to that. Some also do pre-loaded grocery cards for hot lunch supply purchases but there is risk in that as well. petty cash is risky and should only be used for small unexpected items like running out to the store to get more buns for the BBQ.
- How do PACs do lump sum budget lines e.g. annual classroom funds?
You could write a cheque for the full amount but if it's gaming you still need to match receipts to cheque numbers. Most PACs give a limit and then require receipts for reimbursement up to the limit.
- Do any PACs have a document or template to give to teachers that outlines what is and is not allowed to be requested from PAC?
Not really; some have more info fields in funding request forms but not a how to request from PAC instruction. Some feedback that admin could assist/educate staff on that as admin should be familiar.

Updates to Gaming Grants

- *Note:* If you haven't received your Gaming Grant yet, please reach out to Gaming
- No Funding of PAC Bursaries through Gaming
Thought is they were removed from gaming because they don't benefit all or a group of students, only individuals.
Some schools have removed bursaries altogether and spent those funds elsewhere.
- Travel to BCCPAC AGM is available

SD62 Committee Reports

Resources Policy Meeting – Nevada Kaludjer

- Discussed differences between portables and modules. Modules have proper hallways and bathrooms. Can put more modules than portables at schools. **With modules, it could be possible that elementary schools could be over 500 students** – as PACs, how do we feel about that?
- Community usage of the facilities we have. Rentals, who gets to use the spaces vs rent spaces. PACs should not have to rent their own schools but they may have to pay custodial fees. **Schools with modules or portables may have a greater student body than they are able to house in the gymnasium for assemblies or events, and if that is the case, should those overflowing schools have to pay to rent space in a larger neighbourhood school?** And what is the priority regarding renting to outside groups – is it income or breaking even and keeping spaces/time open for the schools to use those spaces for free?
Comment: This is already happening. Happy Valley (HV) is using CML's gym for their Halloween dance because HV gym cannot accommodate the capacity of the families at HV.

Board Meeting – Nevada Kaludjer

- Discussed new reporting requirements
- Lot of talk around SOGI and in light of other provinces changing things and SD62 wanted to reiterate that there is an **“obligation to disallow any type of discrimination and that every student should belong”**
- Discussion of solar panels at EMCS

President's Report – Melissa DaSilva

Register for SPEAC and BCCPAC

- PAC Registration & BCCPAC Registration
[BCCPAC registration link](#)
[SPEAC PAC registration link](#)

For French Immersion families of students in grades 10-12: Education Planner BC and CPF BC/YK workshop entitled “Parents as Career Coaches” on November 15, 2023 from 6:30-8:30 pm

- [More info and registration here](#)

Parent Ed

- Session on Hold & Secure and Lockdown situations - coming soon!

SPEAC meeting minutes

- Central folder to access minutes
[2023-24 Shareable Minutes for PACs](#)

Treasurer Report – Nevada Kaludjer

- \$23,984.20 in General as of Sep 1st 2023
- \$2,934.56 in Gaming as of Sep 1st 2023

9:10pm – Adjourned

Next meeting: November 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm via MS Teams