



DPAC Newsletter

School District #43

March 2004

Volume 1, Number 5

"Our mission is to facilitate, support and advocate for the effective involvement of parents as partners working towards excellence in education."

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- March 25th
"SPC Level 2"
BCCPAC
Workshop 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
- March 31st
DPAC General
Meeting 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
Presentations:
SD#43 Budget
- April 21st
"Effective
Planning"
BCCPAC
Workshop 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center

Parent Ed Workshops

SD#43 DPAC is pleased to sponsor two BCCPAC Parent Education workshop evenings this Spring. Both are at the **Winslow Center Gallery Room from 7 to 9 pm**. You can register by phone at 604-942-5013, by fax at 604-942-5013 or e-mail to claudelh@shaw.ca. We ask that you tell other parents about our workshops and encourage them to attend as well.



Thursday, March 25th "School Planning Councils Level 2"

This workshop is for parents who are familiar with the role of the SPC. It will review what has been learned so far and share best practices on consultation, goals, gathering information, data and other sources, communications and more!

Wednesday, April 21st "Effective Planning"

At this workshop you will learn the basics of strategic planning and goal setting and how they are essential to the effectiveness of your PAC. This workshop will help you clarify you PAC's role and direction. And show you how a thoughtful plan and action strategy can launch your PAC on the road to greater parent involvement in your school and District.

BCCPAC Resolutions Carried

The following two resolutions were presented to the DPAC membership at the February 25th General meeting.

Support for the Duty to Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: BCCPAC strongly support the continued inclusion of Section 27.1(1) of the Teaching Profession Amendment Act (Bill 51), that creates a duty on a member of the B.C. College of Teachers to report their belief that another member is guilty of professional misconduct.



Support for the B.C. College of Teachers Person Complaint Process

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: BCCPAC strongly support the continued inclusion of the B.C. College of Teachers Person Complaint Process Section 28.4(C1) of the Teaching Profession Amendment Act (Bill 51).

Both motions carried. As a result, these resolutions will be brought forward to the May 2004 BCCPAC AGM for voting province-wide. They are included in the BCCPAC Resolutions booklet circulated to all member PACs in February (Resolutions # 22 & #23).

- April 28th
DPAC General Meeting 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
Presentation:
Vandal Watch

SD #43

- Board Meetings
2004 7:30 pm
March 30
April 20
May 11
550 Poirier St.
Coquitlam
- Public Budget Meetings
March 23
March 30
April 6
April 13
April 20

Have We Got a Plan!

Designing Our Future: A Blueprint for Excellence is the School District 43 strategic planning initiative. To date, the Strategic Planning Committee has met with a large number of partner groups, student groups, community groups, and business groups to collect input on what the School District is doing well and where there is room for improvement. As data was being collected, the Committee met and processed the input into categories of emerging values. The Committee has made sure that every point that someone raised has been included, regardless of whether the point was raised once or many times.

Some of the emerging themes or values are:

Learning Environment

- Safe, caring and inclusive
- Socially responsible learning communities

Student Learning

- Success for all learners

Instructional Excellence

- Commitment to instructional excellence
- Professional development opportunities designed to improve student learning

Community Involvement

- Strong community involvement and support for education

Partner Group Involvement

- Supportive and trusting relationships with our partner groups

Communication

- Open, effective and timely communication



The Committee is currently working on critical topics, supporting questions, critical issues, and challenges. There will be working groups formed to develop these items and these working groups will report to the Strategic Committee for completion. The Committee is tentatively planning on presenting their recommendations to the Board in the fall of 2004.

SD#43 Transportation Review



At the February 17th Board Meeting, the Trustees voted, after lengthy discussion, to reject all of the Transportation Policy Review Committee's recommendations and to stay with the existing policy including allowing courtesy riders. While this decision was certainly welcomed by the

schools that would have lost busing under the new recommendations, the Review Committee was left somewhat perplexed. All participating partner groups had come to consensus on the recommendations – not an easy task. If the Board was satisfied with its present policy, why use up valuable staff/volunteer time and resources for a review?

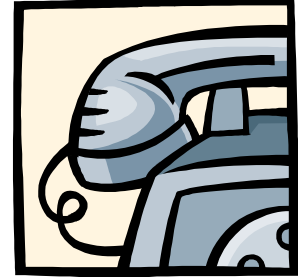
In any case, the status quo is preserved which means that every student in SD#43 is in fact eligible for bussing. Even if a student doesn't qualify under the distance rules, every parent has the right to apply for bussing for their child if they feel that their child's walk to school is in any way hazardous or unsafe. Contact the Board Office for details or clarification.

Volunteer Advocates Required

The School District #43 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) is seeking volunteers to fulfill the important role of advocates for students and their parents, in the public school system of District #43.

The Advocacy Project assists parents and students by:

- Facilitating resolution in a fair and positive way
- Promoting self-advocacy for parents and students
- Educating parents of their rights and responsibilities
- Providing information regarding process, written materials and options
- Focusing on the best interests of the student



Advocates are required to maintain confidentiality and adhere to a Code of Ethics. The position requires some flexible and scheduled hours; the expected time commitment is 1-5 hours per week. The successful candidates will participate in an advocacy orientation workshop, and will receive ongoing support and information through the DPAC Advocacy Committee and the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils Advocacy Project.

Visit the BCCPAC Web Site (www.bccpac.bc.ca) for detailed information on the role of an Advocate and the history of the Advocacy Project.

Deadline for applications is April 2, 2004. Please mail, fax, or drop off your application at the DPAC office.

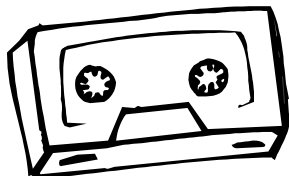
Report Card Project

The Ministry of Education is in the process of trying to standardize the report card format across the Province. The goal is to have them written in plain language, be clear and consistent, and to be based on provincial standards. Regional consultation meetings are being held throughout the province with various partner groups. The DPAC Executive and several SD#43 parents attended a session in Burnaby on March 2nd. SD#43 will most likely be involved with piloting the new format at some schools in September 2004.



Information, regional meeting dates & locations, sample templates, and a survey can be found on the Ministry web site www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reportcards/. A more detailed, faxable survey is available for PACs and parents from the DPAC office.

WCB Videos & Resource Kit



The Workers' Compensation Board has two free videos available to PACs: "Lost Youth" (for parents) and "Joe Who?" (for kids). They are aimed at the secondary school level and each runs about 17 minutes in length. A Parent Resource Kit that includes both videos can be ordered from

<http://youngworker.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Home.asp>



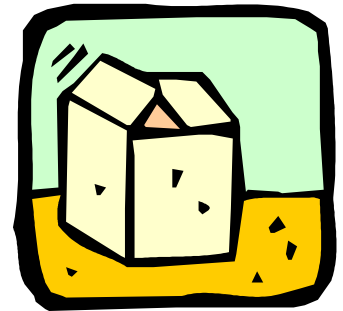
Budget News

The Education Ministry is now expected to release funding information for our District on March 15th. Four DPAC Executive members have formed a Budget Committee and plan to have some discussion around budget issues at the March 31st DPAC General meeting. It is hoped that Lorcan O'Melinn, SD#43 Secretary-Treasurer, will also be able to do a short introductory budget presentation at the March GM.

A reminder that at a special March 23rd Board Meeting, the budget situation will be formally announced. Public meetings for budget input are scheduled for Tuesday March 30th, April 6th, and April 13th. At the April 20th Board Meeting, the Trustees are expected to debate and finalize decisions on the 2004/05 Budget.

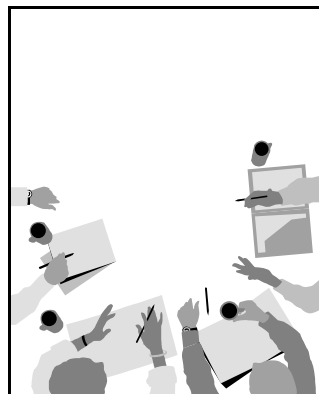
Safety in a Box

Have you looked for your "Purple Box" yet? At the recent DPAC Safe Schools Workshop, PACs were told about an elusive safe school resource box that should be at your school. Ask your Principal if you haven't yet seen it. The purple box is full of safety information and was distributed to all schools across the District some time ago. If you still can't find it, contact Janice Coomer, our Coquitlam Safety Coordinator based at Winslow Center, 604-937-6386.



Safety information and resource material can also be obtained by contacting the BC Safe Schools Centre, 5325 Kincaid St., Burnaby at 604-660-SAFE or on-line at www.safeschools.gov.bc.ca/

February 25th Meeting Highlights



Presentations A Strategic Planning

Committee update by Assistant Superintendent Julie Pearce, postponed from the January General Meeting, opened the meeting (see previous article) followed by a short presentation by **Consortium 43**, an education funding lobby group. Gwenda Woodbury, Sue McIntyre and Colleen Bolin outlined the three goals of the organization – collaboration, open dialogue and support of education.

Trustee Attendance The vote was unanimous; all PACs who voted at the meeting would like to see formal, official Trustee representation back at DPAC

meetings. As a result, the DPAC Executive will be preparing a presentation to the School Board with the hope that they will reconsider their January 13th decision. We anticipate being on the agenda of the March 30th Board meeting.

2004
School Calendar:

March 12
Schools close for
Spring Vacation

March 22
Schools reopen after
Spring Vacation

April 9
Good Friday

April 12
Easter Monday

May 7
District Pro-D Day

May 24
Victoria Day

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Student Services This SD#43 committee is composed of representatives from the District partner groups as well as several other education advocacy organizations. Discussion topics have included the Strategic Planning process, policy and strategies for handling suspensions and violent incidents, school-based learning programs, and summer programs. SD#43 is pleased to announce that **Dr. Gordon Neufeld** will once again be offering two workshops this summer. Dr. Neufeld is a noted speaker and author of the book "Hold on to Your Kids- Why Parents Matter". His website is at www.gordonneufeld.com. Workshops, at Winslow Center, are scheduled for:

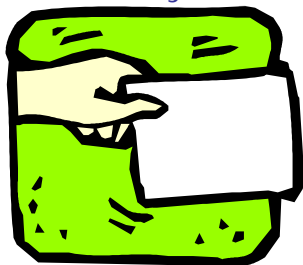


August 23-25 "The Teachability Factor"

August 30-September 1 "Counterwill, Bullying & Aggression"

The second workshop is for people with at least one day of previous exposure to Dr. Neufeld's material. For more info contact Maureen Dockendorf at 604-937-6401.

Get Ready toVote At our next General meeting on March 31st, there will be four resolutions presented to the membership. They are to be discussed at the PAC level, voted upon, and the results brought back to our April 28th meeting. The topics are: Healthy Food Choices in Schools (2 resolutions), Head Lice, and Society registration for DPAC.



The School Board has deferred making their decision on reviewing the District's cafeteria policy until after the results of our Healthy Food Choices vote.

BCCPAC

The Spring Conference and AGM "Celebrating the Mosaic" is on May 15th, 16th, and 17th at the Hilton Metrotown in Burnaby. Registration information was sent out in February's BCCPAC member mail-out and is now available on-line at www.bccpac.bc.ca



School District #43

New Grad Portfolio Requirements

DPAC and SD#43 will jointly host an information forum on the portfolio portion of the new grad requirements sometime in May. Details to follow.



Feedback

School Planning Council Contact Info

Please send the name of your School Planning Council PAC Executive Rep to the DPAC office along with their phone number, fax number, and e-mail address. This will be used to distribute pertinent information to all of the District's SP Councils.

DPAC Workshop RSVPs

There was a very poor turn out at our last Parent Ed 'Safe Schools' Workshop. Of 20 confirmed participants, only 10 actually attended. If you have signed up for a workshop, please advise the DPAC office if you are unable to attend.

Lunchtime

Parents have expressed concern over the amount of time children are being given to eat lunch, especially at the elementary school level. The primary concern is that children are being rushed and consequently are not eating enough of their food. If this is an issue for you, please talk to your Principal. He/she will then carry your concern to the District level.



Port Coquitlam 2004 Volunteer Recognition Awards

The City of Port Coquitlam is looking to formally recognize their volunteers. If you would like to nominate someone for an award go to www.city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca before the March 23rd deadline.

School Community News



Home Décor Workshop with Linda Baker – After Grad Fund Raiser, Wednesday, March 24th, Coffee & Dessert 7 pm Workshop 7:30 pm, Gleneagle Secondary School, 1195 Lansdowne Drive, Coquitlam. Tickets \$8 at the door or call Cindy Hartin 604-461-2755

Free Three-Part Workshop for Parents – Tutoring, Financial Planning, Computer Safety, Tuesday, March 30th, 6:15 – 7:45 pm, Charles Best Secondary School, 2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam. Register: Carissa 604-468-0888

Leading the Way BCCPAC Workshop - PAC Presentation, Thursday April 15th, 7-9 pm, Charles Best Secondary School, 2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam. RSVP Colleen Grant at 604-939-5117 or colleengrant@shaw.ca

The DPAC Newsletter is distributed via email only. PACs can print out copies for circulation as needed. To publicize an upcoming speaker, conference, or school event send an email to the DPAC office with "newsletter" in the subject line. The monthly deadline is the date of the DPAC General Meeting.

