



DPAC Newsletter

School District #43

May 2004

Volume 1, Number 7

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 26th
DPAC Annual General Meeting & Executive Elections 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
- May 27th
"New Graduation Program & The Innovation Conference"
DPAC / SD#43 Information Forum 6 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
- August 23-25
Gordon Neufeld Workshop "The Teachability Factor"
Hillcrest Middle School

New Graduation Requirements & Raising the Domain of Learning



DPAC and SD#43 will co-sponsor this parent education evening. Presenters will be Maureen Dockendorf, SD#43 Director of Instruction, Bob King, Special Projects SD#43, and Rosanna Von Sacken, from the DPAC 43 Executive. Join us:

Thursday, May 27th 6 to 8:15 pm at Winslow Center in the Gallery Room

From 6 to 7 pm, Maureen and Rosanna will share with the audience some thought provoking ideas and information from various speakers at recent conferences related to public education.

After a break from 7 to 7:15, Maureen, Bob and Rosanna will delve into the New Graduation Requirements. Learn about the new Planning 10 course that replaces CAPP in secondary schools, and the three-year cumulative graduation portfolio. This session will be particularly useful for parents with students entering Grade 10 in September 2004 or later.

There is no cost for these sessions, but please register with the DPAC office. You may attend one or both sessions.

DPAC AGM May 26th

The DPAC Annual General Meeting and Elections for the 2004/05 DPAC Executive will be held the evening of May 26th at Winslow Center. Formal nominations closed on May 12th, however nominations may still be taken from the floor at the AGM. All individuals running must be prepared to introduce themselves to the assembly, disclose any conflict of interest or perceived bias, and answer the following questions prior to the election:

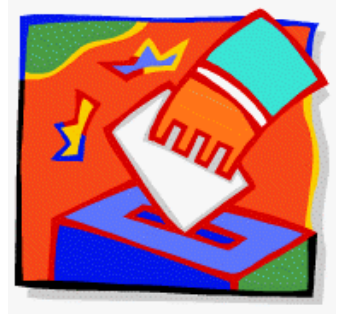
Why is the parent voice important to be heard?

As a parent, what have you done to make a difference in public education?

What do you see as the role of DPAC?

What would you say to parents to encourage them to be involved?

Nominations from the floor must come with a letter of support from the candidate's PAC. All elections will be by secret ballot.



SD #43

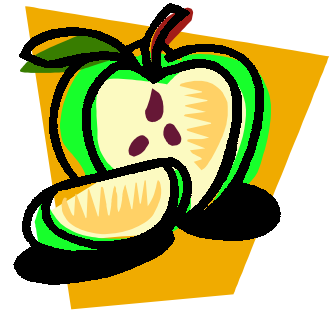
- Board Meetings
2004
7:30 pm
June 1
June 22
550 Poirier St.
Coquitlam

Resolution...

All three resolutions voted upon at the April 28th DPAC GM carried. Resolution details were in last month's newsletter.

Two were from the Pitt River Middle School PAC :
**Nutritional Choices Needed in District 43
Cafeterias and Parent Input Needed on Menu
Choices.**

The third was from the DPAC Executive : **DPAC 43 Society Act Registration.**



BCCPAC Conferences

The BCCPAC AGM and Spring Conference **"Celebrating the Mosaic"** was held from Thursday, May 13th to Sunday, May 16th in Burnaby. A press release regarding the conference can be found at www.bccpac.bc.ca. At the present time, only some of the voting results on the 35 resolutions are contained in the on-line press release. For complete results please contact the DPAC office.

The next BCCPAC Leadership Conference **"Building Excellence with Best Practices"** is slated for November 4th to 7th in Abbotsford at the Ramada Inn.



Budget Update

At their April 27th School Board meeting, the Trustees adopted their 2004/05 budget. Final budget details are available on the School District's website

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/> in the Financial Statements and Operating Budget section.

Grad Program 2004

New Graduation Program Teams

At the last school board meeting, it was announced that each high school in the District will be creating a school-based team to help develop teaching strategies and to assess the new Planning 10 program that replaces CAPP 10. The team will be composed of about 5 members, including parents, who would meet monthly and work with the District to monitor the program. Contact your Principal for more details.

Graduation Portfolio Guide

A package entitled "Graduation Portfolio Assessment and Focus Areas: A Program Guide" has been sent out by the Ministry to all secondary schools. Contact your Principal if your PAC has not received your copy.





Trustees Back at DPAC

At their April 20th Board Meeting, School Trustees reversed their decision revoking formal representation at DPAC meetings. On May 11th, they appointed Melissa Hyndes (Board Chair) and Holly Butterfield as their designated DPAC representatives.

School Planning Council Update

The District has produced a new template to be used to formulate your school's 2004/05 School Improvement Plan (SIP). It requires more specific goals and more hard data than the previous model.

BCCPAC has released a report called "School Planning Council Policy in British Columbia". It is a document comparing SPC District Policies from across the Province. Contact the DPAC office if you would like to view the report.



DPAC 43 Advocacy Project

We have successfully interviewed four Advocates for the project and anticipate the addition of another two. The new Advocates will be trained during the month of May and will then be available to parents for consultation.

Of note, the DPAC advocacy process emphasizes resolution. Within that context, Advocates always encourage Clients to follow District procedure.

Designing Our Future – A Blueprint for Excellence

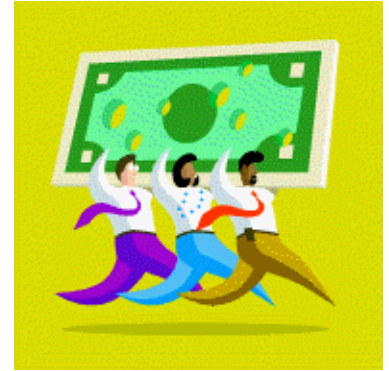


The SD 43 strategic plan has now moved into its third and final stage. Working Groups, composed of 5 to 7 members from various partner groups, have been set up to explore each of the six strategic themes: A Common Vision, Choice, Communication, Organizational Alignment, Transitions and Partnerships. These groups will explore and investigate their theme area, resulting in draft recommendations and considerations. A completed report is scheduled to be delivered to the School Board in Fall, 2004. The strategic plan is intended to carry the District through to 2014.

Tidbits

Direct Access Grant Funds

Time is of the essence! PACs and DPACs must apply for Direct Access Grant Funds between April 1st and June 30th of each year, using the most recent application form. The latest form, dated March 2004, is available online at http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/publications/direct-access/applications/App_PAC.pdf. Don't delay or you may miss out on next year's funding!



Vandal Watch

At the April 28th DPAC General Meeting, Tim Kelly, program coordinator, gave an informative presentation on the Vandal Watch program.

Mr. Kelly explained that the Vandal Watch program began because of the tremendous cost of vandalism occurring around schools and public facilities. The program asks neighbours around these facilities to call a confidential hot-line number when they feel vandalism might be occurring or is about to occur.

The program is supported by School District 43 and the Cities of Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam. Mr. Kelly will come out to individual PAC meetings to speak. He can be contacted at 604-787-3427. Their website is www.vandalwatch.citysoup.ca.

BCCPAC Tracking Survey

If you are one of the pilot schools for this project and need assistance, don't hesitate to contact the DPAC office. The survey is to be completed by parents with the help of administration and some information from District reports.



WCB Parent Resource Kit

A Workers' Compensation Board resource kit on young worker health and safety is available at no charge to secondary school PACs. Call (604) 276-3174.



DPAC 43 Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies

An updated version of these DPAC documents is expected to be presented to the membership in the Fall. The committee has been working on this project since last November but now that DPAC is to be registered as a Society, further modifications are required.

2004
School Calendar:

May 24
Victoria Day

June 30
Administrative Day
Schools Close for
Summer

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604-939-0111

Gordon Neufeld Summer Session

A reminder to register before June 15th in order to qualify for a special DPAC subsidy for this conference. For more information about Dr. Neufeld, or about the content of the course, consult Dr. Neufeld's website www.gordonneufeld.com

"The Teachability Factor"
Monday, August 23 -
Wednesday, August 25, 2004
Hillcrest Middle School
2161 Regan Ave., Coquitlam

9:00 - 3:00 (coffee and muffins at 8:30)

DPAC is pleased to subsidize parents to attend this highly recommended workshop at an extremely reasonable cost. The discounted cost for the workshop is \$50 / person for all three days. The cost includes resources, snacks and lunches. DPAC will subsidize up to a maximum of 25 participants at \$20 each (i.e. each qualified registrant will have to pay \$30). **The subsidy will be given on a first come first serve basis.**

The completed registration form and a cheque for \$30, made payable to DPAC, must be received by DPAC **no later than June 15, 2004.**

If registrations received by DPAC exceed the subsidy maximum, then parents will be notified by phone or email and an additional \$20 must be paid to DPAC **by June 22, 2004** to reserve a spot at the workshop.

For questions about registration or the subsidy, please contact DPAC at 939-3690 or dpac43@telus.net



School Community News



The **Lori Girvan Company** is looking for families or mature individuals in the Tri-City area to act as hosts for international students. Contact Lori Girvan 604-945-6732 or 604-612-4922 (cell).

Girl Guides of Canada - Eagle Mountain District is looking for adult leaders for its Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, and Senior Branches. If you are interested in joining this vibrant and energetic organization contact Lynn at 604-469-4980.

The DPAC Newsletter is distributed via email and is also available on our website at www.dpac.citysoup.ca in the "What's New" section. 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.

