



# DPAC Newsletter

School District #43

April 2004

Volume 1, Number 6

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- April 21<sup>st</sup>  
"Effective Planning"  
BCCPAC  
Workshop 7 pm  
Gallery Room  
Winslow Center
- April 28<sup>th</sup>  
DPAC General Meeting 7 pm  
Gallery Room  
Winslow Center  
Vote resolutions  
Presentation:  
Vandal Watch
- May 26<sup>th</sup>  
DPAC Annual General Meeting & Executive Elections 7 pm  
Gallery Room  
Winslow Center

## There's Still Time...

SD#43 DPAC is sponsoring a BCCPAC Parent Education workshop evening on

Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 7 to 9 pm  
Winslow Center Gallery Room  
"Effective Planning"

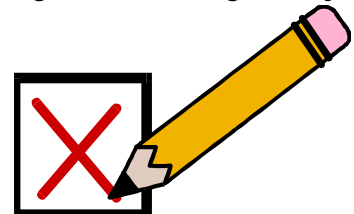
At this workshop you will learn the basics of strategic planning and goal setting and how they are essential to the effectiveness of your PAC. This workshop will help you clarify your PAC's role and direction. It will also show you how a thoughtful plan and action strategy can launch your PAC on the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

Register by phone at 604-942-5013 (Claude) or e-mail to [claudeh@shaw.ca](mailto:claudeh@shaw.ca)



## DPAC Executive Elections

The DPAC Annual General Meeting is fast approaching – the evening of May 26<sup>th</sup>. Elections for the 2004/05 DPAC Executive will be held at that time. Gus Labbe was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee at the March General meeting. Other members of the committee are Dave Allen, Linda Hughes and Sharon Jamieson. Nomination forms and information will be circulated to all PAC Chairs and DPAC reps via e-mail in mid-April. If you haven't received your copy by the end of April, please contact Sandy at the DPAC office. We encourage all to become active on the DPAC Executive. It is truly a learning experience.



## Parent Education Session



### New Graduation Program & The Innovation Conference

DPAC and SD#43 will jointly host an information forum on both the new graduation program and overview of the "Innovation & Improvement" Conference held in Victoria in March. Presenters will be Maureen Dockendorf, SD#43 Director of Instruction, and Rosanna Von Sacken, from the DPAC 43 Executive. Join us:

Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 6 to 8:15 pm at Winslow Center Gallery Room

The conference overview will run from 6 to 7 pm, there will be a 15-minute break, then the New Grad session will run until 8:15 pm. There is no cost for this session, but please register with the DPAC office.

- May 27<sup>th</sup>  
"New Graduation Program & The Innovation Conference"  
DPAC / SD#43 Information Forum 6 pm  
Gallery Room  
Winslow Center

#### SD #43

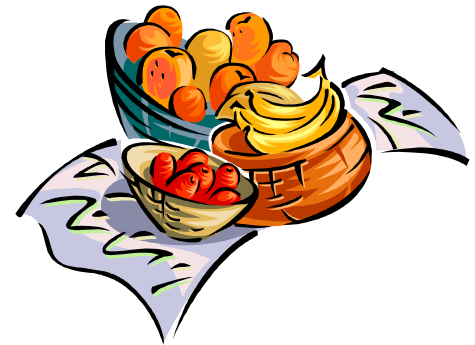
- Board Meetings  
2004 7:30 pm  
April 20 - Budget Debate  
May 11  
June 1  
June 22  
550 Poirier St.  
Coquitlam

## Be It Resolved...

The following three resolutions were presented at the March 31<sup>st</sup> DPAC General Meeting and should be reviewed and voted upon at individual school PAC meetings. Voting results should be brought to the April 28<sup>th</sup> DPAC GM.

### Nutritional Choices Needed in District 43 Cafeterias

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** DPAC lobby the School Board Trustees and District 43 staff to consistently offer primarily healthy menu choices with a limited number of options which have a lower nutritional value.



### Parent Input Needed on Menu Choices

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** DPAC request and lobby the School Board Trustees and District 43 staff to allow parents to have input within their own school into the menu options offered.

### DPAC 43 Society Act Registration

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** DPAC 43 be registered as a society in order to be incorporated under the Society Act in the Province of British Columbia.

The rationale for each of the three motions was distributed with the March meeting package. Contact the DPAC office if you need additional copies. More detailed information on the Society Act can be found at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

## "Celebrating the Mosaic"



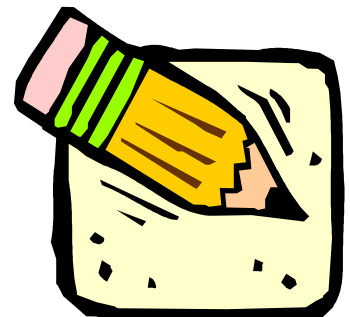
### The BCCPAC AGM and Spring Conference

is scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Metrotown in Burnaby. Please note that the dates in the last DPAC newsletters were incorrect. The Conference days are the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and the AGM begins the morning of Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> and continues until the morning of Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Conference program and registration information was sent out in February's BCCPAC member mail-

out and is also available on-line at [www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)

You should have also received the 2004 Resolutions Booklet in the mail but if not, it is available on-line. Five "Late Resolutions" are also on-line.

All SD#43 PACs are members of BCCPAC and as such are eligible to vote on these resolutions. If your school is not sending a representative to the AGM you can send your resolution votes by proxy. Two DPAC Executive members have been designated to carry SD#43 proxies - Claude Hrycaiko from Scott Creek Middle School and Rosanna Von Sacken from Blakeburn Elementary School. Please fill out your proxy forms in full and submit them to the DPAC office by the first week of May.





## Budget Update

At the March 31<sup>st</sup> DPAC GM, Lorcann O'Melinn, the Secretary-Treasurer of School District 43, gave an overview of the budget situation in the District.

Mr. O'Melinn advised that the District's situation is much improved from last year. The Ministry has released a one-time grant to all districts of \$32 million; our District received \$1.738 million. These funds must be directed to any unfunded liabilities relating to the move to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP). Our district has \$20 million in unfunded liabilities.

Mr. O'Melinn reviewed the 2004-05 Budget Forecast document. There are three critical numbers in the budget: a deficit of \$825,000, an Enrolment Reserve of \$1.260 million and a Potential Surplus Position of \$435,000.

The deficit of \$825,000 represents the difference between the District's revenue from both the Province and other funding sources and its expenses. The deficit is not considered significant considering the total budget.

The deficit is more than offset by the expected \$1.260 million Enrolment Reserve giving a final surplus position of \$435,000. This Reserve is paid out in late Fall after final student enrollment numbers are submitted to the Ministry. It could potentially be as much as \$2.52 million. In SD#43, a decline in student enrolment of 450 students or 1% is expected.

No increases in salaries are expected for the next three years. If there are in fact increases, it will create a considerable cost pressure. In the past, a 2.5% increase in teacher salaries represented a \$3 million expense. There is no contingency plan for a salary increase.

The School Board will debate the budget on April 20<sup>th</sup> and adopt the 2004/05 budget on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

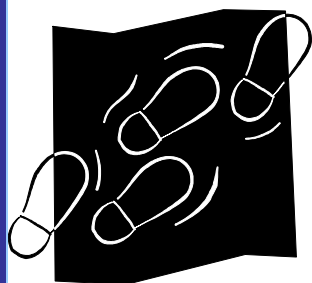
Additional information is available on the School District's website <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/>

The DPAC Executive Budget Committee presented to the Board at its April 13<sup>th</sup> Public Budget session. The presentation was based on budget input from the membership at the March 31<sup>st</sup> DPAC General meeting.



## Trustee Attendance

At the March 30<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting, Linda Reimer, DPAC President, presented an appeal to the Trustees to reevaluate their decision to discontinue formal Trustee representation at DPAC General Meetings. This appeal had the unanimous backing of all school PACs. A copy of the DPAC presentation was circulated to all PAC Chairs and DPAC reps. The Board is expected to respond to DPAC's request at their next regular meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. They originally revoked representation, without notice, at their January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.



# One more meeting!

My plate is full. I'm too busy driving my kids to soccer practice, dance and swimming lessons. I couldn't possibly fit in another meeting!

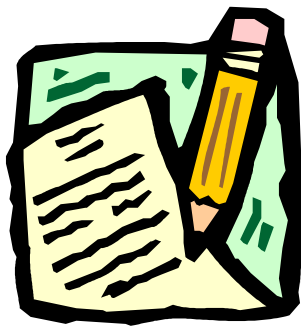
There is no disputing the fact that most parents and their kids are indeed very busy in many worthwhile activities. Yet, your attendance and participation at one more meeting is vitally important.



PAC and DPAC meetings are avenues where the parental voice and perspective are both listened to and valued. In addition, PAC meetings provide you with a unique opportunity to learn about the issues that are currently impacting our educational system. A new perspective is provided by the school administrator, staff members (teachers and support staff), and other parents who attend PAC meetings. Principals routinely communicate relevant information via school-based newsletters, however, one can counter that the dialogue that occurs between the Principal, staff and parents during a PAC meeting is greater in richness and context. The net effect - parents gain an increased understanding of the nuances of school system that are often difficult to capture in a standard school or PAC newsletter.

Your voice, values and insight make a difference to the educational system.

One more meeting, please make the time and show you care.



## Tidbits

### Direct Access Grant Funds

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 is dated March 2004 in the lower left corner and is available online at

[http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/publications/direct-access/applications/App\\_PAC.pdf](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/publications/direct-access/applications/App_PAC.pdf). The amount of a PAC's

Grant will be based on the previous year's September 30th enrollment.

Approved funding will be directly deposited into the PAC's gaming account by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

### BCCPAC Education Tracking Survey

This survey was developed by BCCPAC as a result of a member PAC resolution last year. The survey will gather unbiased information to allow assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of our province's public schools. It will be piloted in 300 Elementary schools across the province this Spring. If your

school is one of the thirteen SD#43 schools selected, please complete and return it promptly to BCCPAC with as much information as possible. Feel free to e-mail BCCPAC if you have any questions. This summer a companion Secondary School survey is being designed.



Starting this Fall, tracking surveys will be distributed annually to all schools in BC.

### Action Schools! BC

A new model is coming to BC schools in September 2004. The program is called Action Schools! BC and it is a multi-faceted approach to getting kids more active and encouraging healthy lifestyles. To start, it will be an Elementary school initiative, but eventually it will include a model for Middle and Secondary schools. It is currently being piloted in Richmond and Vancouver. Check out their website at [www.actionschoolsbc.ca](http://www.actionschoolsbc.ca)



### BCCPAC Regional Conference

The Conference scheduled for Saturday, April 17th in New Westminster has been cancelled. Registration fees will be refunded to all paid registrants.

### College of Teachers

The College has issued an updated "Person's Complaint" brochure now available on line. A formal complaint form is also available. Go to <http://bcct.ca/discipline.html>

### Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide

New provincial standards for codes of conduct to improve student safety in BC schools were released at the end of March. The government's new safe schools guidebook is to be distributed to principals, school planning councils and PACs in BC's 1,750 schools. For more information go to

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/>



### Sound Amplification Systems in the Classroom

At our last DPAC GM, Linda Hughes DPAC Rep from Mary Hill Elementary, shared information regarding amplification systems for classrooms. These systems run about \$1200 per classroom. An information package is available to PACs. Additional information is available on the BCCPAC's website under Resolution 14, which is to be presented at the upcoming AGM.

Leslie Bennett, SD#43 audiologist, is available to give presentations to PACs. It has been determined that these amplification systems benefit all students, not just those who are hearing impaired.

### Vandal Watch

Vandal Watch is a proactive community watch program for schools, parks and community centers. A central phone number is circulated to all homes near a facility. Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activities to the Tip Line as soon as they see problems developing, *before* acts of vandalism occur. Calls are anonymous and confidential. Security personnel will investigate the tip and take action and/or involve the police as necessary.



Several schools in SD#43 have already started up Vandal Watch chapter. A presentation on the program will be made at the April 28<sup>th</sup> DPAC GM. Program info is available at <http://www.vandalwatch.citysoup.ca/Default.htm>

### School Planning Councils Level 2

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, DPAC held a BCCPAC workshop to review and share information on SPCs. It was facilitated by Reggi Balabanov, BCCPAC Past President, and was well attended. Handouts from the session are available from the DPAC office and include "Tips for Looking at Data", "Types of Data", "The Duties of PAC Representatives to a SPC", and the "SPC Level 2 Workshop Outline".

2004  
School Calendar:

May 7  
District Pro-D Day

May 24  
Victoria Day

June 30  
Administrative Day  
Schools Close for  
Summer

District 43 Parent  
Advisory Council  
1100B Winslow Ave.  
Coquitlam, BC  
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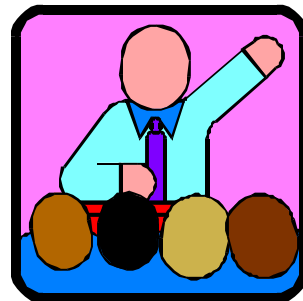
Newsletter Editor:  
Cindy Macie

We are on the  
Web!  
www.dpac.citysoup.ca

DPAC  
ADVOCACY HOTLINE:  
604-939-0111

## Gordon Neufeld Encore

SD#43 will once again be bringing Dr. Gordon Neufeld to the District this summer. Dr. Neufeld is a noted speaker and author of the book "Hold on to Your Kids-Why Parents Matter". His website is [www.gordonneufeld.com](http://www.gordonneufeld.com). Workshop details will follow in May's newsletter. Currently, sessions are scheduled for:



### **August 23-25 "The Teachability Factor"** at Hillcrest Middle School

This session is open to parents and will be subsidized by both the School District and DPAC. Registration is \$50. Parents pay \$30 and DPAC will subsidize \$20 on a first come, first serve basis. Lunch is included.

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

#### at Maple Creek Middle School

The session is for people with at least one day of previous exposure to Dr. Neufeld's material.

## School Community News

**Leading the Way BCCPAC Workshop - PAC Presentation**, Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm, Charles Best Secondary School, 2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam. RSVP Colleen Grant at 604-939-5117 or [colleengrant@shaw.ca](mailto:colleengrant@shaw.ca)



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-Cities Women's Conference**, Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4 pm, Inlet Theatre, 100 Newport Drive, Port Moody. Four speakers: \$35 adults; \$20 students under 18. Workshops: free. For info call Tara 604-469-7286 or visit [www.fernweb.com/tcwc.htm](http://www.fernweb.com/tcwc.htm)

**Powerful Parenting for Terrific Teens by Suzanne Kyra – PAC Presentation**, Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm, Pinetree Secondary School, 3000 Pinewood Avenue, Coquitlam. \$10 to pre-register or \$12 at the door.

Pinetree PAC will donate 20% of your admission to your school's PAC. Register: Maureen Eichel 604-464-2513

**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 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](http://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.

