



# District Parent Advisory Council

1100B Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 2G3

Telephone: (604) 939-3690 Fax: (604) 939-3695

Email: dpac43@telus.net Website: www.dpac43.org

District 43: Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore and Belcarra

---

## DPAC General Meeting Wednesday, March 24, 2010 Gallery Room, Winslow Centre

Heidi Gable called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

DPAC Executive in attendance: Heidi Gable – President, Jason Turner – Treasurer, Deanne Harris – Health & Safety Coordinator, Marie McCabe – Member at Large, Richard Stewart – Past President.

Minutes taken by: Sandy Maloney

### 1. Introductions

- Tom Grant – District Superintendent

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** made by Emmanuel Shamatutu, seconded by Sidney Chambers, to accept the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

### 3. Approval of Previous Minutes

**MOTION** made by Teri Towner, seconded by Kim Jamer, to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2010 General Meeting as presented. **CARRIED**

### 4. President's Announcements - Heidi Gable

- District Funding
  - District is in the middle of the budget process
  - Got some additional money but not enough cover estimated expenses
  - District 43 – Coquitlam, is the lowest per student funded District in the Province
- Coquitlam Gifted Program
  - Heidi sat on the focus group that looked at offering such a program in our District
  - Informational meeting was held March 22, the turnout of parents & students was more than the Gallery Room could handle

### 5. Superintendent's Report - Tom Grant

- Coquitlam Middle School Gifted Program
  - Will be running a 3 year pilot program at Citadel & Hillcrest Middle schools
- IB
  - There are 3 different programs:
    - Primary years model K-6
    - Middle years program (MYP) 6-10
    - High School program 10-12
  - Our District currently offers the High School program at Port Moody Secondary
  - Our District is looking at the other programs, what do they look like, pros/cons, cost, are they applicable to our District
- School revisioning
  - In the middle of the Middle School revisioning
  - Starting to look at the Secondary School revisioning
- Full Day Kindergarten
  - In the process of expanding full day K

- Sept 2010 – 20 schools
- Sept 2011 – all schools
- Following year maybe start the 4 year old program
- Public Speaking Contest – Tom was able to hear some of them & was very impressed
- New Partnership – our District has developed a new partnership with SFU around Central Elementary community with one of the professors & her students
- District's Dream Statement – "Learning without boundaries" - unveiled to students & teachers
- Spring Break – starts March 26, next year (2011) starts March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Budget
  - Budget has been announced
  - Thanked ministry for putting more money into education
  - Costs going up faster than income
  - Got \$3 million more this year than last year, but costs went up \$7 million, also have more students
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> highest graduation rate in province – 94%
  - Formula:
    - Coquitlam is lowest funded District in the Province (about \$300/child less than our counterparts – ie Metro (Burnaby, Vancouver, Surrey, Richmond, New West)
    - Works to our disadvantage & needs to be looked at
  - Opportunities for input into budget process this year included:
    - Online survey through the schools
    - Presentations made at board meetings
    - Feedback to DPAC
- Andy Hargreaves – has been working with us as to what makes a good district

## 6. Parent Involvement

- Tom Grant

- What does effective parent participation look like in schools?
- Line in throne speech: ... new ways at looking at parent participation in schools ...
- Parents have a right to participate and to the amount they are able to.
  - Need to get the "norms" right – set up our own.
  - Tom would like to have a meeting where all PAC Chairs & Principals gather together in the same room & look at the issues together > goal being to get some "norms" established
    - Would DPAC & PACs be willing to participate?
    - How many meetings?
      - Suggested it might be better to have 3 separate meetings (1 for each level – elementary / middle / secondary)
- Brainstormed: given 2 minutes & asked in 5 words or less "What do you see as the issues getting in the way of effective parent partnerships?:
  - Personal politics
  - Coordinated effort between PAC & principal
  - More ways to offer translations for ethnic groups
  - More parent inclusion
  - Variance of administrative styles
  - School board policies
  - Curriculum is black hole
  - Fundraising
  - A teacher attending PAC meetings
  - Principal often sets the tone
  - Multicultural sensitivity
  - Information
  - Parents don't know what to expect (What is school?)
  - Open door policy for better communication
  - Parent role in learning
  - Eduspeak
  - How to involve parents
  - Parent / PAC behavior
  - Technology

- The Principal's top 5 were:
  - We all don't know what the rules are
  - What is our common purpose & what is school for?
  - Communication
  - Skill set they bring to the table
  - In some situations parents have been inappropriate to how they approached the school (teacher or principal)

## 7. Treasurer's Report

- Jason Turner

- Income Statement to 28Feb10 vs 2009/10 Budget
- Financial Statements received and will be filed into records as presented, with the correction of the Actual date to show 1Jul09 to 28Feb10, for review at the end of the year

## 8. BCCPAC Conference & AGM

- Heidi Gable

- PACs eligible to vote asked to get their proxies & voting instructions into our office by April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- DPAC office will send out a list of schools eligible to vote (as provided to us by BCCPAC), proxy forms & instructions, voting instructions, and the information on how to fill out the proxy form

## 9. Constitution & Bylaws

- Deanne Harris

- DPAC Special Resolution
  - Executive will be proposing a special resolution to change the "Terms of Office" so that people can run for positions for 2 consecutive terms, and then longer than that if the membership takes a vote & agrees that they can
  - All positions are voted on by secret ballot so what this means is that even if only 1 person is letting their name stand – a vote is taken, and if people do not want to vote that person in, they don't & the position would remain vacant
  - DPAC Reps asked to take it back to their PACs & come to the April 28 DPAC General Meeting ready to vote on it
- The DPAC Constitution & Bylaws are currently being reviewed & looked at as there are other changes to be made, but the process involves time & it was felt that this amendment needed to be done prior to our elections for the 2010-2011 school year so that is why the DPAC Executive put forth the Special Resolution

## 10. Parent Ed Opportunities

- Deanne Harris

- What To Do When Your Child is Being Bullied: Strategies for Parents
  - **DATE:** Wednesday, April 14/10
  - **TIME:** 7:00pm – 8:30pm
  - **LOCATION:** Gallery Room – Winslow Centre
  - **REGISTRATION:** Is required. Phone 604-939-3690 or email dpac43@telus.net
  - **COST:** No cost.
  - **CHILDMINDING:** Not available.
  - **DETAILS:** Speaker – Cindi Seddon (Principal Como Lake Middle). April 14<sup>th</sup> is also Pink Shirt Day so show your support and wear pink!
- Understanding Today's Teens – Educational Workshops for Parents of Teens
  - All workshops run from 7:00pm – 8:30pm & are being held at The Gathering Place in PoCo
  - Pre-registration is required by email: [blewiscountselling@gmail.com](mailto:blewiscountselling@gmail.com)
  - More information: contact Brooke @ [blewiscountselling@gmail.com](mailto:blewiscountselling@gmail.com) or visit [www.blewiscountselling.com](http://www.blewiscountselling.com).
  - Sessions being offered are:
    - April 12 – Technology – is fully booked
    - May 10 – Drug Awareness
    - June 14 – Eating Disorders
- Jennie (DPAC Rep – Como Lake Middle) thanked the person organizing the parent ed sessions this year and felt that they have all been very appropriate

## 11. Networking

- Richard Stewart let the membership know that the City of Coquitlam has done a walk about for each school (that lies in the City of Coquitlam itself). He asked that any of the PACs from the Coquitlam schools that have Traffic Safety Coordinators send him an email ([rstewart@coquitlam.ca](mailto:rstewart@coquitlam.ca)) so that he can make sure the information is shared with them

## **12.Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by Sidney Chambers, seconded by Teri Towner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

**CARRIED**