



District Parent Advisory Council

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

DPAC General Meeting Wednesday, January 28, 2009 Gallery Room, Winslow Centre

Heidi Gable called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

DPAC Executive in attendance: Heidi Gable - President, Darren Rosenthal – Vice President, Jason Turner – Treasurer, Deanne Harris – Health & Safety Coordinator, Marie McCabe – Member at Large

1. Approval of Agenda

- o Approval of previous minutes > date of minutes should be November 26, 2008
- o Remove item #6 Introduction of Energy Programs. This will be covered at another upcoming DPAC GM when more details are available.

MOTION made by Heather Rossi, seconded by Deanne Harris, to accept the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION made by Susan Mueckel, seconded by Teri Towner, to accept the minutes of the November 26, 2008 General Meeting as presented. **CARRIED**

3. President's Report

- Heidi Gable

- o Vision / Mission / Goals
 - o What is DPAC?
 - o Why?
 - o Why does it matter?
- o Heidi plans to put together a video, approximately 2 minutes in length, that DPAC Reps can take back to their PACs to show their parents hopefully giving them a better understanding of what DPAC is all about
- o Vision:
 - o A public education system that nurtures every child to develop their full potential as human being & citizens of this world.
- o Mission:
 - o 3 key components are Inspire / Empower / Equip
 - Inspire: Parent involvement is not a "nice to have".
 - Empower: The parent voice is critical in the governance of this system.
 - Equip: All parents need tools & information in order to be meaningfully involved.

4. Superintendent's Comments

- Tom Grant

- o District is going through a fact finding stage. Focus on the future. Strategic Plan for the next 10 years
- o Snow Closure:
 - o Numerous emails & phone calls and the District have tried to answer all
 - o District is re-examining all policies regarding snow. Also meeting with the Municipalities to work out some concerns.
- o Cross Catchment Process
 - o for 2009-2010 is beginning. Starts Feb. 12 for all but Kindergarten which takes place at the same time parents register their child for K (registration is Feb. 3/4/5).
 - o information is available on the main page of the District website

- o no further information on all day kindergarten or junior K
- o Minister of Education has made some announcements around learning:
 - o Neighborhoods of Learning: when new schools built, option of an additional 15% space for "community space"
 - o Early learning: ministry meeting with District Jan. 29 for some announcements\
- o FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment):
 - o It is legislated/mandated that the District must administer FSA tests
 - o Tom wishes that the District wasn't put in the position of conflict
 - o Tom feels results of FSA shouldn't be used to rank schools

5. Introduction of Settlement Workers - Sylvia Russell

- o Settlement workers unable to attend tonight due to other commitments
- o Sylvia gave us some background & explained how this all came about and the purpose
- o SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools)
- o The program is intended to help newly arrived students & families (mostly refugee immigrants) into the school system. The settlement workers help connect these families to services and resources in the schools and community.
- o Languages covered include: Farsi, Dari, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Japanese, Russian
- o This project was funded by a grant
- o 2 additional grants besides SWIS
 - o 0 – 5 year olds > educational & health services & for Teenagers
- o Feb. 20 ISS (Immigrant Services Society) holding a meeting at Winslow Centre between school & community groups to start planning for the 300 Bhutanese people that will be coming into our community between now & June from refugee camps in Nepal
- o Referrals of students/families for this program can also come from anyone. Referrals to be directed to Lois Eaton (Continuing Ed) or speak to your own school Principal.
- o The settlement workers have served more than 400 families since October
- o The focus so far has been on the Burquitlam corridor as this is the area with the most refugee immigrants
- o SWIS site on the District website is currently being developed
- o 64 different languages are spoken in this District

6. Presentation: FSA Background - Kathleen Thomson

- o Parents have the right to see their child's results, can have it mailed or 1 on 1 with the teacher. Most teachers prefer the 1 on 1.
- o Assessment is one of the most challenging things for teachers.
- o FSA tests have been in existence since 2000, before that there was PLAP (provincial learning assessment)
- o As a result of this presentation and the ensuing discussion the DPAC felt that there needs to be a continuation on this topic at a future meeting that will provide parents with the information as to exactly what assessments are being used in this district and what the results are used for

Items #7 / 8 / 9 / 10 had to be postponed until another meeting as the allotted meeting time ran out due to questions and discussion on the items covered taking considerably longer than anticipated.

7. Group Discussion: Assessment For Learning - Heidi Gable

8. Treasurer's Report - Jason Turner

9. Group Discussion: Parent Education Options - Heidi Gable

10. Networking

11. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 9:31p.m.