



# District Parent Advisory Council

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

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## DPAC General Meeting Wednesday, March 25, 2009 Gallery Room, Winslow Centre

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

DPAC Executive in attendance: Heidi Gable - President, Jason Turner – Treasurer, Dina Rodriguez – East Zone Rep.

### 1. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** made by Selina Robinson, seconded by Dina Rodriguez, to accept the agenda as amended. **CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

**MOTION** made by Shannon Phillips, seconded by Rodica Neag, to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2009 General Meeting as presented. **CARRIED**

### 3. President's Report

- Heidi Gable

- o Watched a video from Philadelphia's "Ignite" event in which Chris Lehmann talks about some pretty high ideals – and about creating the schools we need.  
<http://www.viddler.com/explore/tdlifestyle/videos/134/>
- o Package of information on each table will be emailed out to PAC Chairs & DPAC Reps after the meeting

### 4. Superintendent's Comments

- Tom Grant

- o Energy Program:
  - o Mark Clay is the Energy Program Manager for District 43
  - o BC Hydro is funding the Energy Management position in our District for 3 years
  - o Some projects our students are involved in:
    - Festival of the Arts
    - Earth Hour Project > March 28
    - Pitch in Week > April
- o Summer Learning Opportunities:
  - o will be able to register online this year
  - o expect to grow to about 6000 students this year
- o Cross Catchment Process:
  - o Changes made to the process this year were based on feedback from parents about last year's process
  - o Now opportunities to do some of the process online
- o Budget received from the Ministry:
  - o There will be an increase of funding for District 43 but don't think it will be enough to cover the costs
  - o April 14 & 16 are Budget meetings and a chance for the public to make presentations to the Board
- o Spring Break:
  - o Ministry suggestion for Spring Break 2010 was Mar. 8-12 (this would only be 5 weeks after semester 2 has begun)

- Up until about 3 years ago the school breaks were mandated by the Ministry, now because of newer legislation we Districts can change any dates on the school calendar as long as they still fulfill the mandated minimum number of days of instruction & maximum number of non-instructional days
- Some Districts in the Lower Mainland have decided to keep the date as suggested by the Ministry, some have voted to change it, some have yet to decide
- 3 options were proposed by our District:
  - March 8 - 12
  - March 22 – 26
  - March 26 – April 1 (attach to Easter long weekend)
- District had about 2400 responses to the online survey where people could indicate their preference from the 3 choices. Survey response was about 1/3 people wanted the 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 1/3 the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, 1/3 the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice
- Decision made at last Board Meeting to move Spring Break 2010 to coincide with Easter long weekend – so
  - Last day of classes before Spring Break 2010 will be Thurs. March 25/10
  - Students return to classes on Tuesday, April 6/10
- Anmore city council passed 4<sup>th</sup> reading to allow rezoning of land immediately north of Heritage Woods Secondary- this would allow a middle school to be built on this land
- Announcement soon on more capital projects for District 43
- On Tuesday, March 24/09 Port Moody Secondary had a flood from the sprinkler system in about ¼ of the school being activated when a sprinkler head was sheared off by a basketball
  - Until all water was cleaned up & the electrical was checked out to be safe the school was closed
  - Parent asked the question if student's personal items damaged by the flood are covered by the District's insurance.
    - Tom will look into it

## 5. Treasurer's Report

- Jason Turner

- Income Statement to 28Feb09 vs 2008/09 Budget
- Financial statements received and will be filed into records as presented for review at the end of the year.

## 6. Group Discussion: Planned DPAC projects (including parent ed)

- DPAC Goals – what DPAC does for parents & PACs in our District:
  - **INSPIRE** parents to get involved
  - **EMPOWER** our parent voice at classroom, school, District & Provincial levels
  - **EQUIP** parents with the information, training & tools to be meaningfully involved
- Currently have some positions vacant on the executive:
  - Secretary / Parent Education Coordinator / North Zone Rep
  - Anyone interested please contact Sandy at the office
- Nomination packages will be sent out next week – election of 2009-2010 DPAC Executive will take place at the DPAC Annual General Meeting May 27.
- District & Community Committees:
  - A number of committees that require DPAC representatives to sit on.
  - Information on the committees along with the "DPAC Volunteer Representative Application Form" & "Guidelines for Volunteer Representatives" were at each table (this information will be emailed out to PAC Chairs & DPAC Reps following the meeting)
  - If anyone is interested please contact Sandy at the office
- Parent Education:
  - District wide:
    - Training PAC Executive position specific (ie. President: agenda writing / running a meeting / when are motions required / etc.; Treasurer: anything to do with finances of the PAC)
    - Discussed as to when is the best time to hold this training
      - was suggested that held the end of Sept or beginning of October

- Some felt that the training for Presidents & Treasurers should be held about the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June & then maybe again during the Sept/Oct session
- South Side Family of Schools model
  - Has been active for 5-6 years now
  - Meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> month as a group
  - One of their upcoming parent ed sessions is:
    - Topic: Emergency Disaster Preparation
    - Date: April 23/09
    - Time: 6:45 – 8:45pm
    - Place: Pitt River Middle School
    - Cost: \$3/person or \$5/couple
  - One idea that DPAC had was that additional groupings be established in the District and run along the same lines as South Side. This idea will be explored further.
- Encompass Conference:
  - April 16 – 18/09
  - Parents welcome to attend full conference on just special parenting sessions being offered on Saturday
  - Babysitting available on the Saturday only for preschoolers & up (children must be potty trained)
  - Subsidy available to parents: 50% of conference costs, up to budgeted amount of \$1500, on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served basis. Parents must register on the CTA website & then submit a copy of your registration confirmation to apply for the subsidy. Subsidies will be mailed out, to those pre-approved & that attend the conference, after the conference.
  - Conference information on the CTA website @ <http://cta43.org/pd-encompass-09.htm> (click on the registration button to see all available workshops)

## 7. BCCPAC Resolutions & Voting Procedures

- BCCPAC Spring Conference & AGM > April 30 – May 3 in Richmond
- Subsidy available from DPAC > up to maximum of \$150 per person to maximum budgeted amount of \$3500 – 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served basis. Must register yourself on the BCCPAC website & send copy of your registration confirmation to the DPAC office. Subsidies will be paid out after the conference to those that had pre-approval & attended the conference.
- All BCCPAC member PACs should have received the resolution package in the mail, any late resolutions & nomination booklet should be arriving soon in other mail out
- For any member PACs wishing their voice to be heard you must submit a properly completed "Authorized Proxy Vote Form".
  - If someone from your PAC is attending the AGM, you can authorize them to carry your vote and name Heidi Gable as the alternate (that way if something happens and they can't stay for the entire meeting they can pass it over to her)
  - If nobody from your PAC is attending, name Heidi Gable as your delegate & Jason Turner as your alternate. They will carry your vote for you.
  - Don't forget to include your completed voting instruction sheet so that the person voting on behalf of your PAC votes according to those instructions
- An email will be sent out to PAC Chairs & DPAC Reps with reminders about the conference with information & links to complete information on the BCCPAC website and instructions to hopefully clarify the proxy / voting procedures

## 8. Group Discussion: District Budget Recommendations

- Survey categories were:
  - Curriculum – textbooks
  - Curriculum – learning resources
  - Curriculum – release time
  - Facilities & grounds – maintenance
  - Facilities & grounds – safety issues
  - Staffing – special needs

- Staffing classroom teachers
- Staffing – clerical
- Staffing – custodial
- Staffing – administration
- Staffing – district support
- Supplies & equipment
- Technology – hardware & software
- Technology – technical support
- Technology – staff development & training
- Some items suggested by those in attendance:
  - Fields > safety issues
  - Facilities:
    - Fields
    - Playground equipment

## 9. Adjournment

**MOTION** made by Jennie Boulanger, seconded by Karen Syrnyk, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

**CARRIED**