



District Parent Advisory Council

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

DPAC General Meeting Wednesday, April 29, 2009 Gallery Room, Winslow Centre

Darren Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION made by Marie McCabe, seconded by Julie Dott, to accept the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION made by Shannon Phillips, seconded by Ryan Drew, to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2009 General Meeting as presented. **CARRIED**

3. President's Report

- Heidi Gable

- o Heidi sent her regrets as she was unable to attend tonight's meeting

4. Superintendent's Comments

- Tom Grant

- o Sarah Husband – Summer Learning
 - o Pamphlets on Summer School 2009 in all the schools
 - o Article in today's Tri-Cities News
 - o registration this year has changed, mostly done online – now a 2 step process
 - 1st step is to get an account
 - Do this prior to registration day
 - Need your PEN (provincial education number)
 - Fill out application form online
 - o will get email back confirming your account if they have all your documentation
 - o if they are missing any of your documentation you will get an email back asking you to go in to Continuing Ed & bring the necessary documentation
 - 2nd step is to register for course(s)
 - Registration dates are staggered
 - 2 groups must still do registration in person:
 - o Secondary – remedial (June 23-25)
 - o 2 courses for ESL (Composition & Canadian Studies)
 - o Sarah Husband – Coquitlam Continuing Education
 - o Small plexiglass display cases located throughout the District & in public places containing pamphlets (in various languages) with information on various types of courses
 - o These courses are for adults (consider an adult 17 years & older)
 - o Career programs have really been expanded in our district
 - o Some examples:
 - 106 enrolled in technical training programs
 - 80 working in trades & getting high school credits at the same time

- 600 involved with work experience
- 25 students in head start to art programs @ Emily Carr
- 10 RCMP Youth Academy program
- 16 students concurrently at high school & some BCIT courses
- 15 students concurrently at high school & some Douglas College courses
- Hockey Academy is being offered at 2 high schools starting September 2009
- Will be coming out with the EPIC (elite performers in Coquitlam) program (this will not be housed at only 1 site, students wanting to be registered in this program will do so at the Board Office)
- District 2009/2010 approved preliminary budget
 - Handouts on:
 - Annual Budget – Revenue & Expenditures
 - Sheet showing how the opening financial shortfall of 4,006,015 would be met through proposed changes in revenue / budget additions / budget reductions
 - Pilot program between R.C. MacDonald Elementary & Mundy Road Elementary will see 1 Principal handling both schools at one school with a head teacher at the other (elementary school annexing) will be one of the budget reduction items

5. SUCCESS

- Yumiko King

The Adventure and Anxiety of moving to Canada

Challenges for Newcomers

- Learning Canadian systems and methods
- Unfamiliarity with available resources and where to go for help
- Fear of and worry for the future
- Language barriers

The Settlement Process

(1) Honeymoon Stage

- Excitement; positive feelings about Canada.

(2) Culture Shock

- Become overwhelmed with the reality of dealing with life in their new country.
- Find it is challenging dealing with housing, shopping, schooling, and medical needs.

(3) Initial Adaptation

- Everyday survival has been dealt with (e.g., housing, transportation, medical needs, and schooling).

(4) Mental Isolation

- Feel lonely and alienated.
- Some immigrants might stay in this stage and choose to live and work in their ethnic communities in order to deal with feelings of alienation and lack of confidence.

(5) Acceptance and Integration

- Immigrants begin to accept and integrate the cultural values and the life style of their new country with their own cultural beliefs.

How can we support newcomers?

(1) Normalizing

"You are in a transition. It is normal that you feel stressed. So does your child."

(2) Empowerment

"Don't forget that you are a parent. You know the best for your child."

(3) Equity (versus Equality)

Some people in some situation need more help than others.

(4) Acceptance / Friendship

"Welcome to Canada." Be a 'home' to newcomers. Join the Host Program!

Host Program

What is Host Program?

- The Host program helps newcomers overcome some of the challenges by matching them with a local host who can share information, help build confidence, practice English and help them connect with the community.

What is required to be a volunteer?

- Time and friendship
- 2 – 3 hours a week spent with a newcomer for up to 6 months
- No financial obligation

Please contact:

Yumiko King, Host Program Coordinator

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Burnaby Settlement Service - #118 - 5021 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4A5

Tel: 604-430-1899 ext.101 / Fax: 604-438-9100 / yumiko.king@success.bc.ca

Website: <http://www.success.bc.ca/eng/> (Go to Services; Settlement, and Host Program)

6. Treasurer's Report

- Jason Turner

- Income Statement to 31Mar09 vs 2008/09 Budget
- Financial statements received and will be filed into records as presented for review at the end of the year.

7. BCCPAC Conference & AGM

- 4 DPAC Executive will be attending the conference and AGM
- Heidi Gable / Jason Turner will be carrying the proxies for any schools that have sent them in to us
- Conference runs Thursday, April 30 & Friday, May 1; AGM runs Saturday, May 2 & Sunday, May 3

8. DPAC Nominations / Elections

- Elections for the 2009/2010 DPAC Executive will be held at our DPAC AGM on Wednesday, May 27
- Anyone interested in running for a position, or if you know of anyone else that would be interested please get your nomination forms completed and handed in; nominations will be accepted from the floor that evening
- All positions, except for President (as Heidi is just finishing the first year of a 2 year term) are open
- It's important that we have quorum for this meeting so please make sure all DPAC Reps attend

9. Adjournment

MOTION made by Marie McCabe, seconded by Susan Mueckel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

CARRIED