



School District #48

District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 22, 2018.

Location: Don Ross Middle School, Squamish, BC.

Start Time: 6:30pm.

In Attendance:

Lisa McCullough, SD48 Superintendent
Chris Nicholson, SD48 Assistant Superintendent
Phillip Clarke, SD48 Director of Instruction
Ian Kent, SD48 School Board Trustee
April Lowe, President, Sea to Sky Teachers Association
Cory Hartling, Principal, Don Ross Middle School
Meredith Gardner, DPAC Chair, Pemberton Secondary
Nancy Lee, DPAC Representative, Pemberton Secondary
Celeste Bickford, DPAC Secretary, École Squamish Elementary
Kate Chalmers, DPAC Representative, École Squamish Elementary
Christina Walsh, DPAC Representative, Valleycliffe Elementary
Kelly Hamilton, DPAC Representative, Garibaldi Highlands Elementary
Clare Ogilvie, DPAC Vice Chair, Whistler Secondary
Isabel Jordan, DPAC Representative, Don Ross Middle School
Tami Mitchell, DPAC Representative, Spring Creek Community School
Shawna Lang, DPAC Treasurer, Brackendale Elementary
Alison Robb, DPAC Representative, Myrtle Philip Community School
Natalie McNamara, DPAC Representative, Signal Hill Elementary
Lisa Vertefeulle, DPAC Representative, Signal Hill Elementary
Tara Gaddes, DPAC Representative, Howe Sound Secondary

- 1. Quorum reached (40% + 1 of voting members).**
- 2. Motion to adopt the October 22, 2018 meeting agenda.**

Moved: Tami Mitchell >> Seconded: Clare Ogilvie >> Carried

- 3. Motion to approve the May 14, 2018 meeting minutes.**

Moved: Clare Ogilvie >> Seconded: Tami Mitchell >> Carried

4. Superintendent's Report

- 1) *PAC Constitutions:* All PACs should review their constitutions and go through them for housekeeping (e.g. make them gender neutral by using "they" instead of "he" or "she"). Lisa

McCullough and Laura Darch are able to assist with this if needed. Please indicate the date that they were updated on and send updated copies to ldarch@sd48.bc.ca.

- 2) *Enrolment*: Enrolment is up. SD48 hires professional demographers who utilize information on all of the developments happening in region to create a capital plan and a plan for facilities. The district is always trying to look ahead. The Ministry of Education expects school districts to make things work with the schools that they have using different methods, such as changing boundaries or adding portables. The Ministry of Education will not build permanent infrastructure until there are multiple portables at each site demonstrating a long term need.
- 3) *Student Mental Health*: Superintendent, Lisa McCullough, and Director of Instruction, Phillip Clarke, presented data on student mental health within SD48. More here: <https://sd48seatosky.org/dpac-pac-homepage/mental-health-wellbeing-in-our-school/>

5. Tami Mitchell's Report on Whistler Sports Legacies

- 1) The Whistler Sliding Centre is available for school field trips for children aged eight years or older.
- 2) Full day field trips with a tour of the facility.
- 3) Kids will get to try the luge (just the last three turns).
- 4) Similar in cost to cross country skiing field trips.
- 5) More here: <https://www.whistlersportlegacies.com/whistler-sliding-centre/overview>

6. School Board Trustee's Report

- 1) *Trustees*: A new board has been elected. More here: <https://sd48seatosky.org/board/trustees/>
- 2) *Board Meetings*: Board meetings are open to the public and held throughout the region. The public is encouraged to attend. More here: <https://sd48seatosky.org/board-meeting-schedule-3/>
- 3) *School Improvement Plans*: Trustees are going into schools to see what is working and what needs improvement.

7. Motion to approve payment for BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) membership (\$75 for the year).

Moved: Tara Gaddes >> Seconded: Alison Robb >> Carried

8. Request for approval of reimbursement for travel for Meredith Gardner, DPAC Chair, to attend the BCCPAC summit.

[Rescinded]

9. Questions for SD48 staff:

Question 1: Who pays for sexual health instruction – PACs or the schools? Is everyone using the OPT program?

Answer: The manner in which the sexual health components of the curriculum are handled by schools is unique for each one. Some schools have the main classroom teacher address these topics, some use a co-teaching model, and others bring in 'experts' or appropriate community resource people. Even within the same school different teachers and age groups may handle this topic differently. It may be of interest to parents that the new curriculum has shifted the majority of the health education components into the Physical and Health Education curriculum rather than the Career and Life Education curriculum. The OPT resources are not used district wide. Some PACs bring in the igirl/iguy programs. Others use the Vancouver Coastal Health Blush program. Anything that PACs bring must be run by the principal of the school in advance.

Question 2: How many days should it take to place kids at the beginning of the school year?

Answer: Effective student placement takes time. There is not a set number of days required for this process. This process would be dependent on the nature of things happening at the school, the needs of the students and/or course requirements, and other emerging matters. For example, a secondary theatre program might run on a different timeline than most other programs, that often being from November to March. Therefore, student placement into this program may not happen until the end of October. Generally elementary schools aim to configure and place students by the end of the first week of school. Rarely, but occasionally, a school configuration is established and late incoming registrations or other new information causes a shift or reconfiguration of the school and/or program to happen at some other point.

10. One minute round table for DPAC Representatives to share any success stories and any areas of challenge.

Pemberton Secondary School: Low attendance at PAC meetings in an issue.

Squamish Elementary: Building construction adjacent to the school is a challenge. Communication between parents, teachers, and administrators has been good.

Spring Creek Community School: Recruiting volunteers to the PAC is an ongoing challenge. The school has recently tried hosting PAC socials where kids are invited to watch a movie while parents explain what the PAC is about.

Valleycliffe Elementary: The Provincial Pilot Project on Communicating Student Learning is going well. Parents are also happy with the apps that are being used to communicate information to parents (e.g. Seesaw, Freshgrade, and Classtag).

Brackendale Elementary: Consistency in communication can be a frustration for parents. Recruiting volunteers to the PAC is an ongoing challenge. The school has recently tried inviting children to present at PAC meetings in an attempt to engage parents. Parents come to the meetings to see the children present and then stay for the remainder of the meetings.

Howe Sound Secondary: A presenter is coming to speak to parents about scholarships. Parents are feeling overwhelmed by the amount of information on post secondary schools.

Myrtle Philip Community School: Lice checks are being done at the school.

Whistler Secondary: The welcome back BBQ was a huge success. The PAC recently wrote a cheque for \$40,000 for new speakers throughout the school. Career day will be hosted soon.

Garibaldi Highlands Elementary: The PAC has money that it does not know how to spend. Recruiting volunteers is an ongoing issue.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10pm.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2019 at 6:30pm at Spring Creek Community School in Whistler.