



# School District #48 District Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 14, 2019.

**Location:** Spring Creek Elementary School, Whistler, BC

**Start Time:** 6:30pm.

## **In Attendance:**

Chris Nicholson, SD48 Assistant Superintendent  
Ian Kent, SD48 School Board Trustee  
Cynthia Higgins, SD48 School Board Trustee  
April Lowe, President, Sea to Sky Teachers Association  
Meredith Gardner, DPAC Chair, Pemberton Secondary  
Nancy Lee, DPAC Representative, Pemberton Secondary (*took minutes tonight*)  
Clare Ogilvie, DPAC Vice-Chair, Whistler Secondary  
Robin Kirk, Principal, Whistler Secondary  
Stuart Bent, Principal, Spring Creek Community School  
Tami Mitchell, DPAC Representative, Spring Creek Community School  
Alison Robb, DPAC Representative, Myrtle Philip Community School  
Natalie McNamara, DPAC Representative, Signal Hill Elementary  
Lisa Vertefeuille, DPAC Representative, Signal Hill Elementary  
Tara Gaddes, DPAC Representative, Howe Sound Secondary  
David "Moldy" Moldofsky, DPAC Representative, Blackwater Elementary  
Carolyn Green, DPAC Representative, Valleycliffe Elementary

## **1. Quorum reached (40% + 1 of voting members).**

## **2. Motion to adopt the January 14, 2019 meeting agenda.**

Moved: Clare Ogilvie >> Seconded: Nancy Lee >> Carried

## **3. Motion to approve the October 22, 2018 meeting minutes. (Date corrected)**

Moved: Clare Ogilvie >> Seconded: Tara Gaddes >> Carried

## **4. Superintendent's Report - Chris Nicholson**

1) *SD 48 Graduation Rates:* A slide was shown comparing 6-year completion rates of SD48 students versus the province. SD48 has the highest percentage of overall graduation rates in BC of 97.3%. Aboriginal and special needs graduation rates have increased dramatically to 95.3%, and resident graduation rate is 100%. This data was provided by the province, and SD48 is very proud of the results. More information can be seen on the SD48 website -also BC Ministry of Education website.

2) *Contract Negotiations:* CUPE bargaining sessions begin soon, with Teachers to follow in March-April.

3) *Education Plan*: Continuing to work with all staff to refresh the Education Plan; no drastic changes just fine-tuning. Final plan will be coming soon.

4) *Administration Review Team*: will be meeting first week of March to make any changes to Administration.

5) *Communication Student Learning*: Lisa McCullough and Paul Lorette are in Victoria to meet with the Ministry. There will be a report shared to DPAC prior to next meeting.

Question from Alison: any updates regarding plans for a middle school in Whistler?

Answer: no news, Board still waiting to hear from Ministry; Board fully supports a middle school.

## 5. School Board Trustee's Report - Ian Kent

1) *Introduction of new trustee*: Cynthia Higgins is new trustee. Ian and Cynthia will attend DPAC meetings together.

2) *Kindergarten Registration*: Fall 2019 registration is beginning now.

3) *Planning*: planning for schools has already started as lots of lead time is required for ordering portables, etc. 4 more portables are in the plan and are ordered.

4) *Partner Group meeting*: set for Wed. Feb. 20, 5-8pm at WSS. All trustees attend and DPAC is invited (3 plus the DPAC chair).

## 6. Chair's Report – Meredith Gardner

1) *Board Meeting*: Chair attended the board meeting in Squamish in November. 3 teachers who went to China to teach presented. There was a conversation around dry grad. Chair noted that most work of the Board is done at a committee level. Ian noted that all meetings (except for in-camera) are open to the public and that agenda and minutes are on the website. Claire noted that attending in person is more valuable than reading the minutes as the minutes don't provide detail and context of discussion.

2) *Physical Literacy Initiative*: DPAC has approved endorsing *Whistler Sport Legacies* application to be part of [Physical Literacy for Communities Initiative](#) for as per letter sent out from Meredith. If successful, WSL, with experts and resources from [Sport For Life](#) will educate and lead Sea To Sky stakeholders to improve physical literacy, and accessibility to physical activity and quality sport programs. Tami noted that endorsement letters were required from 4 sectors: recreation, education, sport and health. Grant application is due Jan. 15, 2019, with the 7 available grants being awarded Feb. 15, 2019. All ages/communities in Sea to Sky will benefit if successful.

3) *Speakers*: Discussion around process for requesting funds for speakers; the process will need to be approved by SD48. All agreed it is better to have speakers who can come to more than one location to maximize benefit. Idea to partner with PRO-D days; if a speaker presented to Teachers on a PRO-D, they could present to parents in the evening. There is talk about upcoming on Unconscious Bias. April suggested contacting the Board's Professional Development Chair to see who is presenting to teachers, and will provide a contact to DPAC Chair. Claire noted that finding a speaker, advertising and hosting is lots of work. Meredith asked that suggestions for speakers for this year are sent to her by February 12, 2018. Nancy said that PSS has secured the new STS Medical Health Officer, Dr. Geoff McKee, to come to Pemberton to speak to parents about cannabis, on Feb. 4th, 6pm at PSS. **Contact Roya Dolling, Assistant to the MHO: [Roya.Dolling@vch.ca](mailto:Roya.Dolling@vch.ca) if you are interested in hosting in your community.** Meredith will be meeting with Laura Darch regarding the calendar and webpage so that we can see what speaker's other sites have upcoming.

4) DPAC Representation at Partner Group meeting: per the Trustee report, DPAC has been invited to attend the meeting on Feb. 20, 5-8pm at WSS. DPAC Chair will attend plus 3 others, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Meredith immediately with the name of representative and the school and any dietary needs. Chris noted that this meeting is so that all stakeholders have a say in what is working, and what is not, what to spend \$ on.

5) SD48 DPAC's focus for 2019 is to understand PAC's mandate, and provide accessible resources to PACS to understand and fulfil their roles and responsibilities. The staff presentations are aligned to these key roles – this meeting focus is supporting parents on navigating concerns.

## **7. Navigation Concerns Within the District – presented by Chris Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent**

A slideshow and video was presented demonstrating the steps that parents should take if there is an issue with their child at school, links below. Claire noted that privacy is a concern with some parents. It was suggested that DPAC work on a tips sheet for parents.

BCCPAC video "Raising Concerns" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smY8MZnV4LE>

Chris showed the DPAC a draft of the Policy 300, and asked for input.

**8. Questions for SD48 staff:** no questions

**9. SD48 DPAC Constitution:** the document requires updates to reflect gender-neutral language, to correct district title, and to meet current societies act. Tara volunteered to take this on. Thanks Tara.

**10. Round Table:** DPAC Representatives to share any success stories and any areas of challenge.

**Valleycliffe Elementary:** with the grant received in April and other funding, the living classroom is complete and includes a wetland and an aboriginal medicine walk trail, located on 3 acres behind the school. All are invited to come and see it!

**Pemberton Secondary School:** low attendance at PAC meetings is an ongoing issue, but with increased marketing utilizing community Facebook pages, attendance was up last meeting.

**Signal Hill:** with an arts grant, Mountain Movement Dance Collective presented dance to K7 classes.

**Spring Creek Community School:** Sharon Broatch is giving a talk on promoting inclusiveness and mental health on Thursday at 6pm. All are welcome.

**Blackwater Elementary:** we are a small school of 12 students, but have 5 parents on the PAC so are well represented. We have fundraised, and hope to utilize the old caretaker building for a much-needed library.

**Myrtle Philip Community School:** we lobbied for a second afterschool bus due to capacity. Bus starts at Spring Creek, so students have to wait a bit but we hope to change this.

**Whistler Secondary:** Final stages of installation of the PAC-funded school sound system. Snowball dance is being planned.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:37 pm. Moved: Clare Ogilvie >> Seconded: Tami Mitchell >> Carried

**Next Meeting:** May 13, 2019 at 6:30pm at Pemberton Secondary School (Date to be corrected on website)