



School District #48 District Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2019.

Location: T̓szil Learning Centre, Mount Currie, B.C

Start Time: 6:30pm.

In Attendance:

Chris Nicholson, SD48 Assistant Superintendent
Cynthia Higgins, SD48 School Board Trustee
Lisa McCullough, SD48 Superintendent
Paul Lorette, SD48 Assistant Superintendent
Phillip Clarke, SD48 Learning Services
April Lowe, President, Sea to Sky Teachers Association
Meredith Gardner, DPAC Chair, Pemberton Secondary
Nancy Lee, DPAC Representative, Pemberton Secondary (took minutes tonight)
Krista Brynjolfson, Principal, Pemberton Secondary
Erin Stewart Elliott, DPAC Representative, Blackwater Elementary
Clare Ogilvie, DPAC Vice-Chair, Whistler Secondary
Robin Kirk, Principal, Whistler Secondary
Alison Robb, DPAC Representative, Myrtle Philip Community School
Shauna Hardy Mishaw, DPAC Past-Chair, Myrtle Philip Community School
Roberta Kubik, Principal, Signal Hill Elementary School
Natalie McNamara, DPAC Representative, Signal Hill Elementary
Lisa Vertefeuille, DPAC Representative, Signal Hill Elementary
Terra Gaddes, DPAC Representative, Howe Sound Secondary
Shawna Lang, DPAC Representative, Brackendale Elementary
Kelly Hamilton, DPAC Representative, Garibaldi Highlands Elementary
Christiana Spooner, DPAC Representative, Spring Creek Community School
Annie McDonald, Sea to Sky Community Services

WELCOME to T̓szil Learning Centre – Meredith Gardner

ACKNOWLEDGMENT we are meeting on the un-ceded lands of the Stl’atl’Imx Peoples – Krista Brynjolfson

- 1. QUORUM REACHED (40% + 1 OF VOTING MEMBERS).**
- 2. MOTION TO ADOPT THE MAY 13, 2019 MEETING AGENDA.**
One addition: Treasurer’s Report

Moved: Clare Ogilvie >> Seconded: Kelly Hamilton >> Carried

3. MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 14, 2019 MEETING MINUTES.

Moved: Clare Ogilvie >> Seconded: Shawna Lang >> Carried

7. ROUNDTABLE/INTRODUCTIONS: (moved up in agenda)

Alison Robb, DPAC Representative, Myrtle Philip Community School – just finished May Day celebration at the school

Christiana Spooner, DPAC Representative, Spring Creek Community School – Kindergarten enrollment numbers down slightly. French Immersion has a small waitlist but should be able to accommodate everyone.

Cynthia Higgins, SD48 School Board Trustee – is very impressed with the data-based decision making and student success in our district.

Erin Stewart Elliott, DPAC Representative, Blackwater Elementary – Fire Smart community event coming up to teach students and broader community about wildfire safety.

Shawna Lang, DPAC Representative, Brackendale Elementary – Hollywood family dance a great success, have raised \$2000 for the new playground.

Terra Gaddes, DPAC Representative, Howe Sound Secondary, and Don Ross – has no update as not able to attend meetings

Roberta Kubik, Principal, Signal Hill Elementary School – recent guest speaker at PAC, working on Líl'wat reconciliation with students, and hold eco-challenge Thursdays for students.

Chris Nicholson, SD48 Assistant Superintendent - presentation to follow.

April Lowe, President, Sea to Sky Teachers Association April shared the importance of DPAC contributing to the partnership to bring in Sarah Ward for teachers Professional Development in 2019/20. Otherwise the Teachers Association would likely not be able to bring Ms. Ward in.

Krista Brynjolfson, Principal, Pemberton Secondary – busy final stretch of the year, working with gr. 7's from SHE on transition to PSS, Senior course selection and schedule should be done by mid-June, Grad Capstone presentation May 23rd, middle school leaders are at UBCO Think Tank in Kelowna.

Phillip Clarke, SD48 Learning Services – 3-day Ed Plan Refresh just finished today, working with Sunshine Coast SD who is partnering with SD48 to learn of our process.

Paul Lorette, SD48 Assistant Superintendent – will be speaking later.

Lisa McCullough, SD48 Superintendent - has a child in grade 9 at WSS. Will be speaking later.

Natalie McNamara and Lisa Vertefeuille - DPAC Representatives, Signal Hill Elementary – we are currently fundraising for a new hockey court.

Nancy Lee, DPAC Representative, Pemberton Secondary – shared that the SHE PAC is having a presentation on Social Media 4 Parents on Wed. May 29th at 7pm, open to all in the community.

Annie McDonald, Sea to Sky Community Services – has a child at GHE, and will be speaking later.

Kelly Hamilton, DPAC Representative, Garibaldi Highlands Elementary – had a successful parent's night, so far have raised \$20,000 for the outdoor classroom over the past 5 years. Enrollment is up; there is a waitlist for French Immersion. School will be getting a facelift soon.

Shauna Hardy Mishaw, DPAC Past-Chair, Myrtle Philip Community School – will be speaking under New Business later.

Clare Ogilvie, DPAC Vice-Chair, Whistler Secondary – child is graduating, so final DPAC meeting. Busy with prom. WSS has invested in a large media portal.

Robin Kirk, Principal, Whistler Secondary – has recently hired 3 new French Immersion teachers.

Meredith Gardner, DPAC Chair, Pemberton Secondary – attended the 3-day Ed Refresh sessions, and the BCCPAC conference. Shared that we are very lucky to be in this world-leading human-focussed and research-based school district.

4. PRESENTATION: WHAT PARENTS REALLY NEED TO KNOW RE: THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM, CHRIS NICHOLSON, ASSISTANT-SUPERINTENDENT SD48

There are links for Parents and the BC Grad Program and New Curriculum on the home page of the SD48 website, and all high schools as well. DPAC is asked to bring back to their schools and encourage parents to read:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

<https://sd48seatosky.org/bc-graduation-program/>

A few key points: same number of credits as currently. New changes include, more learner-centred and flexible, courses are accessible and not designed to stream students, competency

over content to increase life chances for everyone, indigenous perspective for all learners, new CLE and CLC to replace Planning, and increased course options.

Provincial exams are being replaced with Gr. 10 Numeracy Assessment, Gr. 10 Literacy Assessment, and Gr. 12 Literacy Assessment.

Know, Do, Understand methodology allows kids to go deeper into a subject and allows teachers to design courses that are focussed on local issues.

Career-Life Education (CLE) has gr. 10-12s working together with same teacher for 3 years, in order to really get to know the student and help with career path and life success. Part of the design is based on ensuring students feel connected with a caring adult/advocate at school.

Questions:

1. **How does this dovetail to Post-Secondary education? Are these institutions not focussed on marks?** Answer: Post-Secondary institutions are now looking deeper than just marks for example: asking for volunteer experience, asking how students relate to people, using online interviews, asking for a portfolio.
2. **With the increased options for courses, will there be online courses? How can a small school offer so many courses?** Answer: The new curriculum provides a simpler approach to course content, allowing for a teacher to support multiple courses under the same banner (Social Studies for example) simultaneously.
3. **Creating Cohorts – is there room for gr.10-12 student input?** Answer: Yes. Every student should have at least one advocate, so if the partnership isn't working, we will make changes to ensure student success.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT – CYNTHIA HIGGINS

Trustees recently had their AGM – 4 days of learning. 3 presentations that made an impact were:

1. Shelley Moore – Diversity is the New Normal – this aligns with the data that SD48 has been using.
2. Cultural Recognition, Truth and Reconciliation presented by Gabriella Scrimshaw, a First Nations person from a small town in Saskatoon who achieved a high education; and Monique Gray-Smith who has written 3 books that are recommended and available at the library: My Heart Fills with Happiness, Tilly, and Speaking Our Truth. Cynthia mentioned that the history she learned in school is not the true history of Canada, and that Truth and Reconciliation empowers everyone, not just First Nations peoples.
3. Presentation by the PSS Grade 12 Aboriginal Leadership Program with the Senior English 12s. Very moving.

Board work:

Staff are updating policy manuals to simplify language and make easier to understand.

Secretary-Treasurer is working on budgets. There is a board meeting in June. Kindergarten registration required immunization records (not for enforcement but for tracking purposes).

Discussion around French Immersion and the divisive nature – there is now more collaboration between French and English classes, with mixed field trips, etc. to help with this.

6. LISA MCCULLOUGH, SD48 SUPERINTENDENT WITH STAFF QUICK UPDATES/QUESTIONS

- 1. What is happening with gradeless report cards?** Paul Lorette responded: we are in the 3rd year of a pilot project. The first two years was just our district, and then in the third year, the Ministry of Education invited other districts, of which 12 joined the pilot. The reports now show a 4 point provincial performance scale, rather than a grad (confirm). 24 classrooms from K-9 are involved. Parents, teachers and students in the pilot will be surveyed soon as part of data collection. Pilot will continue another year.
- 2. Is French Immersion in jeopardy due to Staffing?** Paul Lorette responded: Human Resources say staffing is going well, with all programs having teachers at the start of the year. There were mid-year challenges due to medical and pregnancy leaves. SD48 is attending 5-6 job fairs across the country.
- 3. Is French Immersion an inclusive opportunity?** Paul Lorette: the program is designed to be inclusive and anyone can apply. Nancy Lee: truth is though that First Nations and Special Needs students are not applying to be part of the program, and it is perceived to be for the higher achieving students. Lisa McCullough: it is important to value Culture and Language, whether that be French, American Sign Language or Ucwalmícwts (Lílwat language). Parents are driving the demand. There is a study that shows intensive French (example 2 hours per day as a subject, rather than full-time) has better outcomes in fluency than French Immersion. Intensive French would require half the staff that French Immersion programs do. So it is Parents that make the choice, and perhaps the PACs can discuss at their schools.
- 4. What about students who are not attending school, or leaving the public system in the Sea-to-Sky: where are they accounted for in grad rates and is anyone reaching out to bring them back? Are these over-represented by youth with mental health concerns?** Lisa McCullough: we are aware of these youth, we have unique local datasets “missing in education”. Some have addictions issues, one is incarcerated. Some have mental health issues. Some school is not the right environment. We have support workers and teachers who visit homes to reach out to potential students and parents, to either bring them back, or to support the families with their decision the best we can. Lisa asked that any students who are not attending school

are brought to her attention.

- 5. There is a clear voice that teachers and educational assistants require more training to understand and support neurodiversity in their classrooms in BC – how does SD48 plan for the ongoing education and mentorship of its workforce?** Lisa McCullough: we treat inclusion as a basic human right, diversity is strength. Teachers receive continuing education. There is a heightened focus on neurodiversity and no streaming; the new curriculum will help recognize individual strengths (CLE). Elementary has always done this, but secondary not so. New teachers receive more training on this topic, current teachers receive continuing education. We all need to support the teachers as there is lots of change. Chris Nicholson: the new curriculum has been in the works since 2016 and was developed by teachers so they are on board with it.

8. DPAC CHAIR REPORT – MEREDITH GARDNER

Highlights of the Education Plan Refresh: A broad group of stakeholders including 5 DPAC members participated in 3 days of input of SD48’s strategic Education Plan. Update will be presented to the SD48 BOD June 7. The goals were producing critical ‘tweaks’ to the language of the plan rather than major changes as the current plan is getting great results in student success and engagement. SD48 staff also presented data from school surveys and current research on effective structures inclusion (such as teacher peer support, and the use of flexible groupings in school). Review data and research at <https://sd48seatosky.org/pathways-research/>

BCCPAC Conference. Keynote Speaker Dr. Shimi Kang presented that our kids face a very different world than we did at their age, an example is the projection that 70% of kids in school currently will be entrepreneurs as adults. She also noted that the level of risk to humans is increasing, as we spend more time on devices, and in cognitive survival mode (fight, flight or freeze response). Kang has many practical strategies for identifying and reducing “junk tech” and introducing self-awareness and calming strategies in the class room

There was a presentation on proposed different funding models for BC. In the old funding model, schools provide an estimated budget based on projected attendance in the spring and have to wait until enrolment is confirmed in October for a confirmed budget. The concern is the lack of predictability, and delays in providing extra supports for students in need. A proposed new model will include evidence-based, geographic funding, behavioural factors, as well as income and earnings, English and French. Due to concerns expressed, the government has created several working groups to do a deeper review and input on the BC funding model. Meredith noted that the recommendations appear to be an improvement in stabilizing school planning.

There is also a commitment by the BC government to increase capital funding without decreasing education funding. Lisa McCullough noted the Provincial Education Budget won’t change but individual

districts funding may change. The budget will focus on stabilizing access to education and reflect an increased emphasis on inclusion and diversity.

See BCCPAC websites for information, including gaming grants due by June 30

<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php>

DPAC – Have we improved this year on our goals?

- **Having presentations from SD48 staff that share important changes and initiatives that can be shared through PACS**
- **Engaging in improving communication between staff and parents to support student learning**
- **Providing clearer information on the roles of DPAC members to support parents to navigate SD48**

Discussion: Should DPac Increase the number of meetings to have a more effective dialogue? Can we have remote access so that more people can attend without the long travel. Perhaps we start earlier by meeting in September and then every 2 months, alternating between conference call and meeting in person. Meeting in person does provide networking opportunities so perhaps there could be a method to call in using apps such as Zoom, Go to Meeting/Webinar. In the past, SD48 staff only stayed for part of the meeting and then DPAC met after to discuss school concerns. Lisa McCullough expressed concern that everything discussed at the table should be open.

Motion for DPAC structure for 2019/20:

The SD48 DPAC indicated they are keen to meet more frequently, and increase opportunities for social interaction and dialogue between parents across the district and with staff. Staff indicated they will support attending all scheduled DPAC meetings. Specifically the 2019/20 meeting schedule is as follows:

5 full DPAC Meetings

Start Sept 23 2019 with AGM and orientation

Keep staff presentation and media follow-up package on SD48 DPAC website as established in 2018/19.

Use remote access technology such as Go to Meeting/Got to Webinar or ZOOM

Include networking opportunities at each gathering.

Reduce agenda load by creating working groups supported by SD48 staff to complete work outside of DPAC meeting (these could also be formal subcommittees)

- Motion Passed

Note: It was also suggested to undertake strategic planning - this can be brought forward at the 2019 AGM.

Update on the BC Physical Literacy for Communities Project

Whistler Sport Legacies will send invitation to stakeholders who participated in the application (including SD48 DPAC) when they have confirmation that Sea to Sky has been accepted as a participant. See project details <http://physicalliteracy.ca/physical-literacy-for-communities-british-columbia-initiative/>

14. TREASURER'S REPORT: SHAWNA LANG

We have about \$5000 in the bank and have not been spending money. One issue is that Treasurer does not have signing authority for the DPAC account as she is not a member of Blueshore Financial credit union. Other signer will not be on DPAC after this current school year. Meredith to discuss offline with Shawna. Gaming grant application coming up.

9. PROPOSAL FOR 2020 SPEAKER – ANNIE MCDONALD, CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COORDINATOR, SEA TO SKY COMMUNITY SERVICES (SSCS)

Annie works with therapists at SSCS who see struggling kids. She has attended conferences and seen many great speakers, and a standout is Sarah Ward, an expert in Executive Function. Per proposal, she has been working with the Sea to Sky Teacher Association to bring Ms. Ward to Squamish for a Pro-D day on February 24, 2020, with a parent evening the night of 23rd or 24th. She is asking for financial support from DPAC and other PACS of \$5000. Total cost to bring speaker here is \$12,000 so other support requests are being made, including SSCS and SSTA.

Discussion: how to raise funds. DPAC support, other PACS support, as either a lump sum of based on number of students. Cost to attend Pro-D would be free for teachers, but perhaps having a \$10 cost for parents (prepaid via Eventbrite or something) would ensure parent commitment and attendance. Venue and location to be worked out – if in Whistler, easier for Pemberton area parents to attend; schools could be used free of charge, but is there a venue large enough? How to encourage attendance if parents do not know speaker? Much marketing will need to be done. Christiana proposed DPAC support \$3000 so as not to deplete bank account, with the other \$2000 to be raised by other PACS.

Motion for DPAC to support up to \$3000 for Parent Night with Sarah Ward

- Passed

Second Motion for DPAC members to ask each PAC for remaining \$2000 of \$5000 request:

- Passed

(Note: \$2000 has been raised from PACS) for more information contact:
annie.mcdonald@sscs.ca

10. UPDATED CONSTITUTION – TERRA GADDES

Per the January meeting, the SD48 Constitution document requires updates to reflect gender-neutral language, to correct district title, and to meet current societies act. Terra volunteered to take this on, and Meredith will resend for review and completion.

11. NEW BUSINESS – SHAUNA HARDY MISHAW

Shauna would like to see a way to engage SD48 graduates as future employers, leaders, mentors, etc. She would like SD48’s help with connecting to past graduates. A program such as Graduway.com could be used. It is thought this program is an opt-in one, so it is up to the graduate to connect. Chris Nicholson cited privacy issues as a concern, so more information is required. It was noted that some schools already have a robust Alumni Association, such as PSS Red Devils Alumni Association that holds an annual golf tournament and dinner/dance to raise money for sports programs at PSS.

12. NEXT DPAC MEETING: MON. SEPT. 23rd at BRACKENDALE ELEMENTARY

13: MEETING ADJOURNED, 9:10pm