



Delta District Parent Advisory Council (Delta DPAC)

C/O Delta School Board
4485 Harvest Drive, Delta, BC, V4K3C9
Email: deltadpac@deltasd.bc.ca
Website: dpac.deltasd.bc.ca

DPAC General Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 16, 2017

Meeting location: Delta School Board Office

Meeting time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Members in attendance:

Joe Muego - Chair (Beach Grove/SDSS)
Lakhvir Brar - Vice Chair (Cougar Canyon)
Kristin Unger - Secretary (Gray)
Elaine Owsnett - Treasurer (Pinewood)
William Xie - 1st Member At Large (Seaquam)
Jennifer DenHartogh - Hawthorne
Kristin Visscher - Holly
Natasha Gray - Neilson Grove
Tia Litz - Port Guichon
Trish Uppal - Sunshine Hills
Dave Dunn - Chalmers
Caroline Williams - Chalmers
Jennifer Graham - Ladner
Rebecca Lee - Pebble Hill
Meena Ghag - Hellings
Shane Todhunter - South Park
Wendy Thompson - Annieville
Melanie Bannister - Burnsvie
Kerri Deane - Delta Secondary
Tracey Innes - Cliff Drive

Guests in Attendance:

Doug Sheppard - Superintendent
Brad Bauman - Assistant Superintendent
Nancy Gordon - Assistant Superintendent
Jennifer Hill - Communications and Marketing Manager
Brooke Moore – District Principal of Inquiry and Innovation
Neil Stephenson – Director of Learning Services
Laura Dixon – Board of Education, School Trustee, Chairperson



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Meet & Greet - 6:45 pm

Meeting brought to order at - 7:05pm

Welcome & Introductions

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE - Doug Sheppard, Superintendent

Nancy Gordon and Brad Bauman - Enrolment Process

The Delta School District starts the process of enrolment in the Spring, and they use a computer program, along with other methods, to predict tentative enrolment numbers. A comparison shows that the total number of elementary students is up 52 this year and the total number of secondary students is down 26. Across the District, the grand total is up 26 students. The District is starting to trend towards an increase in students now, and so restricting outside district students is something the District is looking at closely, along with watching new housing developments for potential future growth.

French immersion has grown over time, and the Delta School District is aware of the trends. If there is continued interest to grow, they will explore what that could look like. There was an additional added class at Gibson in Kindergarten this year; but they are not seeing large fluctuations currently.

On portables: the goal is to not do portables unless required. The District is focusing on managing the size of the school instead. The District does not have many portables, but those portables it does have can be moved around if needed.

The Delta School District redistributes enrolment based on catchment to fill existing empty desks, though they do try to be as accommodating as possible. They also use multi-use spaces, and though they are reluctant to push on some of those spaces, they might have to if schools are growing by whole divisions.

Gray elementary and Richardson elementary have closed their boundaries to outside catchment students, and the District is contemplating a few for next year but has no definite plans yet.



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On International students: when looking at staffing in the Spring, the District looks at international programs to get a sense of potential numbers, and then they take that into account, along with in-boundary potential students.

Brooke Moore and Neil Stephenson - "Talking about learning with your family" pamphlet

The "talking about learning with your family" facilitates communication of student learning with families. Principals have received the final version of the pamphlet at schools, and will distribute as they see fit. The pamphlet is DPAC-endorsed, and consists of three key questions: what am I learning? How is it going? Where to Next?

This pamphlet is useful in making thinking visible and giving a different way of asking "what did you learn today?" It focuses on a growth mindset, which is a learning and learner-centered way of thinking about learning. If there is enough interest, the District might come up with a digital version of this pamphlet.

This pamphlet corresponds with a three-year plan with teachers across the district, an assessment for learning. They set clear learning targets, and every learner in a classroom knows what the purpose of a lesson or activity is. It helps students to talk about what the purpose of their learning is; kids know what their goals are, what success looks like, the goal being that they can answer these pamphlet questions from their parents and can articulate what they're supposed to be learning.

Laura Dixon: Foundation Skills Assessments (FSAs)

The FSAs are a concern because of how they are used by third parties. The belief is that FSAs aren't a true reflection of an individual school or child. Only a child's teacher can legitimately report on the progress of a student. Board Chairperson Dixon talked to the Education Minister about FSAs, and he implied he could work with BCTF to design a test that wouldn't misrepresent standards but still would be a test because some form of standardized testing is important for trends, so long as it isn't misused.

Neil Stephenson: Report Card Pilot Template

Two thirds of elementary schools took up the report card pilot template last year, and the Delta School District collected feedback on the pilot. They have made tweaks around the mostly positive feedback. There were certain themes that emerged: a lot of text of in the template;



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teachers wanted to write and share, but that much text isn't necessarily helpful for parents and so the District will try to reduce that this year; parents also want to know clearly where their child is at, and so the District will try to employ plain speak as possible.

There was also very positive feedback last year for the Student Perspective section; both parents and teachers want more emphasis put on student effort, and so a Teacher Perspective section was put in.

Terms of achievement indicators have also been adjusted. They will now be:

Not yet meeting
Partially meeting
Meeting
Exceling

There will now also be a Next Steps bullet point section, and teachers can add a customized section under each heading if they want to emphasize something specifically.

One High School Exams: Provincial exams are gone, and have been replaced by two provincial standardized assessments; one literacy and one numeracy. Students can attempt it three times during grades 10-12 to get best score they can.

Doug Sheppard, Superintendent - Worldwide Education for the Future Index

www.Yidanprize.org

Of best school environments, Canada ranks number two, and is listed as a place where children will be able to achieve in the future in the global economy. We are one of the top performing districts, in a top performing province, in a top performing country. This new data set looks at a variety of indicators, along with the quality of teaching.

General Business Meeting: Start time 8:35 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Trish Uppal & seconded by Shane Todhunter; unanimous.



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Approval of Minutes:

Moved by William Xie & seconded by Tia Litz; unanimous.

Chair's Update - Joe Muego

School Board Meeting (September 26, 2017): This meeting introduced the new administrators in the schools and at the District Office.

Additional Items: The Delta School District reported back the outcome of its annual audit which were positive.

School Board Meeting (October 10, 2017): At this meeting, four or five young ladies from Delview presented to the Board about their work with Thanks For Giving, who give the single largest donation to the Surrey/North Delta food bank.

Additional items: There was updates on the Dirt & Candlelight Gala, which went very well, and raised about \$8000. This might turn into an annual event. There was a report given on PowerSmart ventures within the District.

These meetings are open to all. Please feel free to attend, Joe gets lonely!

Emergency Preparedness Committee (Sept 21, 2017): Joe was unable to attend but received the minutes. The minutes reported back on-going work and business relating to all aspects of EP, including individual safety (e.g. staff training for use of AEDs), to global (e.g. earthquake and facility preparedness). If anyone is interested in more information or attending these meetings, please contact Joe.

Vice-Chair's report - Lakhvir Brar

Nil.

Treasurer's Report - Elaine Owsnett

The DPAC received the \$2500 from gaming funds. There is \$4160 in the Parent Ed gaming account and \$7318 in the Operating account.



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BCCPAC Update:

The BCCPAC focused on SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) and there were several motions put forth.

The Fall summit is on November 24 and 25 this year, and the focus will be on partnership and dialogue between the Ministry and the BCCPAC.

Parent Education:

Cougar Canyon and Hellings are putting together an event. More information on that soon.

Business Arising from Minutes: September 18, 2017

Signing Authority Update:

Approved.

Budget Motion:

Motion: Motion from the floor to adopt the budget.

Moved by Lakhvir Brar & seconded by Kristin Visscher; unanimous.

DPAC - Web Update:

The DPAC District website interface is in the process of being changed. Jennifer Hill is working with Joe Muego and Jenn DenHartogh to keep updated on how these new tools and access will be used. The DPAC asks that you take this information to PAC tables, get it on your next PAC agenda and talk about current PAC websites and what PACs would like to see improved. Please email Jennifer Hill or Joe Muego with your PAC suggestions.

jhill@deltasd.bc.ca
jmuego@hearthstone.ca

The DPAC will also have a new website framework, and ideas for that can go to Jenn DenHartogh.



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New Business:

Partner Agency Transmittals:

See the Deltassist Fundraiser email attachment.

Trustees Meeting Schedule (November 20, 2017):

The Trustees meeting is for parents to sit down and talk to Trustees more formally. There will be topics to generate good discussions.

The Meet the Trustees roundtable will be at the November 20, 2017 DPAC meeting and PAC Chairs are encouraged to attend as well.

Laura Dixon: The opioid crisis affects more people in the 19+ age range more than school age; however, the District has been infusing awareness in the drug and alcohol education received by students. They stress the importance of good connections, and the information is always grade appropriate and age appropriate. Students can also anonymously go to a specialized counsellor at school if needed. According to the Health Officer for Delta, we have excellent response time for emergency responders in Delta and additional training in our area. The best bet is to call 9-1-1 in an opioid emergency. Delta is currently going through a higher risk area assessment and it is an ongoing conversation. It is suggested that alcohol use is a potential gateway to drug use, in that it lowers inhibitions, so it's important to have conversations around that with your children.

MEETING ADJOURNED

9:11 p.m.

Next meeting November 20, 2017 at 7:00pm

Location: Delta School District Office, Main Board Room