



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, November 18, 2019

Meeting location: Devon Gardens Elementary School

Meeting time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Members in attendance:

Joe Muego - Chair (SDSS)
Lakhvir Brar - Vice Chair (Cougar Canyon)
Kristin Unger - Secretary (Gray)
Jenn DenHartogh - BCCPAC (Hawthorne)
Trish Uppal - Sunshine Hills, Burnsvew
Lara Wilson - Beach Grove
Carolyn Robertson - Annieville
Kristy Holm - Jarvis
Gautam Chandra - Devon Gardens
Gladys We - Sands
Rebecca Lee - Pebble Hill
Bob Nath - Gibson
Sheila Dunn - Chalmers
Sarabjit Minhas - Hellings
Lisa Ormston - Cougar Canyon
Parveen Loodu - Pinewood
Chelsea Pavich - Neilson Grove

Guests in Attendance:

Doug Sheppard - Superintendent
Brad Bauman - Assistant Superintendent
Joanna Angelidis - Director of Learning Services
Val Windsor - School Board Trustee, Chairperson
Laura Dixon - School Board Trustee, Vice Chairperson

Meet & Greet - 6:45 pm

Meeting brought to order at: 7:10 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Special welcome to Val Windsor, Chairperson, Delta School Board

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



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School Dress Codes - Brad Bauman, Assistant Superintendent

The Delta school district had all schools send their dress code, and there was only about eight schools without a formal dress code. Guidelines are published in the spring and the administration procedure looks at code of conduct, and then based on the district code of conduct, schools develop their own dress code. Schools not required to have a dress code specifically but just a code of conduct.

The District put out to principals, how is it dealt with when something comes up around dress code? Sometimes this can be a disconnect between classroom and home life where issues arise. In all cases, it seems like it has been resolved so far. The big issue was mostly boys at secondary school wearing baggy pants and showing off their underwear. Devon Gardens in particular is going through a review of their dress code and making it general so it's not girls/boys, but "here's the parts of the body that need covering".

It's always a conversation with the parents, and the District tries to address it with sensitivity. If a student comes to school with something that isn't appropriate, they might get a school t-shirt or jersey to wear for the day.

Secondary schools are seeing far fewer kids wearing explicit t-shirts or wear that might represent gang wear, but it's still something the District is keeping an eye on. Many of the secondary school dress codes speak about explicit clothing or offensive clothing.

It's important to keep in mind that many of the current school dress codes were not developed with the current principals. This gave the District some food for thought, and the idea that they will talk to principals about it, and make the dress code a relatively regular conversation with principals and PAC groups, to look to see if things are still relevant or revisit rules.

The District didn't want to set an overall specific dress code/code of conduct because schools need to decide what makes best sense for them, so the District code of conduct is very broad. And it's much better to have kids/parents help create it because it gets better buy in.

The District will send out a one-pager with a general guideline after running it by the principals.

Vaping - Joanna Angelidis, Director of Learning Services

Information on vaping continues to change; what we're learning and impacts on the human body continue to change. Fraser Health is sharing a lot of information with us now.

The focus is on:

youth resilience
education
connection
prevent, delay, reduce



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It's important to note that the vast majority of young people make safe decisions and don't vape, but for those who do, the risks are significant.

Work is done in partnership with Fraser Health, Delta Police, and the school district. This is universal work, targeted work, with highly individual strategies to help young people.

What do we know?

Mccreary Centre Society does research on youth health in the field of vaping; so does Fraser Health; and Health Canada.

What is vaping?

E-cigarettes; it does not require burning, usually battery powered, which heats up the liquid into vapor.

Who is vaping?

23% of Canadian students in grades 7-12 have tried an e-cigarette; 2014 to 2019, the usage increased, with males more likely to use, and grade 10-12 more likely to start. It does start in earlier grades than cigarette smoking and is more prevalent in rural areas.

How are youth vaping?

Mostly borrowed or shared or bought from a friend or relative; most used flavored e-cigarettes.

Why are youth vaping?

They think it's safer, mistakenly, so they use it when they might not have used cigarettes. They prefer the price and ability to use inconspicuously.

What are the health risks?

There are toxic substances apart from nicotine; addictive substances, which can affect memory and more. The liquid in vaping can be toxic if ingested or absorbed through the skin. There were eight confirmed cases of severe lung illnesses related to vaping across Canada at the time of the presentation.

The DPAC was shown a slideshow of what the grade 5-7 presentation will look like. It will be presented with a public health nurse and school counsellor and teacher. There are opportunities to share this information in multiple ways, like dialoguing with one another, talking to health authorities.

Youth recommendations:

There is a link between vaping and poor sleep and poor mental health. Adults should not vape in front of youth as it normalizes vaping. Also, youth who feel connected to their community are less likely to vape. Target ages 11 to 12, before they start vaping, and let them make an informed choice. School staff can play an important role: remove implements when they find them, etc.

In spring 2020, provincial vaping restrictions will be put in place. It's a 10-year road map; some restrictions will be the amount of nicotine in e-juices, plain packaging with health warnings, restricted advertising where youth spend time, and flavors only sold in specific shops.



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Resources:

1 866 366 3667 Call a Quit Coach

School Counsellors

Government of Canada Quit Smoking for Young Adults Program

BREAK

General Business Meeting: Start time: 8:30 pm

Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Trish Uppal & seconded by Jen DenHartogh; approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Lakhvir Brar & seconded by Bob Nath; approved.

Chair's Update - Joe Muego

- School Board Meeting - November 5, 2019

This was the inaugural meeting. Val Windsor was elected Chairperson, and Laura Dixon was elected Vice Chairperson.

- Healthy Schools - November 7, 2019

There was brief discussion of the Ministry's new 10-year youth mental health and addictions plan "pathways to hope"; there was talk of inter-ministerial strategy and near term goals that directly impact communities and schools; integrated care teams, and looking to hire counsellors based in the community but work with a student's Doctor, with their school counsellor. There was also talk of the Board of Education's need to align strategic planning and budgeting so we see the full force of effect of these things.

Vice-Chair's Update - Lakhvir Brar

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Budget Report - Kristin Unger

Nothing to report until new Treasurer goes through all the information.



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BCCPAC Update - Jenn DenHartogh & Chelsea Pavich

Friday: The Honorable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, spoke and some highlights were that education spending has surpassed healthcare this year. He said every playground should be fully inclusive as of 2019, mandatory from the ministry. Personal Education Numbers are given out at birth and they are hoping to have it linked to BC Services cards. They are revising the inclusive education policy, because no child should be denied education, no matter their ability. There will be a reporting system in place for children who are secluded during the school day, parents will be informed about that now. Principals and vice principals will be educated on the roles of the PAC, DPAC, and BCCPAC at the start of the school year.

Saturday: There was a working group and problem solving and set up for parent leadership. There was talk about problems that DPACs face, and then also individual PAC problems. There was also talk of the undermining political agenda and about DPAC meetings being an echo chamber. There was the desire for reestablishing credibility. They also spoke of issues like who is in charge of the web sites, continuity, wish list items for PACs, administration changes, communication breakdown, community involvement and computers and tech problems.

Ideas to fix: revise or rectify bylaws and constitutions; participation might require yummy food at events; update the website; some PACs give a money incentive if you attend; community involvement outreach; topics we want to hear about and talk about, instead of letting the District choose always; partnering with the Board, getting as educated as possible; share and offset costs and reach; created for youth by youth, so get youth buy in; updating code of conducts for PACs; share passwords for websites; make sure gatekeepers are reliable and informed.

Agenda setting: send Joe your ideas. This is very important, and he will happily pass it along in the agenda.

For the next agenda, internet safety is a topic of interest; Telus WISE program is also an idea.

A. Business Arising from Minutes (October 2019)

Constitutions and Bylaws from PACs

Signing Authority Update



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B. New Business

1. Meeting Locations

It is harder to get to the location of this DPAC meeting via transit; maybe NDSS as a North Delta alternative? Also, the change might be too sudden, and timed transition should be accommodated. But overall, alternating locations between North and South Delta seems fair to most present.

2. Meet the Trustees for January 20, 2020

At the School Board office.

Next Meeting, Monday, January 20, 2020 – School Board Main Office

MEETING ADJOURNED

9:08 pm