

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, September 16, 2019

Meeting location: Delta School Board Office

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)
Bob Nath - Gibson/Delview
Trish Uppal - Sunshine Hills
Kerri Deane - DSS
Parveen Loodu - Pinewood
Lara Wilson - Beach Grove
Julia Mellish - Holly Elementary
Tia Litz - Port Guichon
Rebecca Lee - Pebble Hill

Guests in Attendance:

Doug Sheppard - Superintendent Laura Dixon - School Board Trustee, Chairperson

Meet & Greet - 6:45 pm

Meeting brought to order at: 7:05 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Joe spoke first about the DPAC Admin procedure 112, which is a statement that describes what DPACs are supposed to do. It's a guide which we can use as a measuring stick to see how we've done for the year.

https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/07/1078 Procedure112.pdf

Next, Joe spoke about an inspirational quote from a student, which was published in the grad section of the SDSS yearbook. It served to highlight that the current Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) makes a big difference.



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

Superintendent Sheppard started off by saying he would love every kid in the district to be able to attribute their growth to an individual in the system, but it is still a system; and while he can tell you how well the system is doing, it still comes down to the individuals in the system. The human elements are very powerful, and a district of our size can handle it better. He is cognizant that it may not be the same for everyone but very proud of the work going on in the district.

We had a start-up that felt smooth despite some storm clouds. The District was appreciative that the mediator in the Teacher negotiations put a freeze on discussions since they just weren't moving. The mediator said both sides need to come closer and so they're waiting to see what happens when the freeze ends at the end of September.

At the moment, all elementary schools save one were in a permanent class by the first Friday, which is excellent; secondary schools weren't much further behind.

Relating to FESL goals:

Ideally, all students should be reading by grade 3. Connectedness is still a huge priority for the district. The assessment for learning (new grading system) is very good; we have a high graduation rate but the greatest challenge is are we actually pushing every kid? They should not just be graduating but also have a sense of where to go to next. Are they driven and do they have purpose?

How will BC's curriculum fit into other universities around the world?

When you look at what universities are asking for, most of the changes in the new curriculum will address those things. Post-secondary wants people who are doing what we're doing. Not every class is doing the new reporting, some will be the same as before. But we are hearing from post secondaries that they are excited, and hoping it will allow their professors to do things in a different way. We are already so well thought of on the international stage. Analytics are so advanced these days, and they're looking at which kids will push through a 4-year degree. Some of it is strong academics, but some is perseverance, so analytics are looking at other things besides just grades. Universities are looking for evidence of who students are as a person instead of just grades. We are changing the way we exit kids from schools so they're more confident to face the university admissions officers, etc. Canada has one of the greatest sharing of data between post-secondary with courses and expectations; even in the States, they're quite excited about what's expected coming out of BC.

Grading system at the secondary level: more and more individual teachers are experimenting with feedback on individual assignments; some teachers will do letter grade or percentage; some will provide feedback which will be converted to a letter grade. In grades 10-12, a percentage must be given for every report card. A letter grade will still be on the report card 3 times per year. Most schools in Delta will use a performance scale, but if the parent requests it, a teacher must provide a final letter grade for their child after grade 4.

When you provide a grade, the student will work to the grade, but when there's no grade, they may work beyond it.



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REPORT FROM THE BOARD OFFICE - Laura Dixon, School Board Chairperson

School Board Trustees are selected by us from amongst us; they are community experts, and most are parents like us. The most important thing is that kids are cared for and respected. It is the job of the Trustee to ensure improving education outcomes for kids in schools and to be accountable to taxpayers as to how they spend money. Supporting the teachers is often how to best support the kids, like collaboration, etc. They also work to bring forward the voice of the parents. They consult with the ministry but their primary role is to make sure that they're building good connections with the parent community.

BREAK

General Business Meeting: Start time: 8:37 pm

Motion made to defer general business to the October 2019 DPAC meeting. Moved by Bob Nath & seconded by Kerri Deane; approved

DPAC 2019-2020 Schedule

All meetings at School District Offices at 7:00 pm – unless otherwise arranged/noted.

September 16, 2019
October 21, 2019
November 18, 2019
December
January 20, 2020
February 24, 2020
March
Inaugural Meeting
Regular Meeting
NO MEETING
Trustees (TBD)
Regular Meeting
NO MEETING

April 20, 2020 Regular Meeting / Executive Nominations May 11, 2020 Executive Elections / Annual Wrap-up

June NO MEETING

MEETING ADJOURNED

8:40 pm