



**Delta District Parent Advisory Council (Delta DPAC)**

C/O Delta School Board  
4485 Harvest Drive, Delta, BC, V4K3C9  
Email: [deltadpac@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:deltadpac@deltasd.bc.ca)  
Website: [dpac.deltasd.bc.ca](http://dpac.deltasd.bc.ca)

**DPAC General Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, October 5, 2020**

Meeting location: Zoom

Meeting time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Members in attendance:**

Lakhvir Brar - Acting Chair (Seaquam)  
Kristin Unger - Secretary/Treasurer (Gray)  
Jen DenHartogh - BCCPAC (Hawthorne)  
Bob Nath - First Member at Large (Gibson/Delview)  
Shane Todhunter - Second Member at Large (South Park)  
Joe Muego - Past Chair (SDS)  
Trish Uppal - Sunshine Hills  
Tia Litz - Port Guichon/DSS  
Chelsea Pavich - Neilson Grove  
Stephanie Davis - Ladner Elementary  
Rebecca Lee - Pebble Hill/SDSS  
Lara Wilson - Beach Grove  
Chelsea Jokisch - Cliff Drive  
Kerri Deane - DSS  
Jane Geszler - Cougar Canyon  
Catharine Russell - Brooke  
Lana Vijay - Brooke  
Sarabjit Minhas - Hellings  
Kristy Holm - Jarvis  
Jasmeen Dick - Hawthorne  
Jennifer Rak - Brooke  
Candace Flannigan - Neilson Grove

**Guests in Attendance:**

Doug Sheppard - Superintendent, Delta School District  
Brad Bauman - Assistant Superintendent, Delta School District  
Val Windsor - Chairperson, School Board Trustee  
Laura Dixon - Vice-Chairperson, School Board Trustee

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME 7:07pm**



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

#### Restart Plan for 2020-21

*Q: Why are we opening schools during a pandemic?*

**Superintendent Doug Sheppard:** As a District, we have control over some things and not others; the District operates under the Ministry of Education; in a pandemic, the Ministry of Health has huge ability to control all things operational; Bonnie Henry and her team are working closely with schools and the Ministry of Education.

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) released a report that schools had input on, an evidence review on the impact of school closures and potential long term impacts; closing schools is an exceptional measure to delay epidemic spread but affects children and families; the impact is experienced disproportionately by families with social inequities and children with health conditions or special learning needs; as COVID is likely to be a fact of life for the foreseeable future, the evidence review found that return to school, while posing some risk, offers greater societal and individual benefits than keeping schools closed.

*Q: Why can't we do what we did in the spring?*

**Superintendent Doug Sheppard:** In the spring, some people had a positive experience, others didn't; differing experiences in April, May and June; models would not have been sustainable for staff; many teaching groups met to discuss this; kids had established good relations with their teachers by June, so that worked; now the economy is opening up so parents can't keep kids home; a key element found that when community spread is under control, schools can open successfully and provide better support for students.

Ministry set out guiding principles for districts to follow:

1. Ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students, families, and employees
2. Provide services to support children of essential workers
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students

In August, we were asked to plan for stage 2, an in class model; but we were also paying attention that at any time we could move back to stage 3 or 4.



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The District focused on layers of protection which range from most effective to less effective: it starts with provincial health measures; then environmental measures; then administrative measures; then personal measures (this is most valuable to us because everyone can contribute to it, students and staff and families); then PPE

Delta School District Safety Plan: the District Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee put in a lot of work putting it together; access to schools, handwashing and hygiene, cohorts and physical distance, PPE, cleaning, transportation; from that, individual schools created their school-based plans; each is slightly different because buildings/numbers are different; plans are not written in stone, and will evolve over time as more information comes to us.

### Delivery of K-12 Educational Programs:

There is a large number of people concerned about health for family and seeking options; every solution wasn't ideal and the District appreciates being able to work with individual families that hopefully work for most; Delta differs from some districts around; about 94.5% K-7 students are back; a small number chose homeschooling, and the bulk of the rest are choosing to wait and see.

Under the School Act, all parents must register their children in some sort of program; in the pandemic period, parents and caregivers may enroll in school, online/distributive learning schools, or homeschool; Delta was fortunate that we already have Home Quest and Delta Access set up, some other districts did not have these programs, and they were extremely worried; you can't just open a distributive learning school normally, you need Ministry of Education approval; parents and caregivers can choose a different option at any time during the school year if there is space within it and with applicable school district policies and procedures.

In stage 2, districts have the flexibility to find options that work for families, and can offer remote options, as well as tools they need to increase existing programs to meet demand; we saw a number of districts trying to figure this out on the fly, parents hoping for unique models, districts tried different things which created some real issues; there was frustration around the fact that we have a resource issue, and did not have the human resources; there was not enough teachers across the province to be able to just add teachers at will.

Because we are a midsize district, we were challenged to create as many cohorts as possible; we keep cohorts of 30; for those families in transition, they will have opportunities to return to in class instruction; we are looking at approximately winter break for them to make the decision; the District will continue to work with these families to help them decide.



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### QUESTION PERIOD

*Q: Can you confirm COVID testing policies?*

Superintendent Doug Sheppard: They are on the website; we hope by Friday it will be out to families who are looking for something more from the Ministry; within Fraser Health, if someone tests positive, they are contacted and interviewed by a contact tracer; they ask questions to find where they have been since potential infection; if they are student or staff, they continue to work with the individual, but also reach out to the District; the challenge is we only have had one case to go on; based on what Doug is hearing from Surrey, the practice is that contact tracing occurs, Fraser Health reaches out to the District, and the school works with them to figure out the next steps; there could be a notification going home to families in general; if it's a low risk exposure, no one is asked to monitor or self-isolate; the next step would be for close contacts to self-isolate; were you face-to-face for 10 or 15 mins, and/or within a meter or less?; this determines close exposure; we've seen entire classes being asked to remain home but it's hard to give accurate information because we haven't been through it yet; if a class is asked to self-isolate, remote teaching would kick in; anything beyond that, Fraser Health could close a school down for a deeper clean for a day or so; the health authority takes the lead

*Q: Different schools have different enforcement of different rules? People are still sending kids to school sick? How do we enforce?*

**Superintendent Doug Sheppard:** The shift in the health checklist form has created much confusion; we should see better information on that soon to clarify; if your child has an emerging symptom, the recommendation is to stay home for a day and monitor that symptom; if that symptom doesn't worsen, they can probably return to school, though a lot of parents choose to err on the side of caution; all schools are meeting the guidelines in the manner they are working through now; comfort levels are all over the map; some things may look like they're not meeting the guidelines, but so far, it seems as though they are; every day is a training day, we're still learning; schools are very clean, cleaned frequently; we have extra janitorial staff; Doug does know there are times that it is a challenge, and he doesn't want to get lax as days go by without a case



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*Q: How do PACs and parents look towards some of the fun stuff that used to be available, what are good ways to look at those types of events and plan for the new normal?*

**Superintendent Doug Sheppard:** A number of things are going to change and shift; the reason our schools are coping so well is because the community is doing a phenomenal job; the better we do as a community, the more we can do further things; we like to share the great and creative stories of the individuals at the schools; we've seen sensory walks at schools, more outdoor education and nature-based learning; one elementary wanted to bring grade 6 and 7 together for band, so they used a double classroom with a wall pulled halfway out, and the band teacher stands in the middle so kids can play music together; the District will spend time with administration to accumulate ideas coming from PACs and send out something to other PACs to give ideas for what can be done

*Q: We seem to have less EAs in some schools than we have in the past. Can you talk about how the District will be accountable to the new federal funding?*

**Superintendent Doug Sheppard:** We get about \$2.8 million in the first half and \$2.8 million in the second half; the Ministry said the amount of money put into the whole provincial budget will not be reduced; we don't know what we'll actually get and have had to put significant amounts towards staffing and custodial; we're not certain on total EA allotment but there will be no District reduction in EAs; EAs are placed based on student need, not on a per student basis; needs are known reasonably well in the Spring, somewhat better in September, then we adjust as we go; we have to spend that \$5.8 mil; you have to spend it or you don't keep it; it's one-time funding with a good chunk spent on the transition program to support families making that tough decision; as the transition program changes, the budget will change for other things so those staff may become available to other things, or maybe vice versa where parents become more concerned and move into transition; we've been cautious with our spending in the last number of years so we do have some reserves but the loss of international student revenue makes a difference to some of the extras we would typically have



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*Q: With respect to Home Quest, will you lose your spot at school?*

**Superintendent Doug Sheppard:** What we've tried to do and are committed to do is for those parents in wait and see, we would give them a taste of Home Quest (HQ); this is still being created; we've got the teachers hired, we've got a French immersion option; if parents said they wanted HQ for the full year, we've guaranteed they can return to school the following year; if uncertain, we tried to create enough spaces for them to return to schools, or move to HQ permanently; for most parents, making the decision to return to school should be doable; one place we run into problems, we cannot say no to a student who moves into the catchment area, if we have a space available for them, we will need to take them; we don't typically see huge numbers move in during the school year, but it could happen; the sooner parents can decide which model they're going to be in, the more secure they can feel that that is saved for them; if they want to return to school and that space has been filled, we'll work with the family to figure out the next best piece; we could end up adding or shuffling divisions but it's rare.

### **DELTA DPAC REGULAR GENERAL MEETING 8:20pm**

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

a) February 24, 2020

Moved by Tia Litz & seconded by Shane Todhunter; Approved.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **CHAIR / VICE CHAIR UPDATE**

a) 2020/2021 Meeting Process

b) Town Hall Meeting with Superintendent Doug Sheppard – October 14 at 7pm

Will be via Zoom; please register again due to technical difficulties with Google Form; goal is to answer more questions



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### c) AGM / Elections – November 16 at 7pm

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to have our annual AGM in April; the current Delta DPAC Executive is doing an extra long term; we wanted to get the AGM and elections on the schedule as soon as possible.

### d) Nominations Committee, Nomination & Election Process

Joe Muego, Past Chair, will be Chairman on the nominations committee to oversee the election process; we are looking for a Vice Chair position to join Joe on that committee; the role is to accept nominations; will involve a self-nomination process; we will share more information on that shortly via email, and will include positions available.

This is a first call for nominations.

### e) Zoom Licenses

We were offered free licenses from the District and BCCPAC; the District has offered each school PAC a dedicated license, the BCCPAC license is shared and must be reserved; we presented both options, and the majority of PACs have asked for District licenses.

### f) Committees –Emergency Preparedness, Healthy Schools,

We are looking for volunteers to participate in the committees; Emergency preparedness, you give input and direction of overall emergency preparedness planning; work with the District; it meets quarterly at a minimum and may schedule additional meetings as need arises; the key focus this year is the implementation of last year's review;

Healthy Schools meets every four to six weeks, the chair of the committee is Joanna Angelidis, Director of Inclusive Learning in the District; it delves into everything from physical health to mental health; they work in conjunction with the Trustees and Fraser Health

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### a) Budget Update

Org Account: \$5186.03

Gaming Account: \$6309.18



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### b) 2020 Community Gaming Grants

On October 14, 2020 we received the \$2500 Community Gaming Grant, which we apply for each year from the BC Government. It's a very straightforward process to apply. We apply online around August, and we make an accounting of what we spent with the funds from the last year. And then they approve and deposit the funds in the beginning of the school year.

## **PARENT EDUCATION UPDATE**

### a) Delta DPAC Parent Education Grants

There is a hesitation of people to throw their hats in the ring and step into a volunteer role; volunteerism is a big part of being a parent; ultimately we want to improve school experience in a collaborative way.

### b) Upcoming Events

Nothing to report.

## **BCCPAC UPDATE**

Make sure to pay for your BCCPAC membership for your PAC

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (Feb 24, 2020)**

### a) Nil

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### a) Question Period

Tia: Question from the school, if we're planning to do a market, how would they do payment?

Shane: Square is easy to use, though does charge a 3% fee





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Lara: Hot lunch, off the table or alternative?

Sarabjit: If lunches are packed individually, can it be used?

Jen: Ultimately, it's up to the principal, but if you can come up with a really great plan, pose it to them

Lakhvir: We can look at partnering with community partners, restaurants give a code that people can give and a percentage goes to the PAC

**NEXT MEETING**

Next Scheduled Online Meeting: AGM, November 16, 2020 at 7:00pm.

(For Zoom link, visit <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/resources/delta-parent-advisory-council-dpac/>)

**ADJOURN** 9:22 pm