

DPAC Report Oct.16, 2017  
Whistler Secondary School

## Reports

**Superintendent Lisa McCullough:** District is heading toward growth.

The school district will be heading out into the communities in the coming months to discuss how to handle the growth from upgrades to school building, to portables to new construction.

All positions for new teachers are filled.

**WSS Principal Nolan Cox** — Gave a great outline of the programs at our school and the students to the Board and guests. 508 FTE students enrolled (35 international students/106 French Immersion)....see report.

**Trustee Ian Kent** — talked about the new curriculum and the good work in the district.

Budget – surplus for 2016/2017. <https://sd48seatosky.org/districtcontacts/business-services/financial-information/>

- Budget development process, already preparing. Starting it in February and appreciate feedback from DPAC. The board contact info can be found here: <https://sd48seatosky.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/school-district-no48-trusteecontact-info.pdf>

**SSTA's April Lowe** — introduced herself Can read more here: <http://bctf.ca/ssta/>

**DPAC treasurer** — Kim Mueller – all grants filled out and \$2500 received.

**Erin Crawford and Amber Pascal** gave presentation on Making Movement Matter...mainly a program for elementary kids to encourage basic physical skills like running, throwing and jumping.

**Spring Creek PAC - Tami Mitchell** – Making Movement Matter

- This program is about fundamental movement skills and adding physical literacy into your everyday routine in the classroom.
- The idea is simple and easy to put into action.
- We are looking for champions to spread the word about this idea in Sea to Sky School District.
- If you would like to know more about physical literacy and how it can relate to the students in your school please contact Tami Mitchell from Whistler Sport Legacies to arrange a presentation for your PAC. Tami can also have a physical literacy expert come to your school to assess the children and provide tools for teachers to use in the classroom.

Website: <http://www.makemovementmatter.org/wow>

Email: [tmitchell@whistlersportlegacies.com](mailto:tmitchell@whistlersportlegacies.com)

Phone: 604-964-0031

**Phil Clarke** – director of education – talked about all the surveys this year and wanted to encourage all schools and parents to have the kids do the surveys. Surveys are: Middle Years Development Instrument, Communities That Care, Adolescent Health Survey (McCreary), Satisfaction Survey, Our Schools survey, Early Years Development Instrument.

Paul Lorette – Director of Instruction – Talked about surveys on gradeless report cards and the decision to keep the trial project going this school year. This is only being done in elementary school and Grades 8 and 9. Will not be part of Grades 10, 11, and 12 because universities are not able to adapt to this type of curriculum and the assessment it produces for entrance etc. Parents are 50/50 on getting grade reports too. Parents report there is too much variation on the teacher feedback and also that they see no growth in learning through this assessment process.

A reminder to all PACs that they should check the constitution of their schools on an annual basis.

### **Questions from DPAC to Superintendent Lisa McCullough**

1. Please explain the plans for the Whistler schools when it comes to adjusting for the growing number of students. WSS is already over capacity — we have room for 350 and are now at 464.
2. Vaping is becoming a growing problem at schools. What can the school district do to address this issue? Is there an education piece that can be introduced on this? Is anyone else having this issue in the Sea to Sky?
3. How is the District managing the growth in our Sea to Sky schools in regards to infrastructure? For example, we are short on washrooms, classrooms, gym time at Garibaldi Highlands. The parking is a mess and school drop off is getting so busy, it is considered unsafe by some parents. Could we possibly bus the French Immersion students to school? Could we have crossing guard attendants? Will the new portables have washrooms?
4. What is the latest update on water testing in Squamish Schools? We heard about Lead Levels being higher than they should be in Pemberton and we know that our schools have been bleeding the taps for a few years now. Can the test results be made available to parents?
5. What do we need to do as a school to attend track meets if there is no teacher lead for this activity? Can a 3<sup>rd</sup> party organize a school team and take them to school district events?
6. We are seeing or hearing about increases in the grade 4-6 combination which makes parents very nervous, how can we advocate against this happening in our/all schools or is there a point? Is this the direction all schools will be taking? We have grasped and understood the combined grades with one or two, but understand parents are concerned about three grades in one class. Is it up to the school administration? Do we wait until it happens to us and then express concern?

### **Lisa's answers:**

- WSS is full! The school board works with demographers to do projections in the district and the news is that many of the schools are at capacity or near it.
- 70 Grade 12s this year....Grade 7 are over 100 and they are heading to WSS.
- The government is never going to build a new school until every other avenue like portables etc. have been explored.
- WSS official capacity is 375..right now have 465 in class but as we have multi purpose room, gym, library etc. the school is judge to have room for everyone.

- On Vaping — It is a behavioural issue and schools must use Code of Conduct to control. District is aware of the issue and is looking at how we work with schools to address it.
- Water testing — all schools have been tested and all lead and other levels are safe levels.. Still required to flush taps and use water filling stations provided in schools. Foods rooms all have filtered water.
- multi grade level classes — Yes it is happening and research and observation shows that it is very valuable for the students. In these classes there is less bullying and aggression.

Q. What is the latest update on water testing in Squamish Schools? We heard about lead levels being higher than they should be in Pemberton and we know that our schools have been bleeding the taps for a few years now. Can the test results be made available to parents?

A. We test our water annually. Squamish has five schools all with acceptable water levels standards. The results are public and available through Vancouver Coastal Health. More info can be found here:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/legislationpolicy/](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/legislationpolicy/public-schools/testing-lead-content-in-drinking-water)

[public-schools/testing-lead-content-in-drinking-water](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/legislationpolicy/public-schools/testing-lead-content-in-drinking-water)

<http://www.vch.ca/Documents/Lead-in-drinking-water-protecting-children-at-schools.pdf>

Q. What do we need to do as a school to attend track meets if there is no teacher lead for this activity? Can a third party organize a school team and take them to school district events?

A. The district field trip policy should be followed:

<https://sd48seatosky.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/policy-603-2-field-trips2.pdf>

Q. We are seeing or hearing about increases in the grade 4-6 combination, which makes parents nervous. How can we advocate against this happening in our schools? Is this the direction all schools will be taking? We have grasped and understood two combined grades, but parents are concerned about having three grades in one classroom.

A. Multi-age classes can be cost-effective because they allow for the greatest number of students to be educated in the fewest number of classrooms, but they also have other benefits. While teachers of multi-age classes follow the grade specific curriculum requirements stipulated by the Ministry of Education, multi-age classes allow for greater flexibility for students who are faster or slower to develop. A multi-age program enables children to make continuous progress based on their learning rate and pace. Studies have shown that on average a five-year span of developmental difference is typically found in a single grade group. The

organization

of multi-age classes recognizes that children learn at different rates and have individual learning needs. Instructional methods, such as cooperative learning, are deployed in multi-age classes in an effort to encourage responsible and independent learning, and to better meet individual needs.

**One minute round table:**

Garibaldi Highlands Elementary

- News: new Principal and Vice Principal.
- Challenge: parking and the number of kids at the school.

Whistler Secondary School

- Success: a stronger sense of community and student engagement. There has been a cultural change in our school.
- Challenge: space (kids sharing lockers, etc.).

Don Ross Middle School

- Success: a new technology policy was introduced. It has been really successful and well received. The kids are getting outside more.
- Challenge: we lost our PAC chair, but now have a new chair and lots of new energy.

Pemberton Secondary School

- Success: there are fewer students at the school with the scheduling of the courses. 20 minutes of silent reading is happening.
- Challenge: more interaction between Whistler Secondary School and Pemberton Secondary School would be beneficial.

Spring Creek Elementary

- Success: this was the second year of the Harvest Festival. It was a huge success. 475 people were fed!
- Challenge: there was not enough parent participation in the Harvest Festival. As a result, next year it will be only for students, not their families.

Howe Sound Secondary School

- News: told that they were participating in a trial opportunity (through the Ministry of Education).
- Challenge: how the teachers are going to prepare.

Squamish Elementary School

- Success: the fall barn dance was a huge fundraiser – community building – hope to be an annual event – live band – lots of fun.
- Challenge: parking.

Brackendale Elementary School

- Success: great turn out for the first PAC meeting. Great job last year organizing a

calendar for the year and online Christmas auction fundraiser.

Myrtle Philip Elementary

- Success: harvest soup and outdoor classroom.
- Challenge: parking.

**New business:**

None.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15pm