



School District #48

District Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2018.

Location: Signal Hill Elementary School, Pemberton, BC.

Start Time: 6:30pm.

In Attendance:

Lisa McCullough, SD48 Superintendent
Paul Lorette, SD48 Assistant Superintendent
Chris Nicholson, SD48 Director of Instruction
Ian Kent, SD48 School Board Trustee
April Lowe, President, Sea to Sky Teachers Association
Marilyn Caldwell, Principal, Signal Hill Elementary School
Meredith Gardner, DPAC Vice Chair, Pemberton Secondary
Kelly Hamilton, DPAC Representative, Garibaldi Highlands Elementary
Clare Ogilvie, DPAC Representative, Whistler Secondary
Adrienne Theed, DPAC Representative, Don Ross Middle School
Tami Mitchell, DPAC Representative, Spring Creek Community School

Regrets Sent:

Phillip Clarke, SD48 Director of Instruction
Ian Currie, SD48 Director of Operations
Shehzad Somji, SD48 Secretary Treasurer
Shawna Lang, DPAC Treasurer, Brackendale Elementary
Trish Duncan, DPAC Representative, Brackendale Elementary
Celeste Bickford, DPAC Secretary, École Squamish Elementary
Julie Miller, DPAC Representative, École Squamish Elementary
Mieke van Eerd, DPAC Representative, Garibaldi Highlands Elementary
Caroline Pope, DPAC Representative, Howe Sound Secondary
Alison Robb, DPAC Representative, Myrtle Philip Community School

1. Quorum not reached (40% + 1 of voting members).

2. Motion to adopt the May 14, 2018 meeting agenda.

Moved: Tami Mitchell >> Seconded: Adrienne Theed >> Carried

3. Motion to approve the January 29, 2018 meeting minutes.

Moved: Clare Ogilvie >> Seconded: Meredith Gardner >> Carried

4. Superintendent's Report

- 1) *Grade 12 graduation:* We wish all of our graduates and their families safe and exciting celebrations as they finish out their time with us. We look forward to seeing them walk across the stage next month.
- 2) *Curriculum:* Planning has begun for next year's new curriculum implementation for grade 10 and for the ongoing learning with all other areas of the new curriculum. We start planning tomorrow for the professional learning for staff which will take place on November 2, 2018 Implementation Day and for the new non-instructional day on December 3, 2018.
- 3) *Restored Provincial Teacher Collective Agreement Language:* The implementation continues to provide additional classroom teachers due to smaller class sizes. It also has specific ratios for non-enrolling teacher positions such as counselors, teacher librarians, and special education, learning support, and English Language Learning specialists. Locally we have Article 75: Mainstreaming and Integration, which provides additional support for complex classrooms.
- 4) *Collective bargaining:* Very initial steps are being taken to prepare for provincial and local bargaining with both CUPE and the BCTF/SSTA. We will continue to work toward another great round of local bargaining in 2019 as we experienced during the last round of bargaining.
- 5) *Recruitment and retention:* The restored language, enrolment growth across the district, and retirements continue to put pressure on our recruitment and retention efforts. Our Human Resource Department has done a remarkable job of filling all roles for school start up each year with significantly fewer urgent issues than other districts are reporting. We have found some mid-year jobs difficult to cover in French Immersion. As well, trades positions continue to be difficult to fill. Our Human Resources team has gone and continues to go to great lengths to recruit early for known and predicted vacancies. Hard to fill positions are: automotive and wood shop. Other teachers are filling in the gaps. Many local teachers are going back for masters in special Ed to support the needs to SD48 students. Efforts in Human Resources have completed all vacancies for school and district leadership roles. Recently we announced the placements of Roberta Kubik at Signal Hill Elementary and Danielle Verge from Vice Principal of Signal Hill Elementary to the Vice Principal of Garibaldi Highlands Elementary. Human Resources Director, Brenda Paul, completes her last day with us on June 1st and the new Secretary Treasurer, Mo Azim begins on the same day. We wish Brenda all the best in her new district and thank her for her tremendous support to us over the years. As well, we look forward to working with Mo who brings a wealth of experience and excitement to be in our district.

5. School Board Trustee's Report

- 1) *Trustee Elections:* The Board of Education encourages candidates to step forward for the upcoming election of trustees in October 2018. A 40% turnover of trustees is expected in the upcoming election. More here: <https://sd48seatosky.org/board/2018-school-trustee-elections/>
- 2) *Board Meetings:* Board meetings are open to the public and held throughout the region. The public is encouraged to attend. More here: <https://sd48seatosky.org/board-meeting-schedule-3/>

6. Chair's Report

- 1) *Goal for next year:* to create a document that outlines the advocacy role of DPAC.
- 2) *Questions for staff:* SD48 staff can provide 15-20 minute long presentations on key issues agreed upon at least 3 weeks prior to DPAC meetings.
- 3) *Purpose of DPAC:* to support, encourage, and improve the quality of education by (1) promoting meaningful parental involvement in the education system, (2) providing parents with information, (3) providing parents with the opportunity to exchange ideas with decision-makers about the education system, including giving input on the development of education policy and curricula, and (4) parent advocacy.

7. Discussion regarding communication challenges for parents and staff in supporting student learning from home.

There is a fairly high level of communication that occurs in elementary schools, but communication between families and teachers may be a significant challenge in Middle and High Schools. Specifically, the following are factors identified:

- 1) Communication for sharing information around the curriculum is managed independently by teachers and is inconsistent.
- 2) There is no compulsion for students to engage in the use of technology to support learning.
- 3) There is a standard set of communications required – including teacher parent interviews and report cards that parents may not understand the process given changes underway to reporting.
- 4) There are concerns that teachers are making time for interviews and getting low turn-outs at some schools.

Recommended action for DPAC members: Reach out to PACs to ascertain if there is an appetite to hold more detailed discussions around communicating student learning and giving families more opportunities to be involved in supporting student learning.

8. Questions for SD48 staff:

Question 1: SD48 policy on events/trips includes grad events. To have an event sanctioned, a delegation must appear before the school board and ensure that the event will be safe, drug/alcohol free, and school behaviour codes must be met. If sanctioned, students are allowed to meet to discuss the event at school, use school facilities for fundraising, and advertise at school. Non-sanctioned events do not benefit in this way. Policy found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yd3yoewg>

a. Could you please providing further written direction on how to meet the standard for an event being sanctioned? Each new cohort of grads would benefit from clear instructions.

b. SD48 approved the 2017/2018 HSS Dry Grad and WSS Dry Grad events on different terms, but the events appear to be substantially similar. Why were the terms different for the two schools? Are the terms for approval made at the discretion of the board or following specific policy?

Answer: Every application is different. Every activity that each school is planning is very different. All of the School District's policies must be met. Your Principal is able to support you through it. One best practice is to have grade 11 parents involved in organizing grad events to assist with succession planning.

Question 2: Given the issues with French Immersion teacher recruitment across the country, what should parents expect within SD48 for the coming years with respect to the number of French Immersion spots, wait-list scenarios, etc.

Answer: SD48 will continue to fill teacher vacancies. Parents can anticipate wait lists for French Immersion as it is a Program of Choice. There has been a 300% increase in demand over the past 5 years. However, there is no plan currently to reduce the number of classes being offered.

Question 3: GHE is interested in any suggestions regarding the hot lunch program. They have found that a lot of restaurants do not like to supply over 500 lunches at one time. Any advice of how to run biweekly or weekly lunches that are successful?

Answer: Best to ask other PACs for ideas.

Question 4: GHE wants to invest in IT (e.g. smart boards and iPads). What have the other elementary, middle, and high schools found to be useful? Is there a lot of technical support needed? What are the pros and cons associated with what is being used elsewhere?

Answer: Best to ask other PACs for ideas. SD48 allows schools to buy the technology that they want. SD48 does not service some technology and recommends buying a 3-year warranty. SD48 staff Chris Nicholson will come and talk to any PAC that asks.

Question 5: What is the field trip paper work process? Who can write the forms? Is it something a parent volunteer can do? What is a min and max price range school field trips should cost to make sure to include everyone?

Answer: See the field trip policy. Teachers have to write the forms – admin can support. Setting prices is not in the SD48 field trip policy, but overall the goal is to keep them affordable and accessible across the district. There is a hardship policy and parents can't be charged more to cover deficits. More here: <https://sd48seatosky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Policy-603.2-Field-Trips.pdf>

Question 6: How can parents learn how to navigate the system? How can parents become better informed?

Answer: Look at the Ministry of Education website, the Board Policies, and talk to your school staff (principal, vice principal, counselors, etc).

9. One minute round table for DPAC Representatives to share any success stories and any areas of challenge.

Garibaldi Highlands Elementary: We have recently pushed forward on a garden initiative (Grow Outside), which has seen multiple garden beds installed around the school for growing vegetables and plants that will be shared with the Helping Hands society and hopefully continue to give back to the community. Our PAC funded the first phase with a very successful silent auction and pub night that raised a lot of money. Currently our challenges are finding someone head up our Hot Lunch program and finding more parents to join the PAC.

Spring Creek Community School: Our PAC paid for four weeks of guitar lessons with Jeremy Tom, as lack of music was a red flag for the principal from surveys done. Hot Lunch Volunteers are an ongoing Challenge. They feel they need to be on the PAC to volunteer and don't want to. We also need to recruit for the PAC.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, October 22, 2018, 6:30pm at Don Ross Middle School (Squamish)
Monday, January 14, 2019, 6:30pm at Spring Creek Community School (Whistler)
Monday, May 13, 2019, 6:30pm at Pemberton Secondary School (Pemberton)