



2125 Keating X Road, Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2A5

CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS OF SAANICH

General Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2011 – 7:00 pm

District Resource Centre

6843 Central Saanich Road
Victoria BC V8Z 5V4

Attendees:

COPACS Executive: Victoria Martin, Cathy Fountas, Martine Lunke, Barb Schultz, Stasia Hartley, Mary-Anne Neal, Nancy Borden, Neil Frelick, Brad Meyer.

PAC Delegates and parents: Tom Nieman, Don Peterson, Jacqueline Peacock, Molly Glesby, Lavonne Bennett, Monica Copeland, Denise Tidman, Rachel Calder, Scarlet Yum, Christena Beaulac, Sarah Benson, Brenda Chan, Jeannie Wright, Heather Carley.

Board Office: Superintendent Keven Elder

Board of Education Trustees: - School Board Chair Helen Parker.

Saanich Teacher's Association: Sean Hayes

CUPE: Nathan Stevens

1) Welcome and Introductions

Addition to the agenda: election of Brad Meyer to the position of First Nations Representative. The agenda was adopted with the modification.

2) Reports from the Education Partner Groups

2a) Board of Education Chair: Helen Parker

The negotiations between the BCTF and the BCPSEA are ongoing, and things may be ramping up as the Ministry of Education has been weighing in lately. In SD63, the focus is on keeping the lines of communication open and the relationships healthy.

On a very sad note, Marilyn Pinder has died of cancer last week. She was the vice-principal of Keating School and was an ardent advocate for the French Immersion program. She will be missed by colleagues, students and families.

There will be local elections in November and new school trustees will be elected. Marilyn Reimer and Elsie McMurphy will not run for re-election. There have been two information meetings for anyone interested in running as candidates in the election. The nominations close on Oct 14.

2b) Board Executive, Dr. Keven Elder, Superintendent.

Our schools have managed to create a great start to the school year for students and families despite the ongoing job action. Administrators are doing school supervision and many are finding that it is the best part of their day. Enrollment in the district is down by 195 students, which is close to the projected figure of 170, for a total of about 7,000 students (about 8,000 including SIDES). There is a net inflow of students from independent schools and neighboring school districts. The Independent Learning Centre in the old Saanichton School is successful.

The teachers legal job action is ongoing and the Labor Relations Board (LRB) has ruled which services are essential and which ones need not be done, and both sides are abiding by these rulings. Teachers need not do the formal report cards and we will see what the implications will be later. The lack of meetings with administration makes it difficult for the school staff, but the teachers are talking to each other and working through it daily. The teachers are still doing great professional work, also during Pro-D days. Administrators have not been able to attend meetings regarding the various Personalized Learning initiatives, but the teachers are proceeding with these initiatives in collaboration with their partners at UVIC.

2c) Saanich Teachers Association- Sean Hayes, president

The beginning of the year has gone quite well despite the job action. The district administration is committed to maintaining good working relationships and is issuing good directives to the school administrators. The phase 1 of the job action is designed to have a low impact on students and parents, and to keep parents informed and on side if possible. The STA invites parents to contact teachers as usual for any concern they have about their children. Many teachers are finding that the release from administrative duties gives them more time to focus their energy on the classroom.

Don Peterson, of the Saanich Teachers Association, communicated that there will be an all-candidates meeting for the candidates running for election as school board trustees, on November 2, at 7pm, location to be announced.

The parents asked questions to Keven Elder and Sean Hayes about the job action:

- How will the job action affect meetings for children with Individual Education Plans (IEP)?

In general, the case manager should not invite the administrators to the IEP meetings. The LRB has ruled that administrators will be in meetings when there is an issue with the police, a custody issue or a legitimate safety issue. Sean Hayes clarified that an administrator can attend the meeting if he/she provides a direct service to the student. The teachers are also encouraged to continue to file reports so the administration can read them, and they can communicate with the administrators at all times.

- How will the job action affect the report cards for grade 12 students, who need transcripts to apply for higher education institutions and scholarships?

The teachers will issue grades for the transcripts. The teachers are still doing assessments and record keeping and the information will not be lost. Many teachers are recording the grades in the centralized system as usual. The grades reporting for grade 11 students taking grade 12 courses has not been fleshed out yet.

- How will the job action affect parent-run programs?

The teachers can interact with parent groups. They will not be collecting money or participating in fundraisers outside of regular class time. Teachers may work on specific activities that have a fundraising purpose if it is part of the regular curriculum and the activities are during the regular class time. They can for example make crafts that are destined for sale with the students. They can practice songs or pieces for an assembly, but they will not organize the assembly, unless they get release from teaching for an equivalent amount of time.

- Will the teachers still communicate with the on-site physiotherapist? –Yes

- Why did many school have early dismissal days when there were no formal parent-teacher interviews?

The early dismissal days have been kept at many schools, and although the formal interviews with parents were not held, it was expected that teachers use this time to communicate with parents. If it turns out that the time is not used for this purpose, then the early dismissal days may be cancelled in the future.

- What are good sources of information about the job action for parents?

- 1) SD63 website: www.sd63.bc.ca, click on "Message to Parents Re: Teacher Job Action" on the top left side.
- 2) The BCTF website: www.bctf.ca
- 3) The BCPSEA website: www.bcpsea.bc.ca
- 4) Janet Steffenhagen's blog at the Vancouver sun:
<http://blogs.vancouver.sun.com/category/staff/news/education/report-card>

2d) CUPE- Nathan Stevens

CUPE is also in the middle of bargaining. At the local level, bargaining concerns mostly language clarity issues and is going quite well. Money issues are being bargained at the provincial level. It is hugely important to maintain civility in relationships during bargaining, and this is happening at the district level.

3. Reports from COPACS executives:

3a) Election of Brad Meyer as First Nations Representative.

Brad Meyer was nominated by Mary-Anne Neal and elected by secret ballot.

3b) Board Committee Representative – Barb Schultz

The full reports from the meetings are attached to these minutes. The Policy Development Committee focused mainly on the International Education program. The Finance and Facilities committee went through the auditor's report and found that all is in order. The Education Directions Committee talked about the intergenerational society.

3c) Treasurer Neil Frelick:

A budget will be prepared for the next COPACS meeting. COPACS has received \$2,500 in gaming funds. The COPACS executive has been discussing the possibility of using some of the money to help PACs pay for paper and toner cartridges to ensure that all parents receive PAC communications, even if they do not have e-mail. COPACS need to verify that such an expense would be eligible under the gaming rules and would like member PACs to provide some feedback on how helpful it would be.

3d) Presidents: Cathy Fountas and Victoria Martin:

- COPACS would like the member PACs to make sure they provide us with current PAC executive members lists, and would like to encourage all PAC executive members to sign up on the COPACS website to get automatic notification of updates.
- The BCCPAC membership renewals are due before Dec.31. COPACS recommends that each PAC be a member, as BCCPAC is a great source of information and is often the parent group that is consulted by the province.
- The policy 1100 meeting will be held on November 9 at 7 pm at royal Oak. We expect all PACs to attend. This year's meeting will focus on a 12-part Strategic directions document, which is also available on the district's website. Feedback on the document can be provided until October 28.

4) Questions for the next Board Meeting:

The next School Board Meeting will be on October 12. There is a group of parents from Claremont that would like to bring up the issue of funding for dry grad events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.