

COPACS

The Confederation of Parents' Advisory Councils of Saanich

Meeting Minutes

MS Teams

May 13, 2021, 7 – 9 pm

Attendance:

- Wendy Bird, Prospect Lake PAC
- James Taylor, Claremont PAC
- Liz Keating, KELSET PAC
- Craig Morton, Keating PAC
- Dave Eberwein, Superintendent
- Teri VanWell, Trustee
- Tim Dunford, Trustee
- Bonnie Doyle, Stelley's PAC
- Jullie Roemer, Royal Oak PAC
- Kim Woodcock, Keating PAC
- Andrew Pape-Salmon, Cordova Bay PAC
- Ceilidh Fear, Keating PAC
- Leanne Turple, Lochside PAC
- Eva Castelsky, Lochside PAC

7:00 begin

James Taylor - Chair

1. Introduction and territorial acknowledgement
2. Approval of agenda
 - a. Craig - motion
 - b. Andrew - seconder
3. Approval of last meeting's minutes ([April 2021](#))
 - a. Craig - motion to approve
 - b. Liz - seconder
4. Update from our education partners
 - a. Dave
 - i. At this point, planning on a return to class next fall
 - ii. SIDES and KELSET VPs announced (other staffing in COPACS President's report - see below)
 - iii. 2020/21 School Year Survey
 1. ~900 responses
 2. Findings will be shared at the Board meeting next week
 3. Dave will report back at the June COPACS meeting

4. 5 general questions asked
- iv. Discussion
 1. Survey
 2. Vaccination clinics? Not sure yet
 3. Music programs - no cuts
 4. Staff vaccinations - need subs and in some cases delayed appointments 2 weeks ago. No "failure to fill" last week. No staff clinics anticipated.
- b. Timothy Dunford - Chair of Board
 - i. 1982 COPACS was created, before Province established DPACs. Several of current and past trustees were past chairs of COPACS.
 - ii. Return to school
 1. Appreciation of collaboration
 2. Reflected on experience from last year
 - iii. Budget
 1. The central focus of the Board
 2. Special budget meeting
 3. Budget priorities survey
 4. Acknowledged leadership by Jason Reid
 5. Priorities noted
 6. Other needs - Counsellors
 7. Working with limited funds, further work on other needs after enrollment numbers
 8. Will likely adopt budget next week
 9. Unfunded cost pressure of \$273k from the provincially negotiated wage increases.
 10. Strategic Plan is in play - early 2022
 11. Questions:
 - a. Funding. Staffing ratios set in collective agreement, additional support staff (18 FTEs).
 - b. Fixed versus variable costs. Waiting for new funding formula. There are grants available for northern districts or funding protection for districts with declining enrollment. Grants in March each year, well into budgeting process.
 - c. Provincial funding release? Not this fiscal.
- c. Teri Vanwell
 - i. Report on the BC Trustees Association (BCSTA) AGM
 1. 3 days in length
 2. Heard from Jennifer Whiteside, the new Minister of Education
 3. Guest speaker was Carol James - former BCSTA Chair, and SD61 Trustee
 4. SD34 (Abbotsford) Superintendent - rethinking educational inequity
 5. 42 motions

- a. Funding
 - b. Foundation Skills Assessment - 3 motions, 1 eliminated
- 5. Executive updates
 - a) President
 - a. Craig read the Presidents Report (see below)
 - b) Vice Presidents
 - a. Liz: Special budget meeting
 - i. Restoring contingency
 - ii. Special programs (noted by Trustee)
 - iii. Elementary custodial support
 - iv. SD63 will maintain program stability for next year, but tapping into reserve
 - b. James: District Committees. The board has 3 standing committees that meet every month and report back at that regular Board meeting.
 - i. Finance, Facilities and Technology
 - ii. Policy
 - iii. Education Directions - COPACS has a formal seat on this committee
 - c. Liz: Education Directions Committee
 - i. Mental distress in staff.
 - ii. Wait times long for students needing assistance
 - iii. Fallout from pandemic in year ahead
 - iv. Social media - access to drugs at front door
 - v. SIDES is hoping to be designated as one of the Provincial Online Service Providers (POSP) so that it can continue to provide distance education. The ministry will reduce the number of schools across the province providing distance education from 50 to 5 or in the new POSP model to be implemented in the next year or two. 85% of SIDES students are enrolled from outside of the District.
 - vi. New Criminology course for grade 12
 - c) Treasurer
 - a. Budget update
 - b. Year end report ready by June
 - d) Board Committee Rep
 - a. Parkland Track. Fundraising efforts for a new track have fallen short of targets. The track committee has revised its proposal for a less ambitious project. The Secretary Treasurer is recommending delaying any final decisions until early 2022
 - b. White Road nature daycare. The district is hoping to resubmit funding proposal when new opportunities arise hopefully in the fall
 - c. Elementary school growth- Boundary Review preliminary results looks good as population growth in the South zone schools is manageable. May need to add a division at Sidney due to projected enrollment.
- 6. Old business
 - a. Update on Food Insecurity Working Group

- i. Ad Hoc working group - James Taylor (COPACS/Claremont), Marie Fish (Kelset) and Dr. Eileen Pepler
 - ii. Wrote a letter to Victoria School District regarding proposed cuts to meal programs
 - iii. Working to engage the Capital Regional District (CRD)
 - iv. discussion on delivery program from Sidney Food Bank to Brentwood, Bayside
 - v. Keating Cares has a program through the PAC
 - vi. James will come back next month with a motion to COPACS if need be, to clarify the role and status of the working group.
 - vii. COPACS members will go back to their PACs to seek further input on what is occurring for meal programs in their schools
 - b. BCCPAC AGM resolution on unfunded inflationary pressures
 - i. James mentioned advocacy on unfunded wage increases and unfunded inflation costs by Sd 62 (Sooke) trustees and the BCSTA. Updated attempt by COPACS to pass a motion at the BCCPAC AGM
 - 1. Suggested using the BCCPAC online DPAC forum to reach out to other DPACs
 - ii. Andrew: We will prepare a letter with data from District staff, share draft with COPACs Executive, send to Minister before August, and copy Victoria and Sooke DPACS
7. New business-- none
8. Adjournment 8:57pm

May President's Report

Welcome to the second last meeting of the year!

Highlights and mentionables from the last month;

- The Keating Fly Over Project was mentioned at the last board meeting with a motion passed with recommendation to include Ministry of Education in communications with Ministry of Transportation. Motion was to address pedestrian walkways and safety concerns about redirected traffic.
- Another motion was passed to expand ILC (broadmead location) to support and accommodate venerable student needs and increasing enrolment. The renewed lease is a 5 year lease. (5 year lease means better rates.
- International student fees will be increasing effective sept 2022
- At the public budget meeting, parents were asked a series of questions, as well as given a survey to help the board identify how funds should be allocated. Parents identified their biggest concerns were around sustainable enhanced cleaning protocols in schools in the 2021-2022 school year, as well as loss of learning.
- Administration appointments are as follows as per Superintendent Dave Eberwein;
- **Principal – North Saanich Middle School**– David Mark has been appointed to Principal at NSMS. David is currently Vice-Principal at Royal Oak Middle School and comes to his new role with a wealth of administrative experience at all three Saanich middle schools.
- **Principal – SIDES**– Sean Hayes has been appointed to Principal at SIDES. Sean is currently Vice-Principal at SIDES (2019) and also has other administrative experience at the secondary school level.
- **Principal – KĒLSET Elementary School**– Tassie Harris has been appointed as Principal at KĒLSET Elementary School. Tassie comes to Saanich from Vancouver where she has been Principal at Thunderbird Elementary School since 2018. Her previous administrative roles along with her experience as an Inclusion Resource Teacher provide her with an outstanding background and skill set for our district. Her reputation is one of collaboration and community involvement, all within a focus of supporting student success in diverse communities
- **Administrative Transfers**

The Board of Education also approved the following administrative transfers effective August 2021:

- *Vice-Principal – Royal Oak Middle School* – Sara Postlethwaite has been appointed to Vice-Principal at ROMS. Sara has been VP at Sidney Elementary since 2018 and is returning to middle school where she began her teaching career.
- *Vice-Principal - KĒLSET Elementary School* – Philip Jungen has been appointed to Vice-Principal at KĒLSET. Philip has been VP at Keating Elementary since 2017 as well as a previous assignment as VP at Deep Cove Elementary.
- *Vice-Principal – Lochside Elementary School* – Leila Sinclair-Wise has been appointed to Vice-Principal at Lochside. Leila has been VP at KĒLSET Elementary since 2017 and has previously taught at a number of other Saanich SD elementary schools.
- *Vice-Principal – Keating Elementary School* – Joan O’Leary has been appointed to Vice-Principal at Keating. Joan has been VP at Lochside Elementary since 2012 and is returning to Keating where she taught for many years.

Congratulations to all candidates. I had the pleasure of being apart of the interview panel on most of these interviews and can say with confidence that we are very fortunate to welcome each and every successful candidate!

- We had our second SPAC meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to review our data, and to begin identifying our goals. The committee saw presentations on current initiatives in our schools (“our data story”) During conversation, FSA. testing was referenced and data was shown that Indigenous students are doing far worse now on FSA testing then in past years. Further investigation into this data is required. It was noted interpretation of data varies due to unforeseen variables. Next meeting will tackle how to target areas for improvement.
- During the Special Budget meeting, a surplus of funds was indicated. The trustees identified a need for additional mental health supports for students in the 2021-2022 school year. As well as additional enhanced cleaning protocols for elementary students, and a loss of learning identified by students. Please see the attached briefing document for more information.
- Lastly, a huge win for parents was at at this years BCCPAC AGM. Shortly before the meeting was set to begin, it was announced that resolutions submitted by PACS and DPACS would not be reviewed due to a lack of time. This item was debated on heavily and ultimately paused until the end of the day. After the meeting had ended the members of COPACS and other districts put together a motion to vote on having an Extraordinary Meeting to hear resolutions put forward by PACS and DPACS. The motion was carried voted on and passed! We are now waiting on a date for said meeting. BCCPAC election results and resolution results can be found here <https://bccpac.bc.ca/images/Documents/Resources/AGM/2021-AGM-Results.pdf>

In closing as always, thank you for your continued support and advocacy on behalf of our children.

Monique