



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

CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS OF SAANICH

## **Executive Meeting Minutes**

September 13, 2012 – 7:00 pm

**District Resource Centre**  
6843 Central Saanich Road

Attending: Nancy Borden, Cathy Fountas, Steve Cooper, Barb Schultz, Sarah Ommundsen, Martine Lunke, Heather Carley, Tom Niemann; James Taylor.

### 1) Welcome and introductions:

The executive members introduced themselves and shared their goals and dreams for our schools for the year to come. These ideas and aspirations included:

- Build good school communities, where each child feels at ease, and where the relations between the parents, teachers and students are harmonious
- See the diversity of learners accommodated in the district
- Promote better communication with the teachers
- Providing resources and workshops for parents
- Better address the needs of children with learning or physical disabilities, better match the qualifications of education assistants with the needs of the particular child they are helping, change hiring practices so that people with particular skills can be hired to help specific children, for example hire a person fluent in sign language to help a deaf child. Bring these issues to the forefront in the district and in the province.
- Improve children safety by better addressing issues such as bullying, abuse, neglect.
- Create a shift in thinking in the district, by addressing questions such as : what kind of life are we educating children with learning disabilities for? What can they achieve? Encourage SD63 to hire some staff with developmental disabilities.
- Bring families facing similar issues together
- Educate parents on the issues surrounding funding for public education in British Columbia.
- Provide a platform for meaningful exchanges between parent leaders at COPACS meetings. Take the time for PACs to share their successes but also the challenges they are facing. Provide a safe and supportive environment to discuss challenges. Make part of the COPACS meetings more grassroots.
- Improve the integration of international students with Canadian students and facilitate meaningful exchanges between the two. Take advantage of the incredible resource that international students from around the world represent, to expand the mind of Canadian students. Create programs or platforms that allow for this meaningful exchange to take place.
- Pay special attention also to the high-achieving or gifted children, so that they can remain engaged and fulfill their potential.
- Community, engagement, advocacy.

### 2) Approval of the agenda:

Motion put forward by Cathy Fountas, seconded by Barb Schultz, motion carried

3) Approval of the minutes from the June 13, 2012 meeting:

Motion put forward by Cathy Fountas, seconded by Steve Cooper. Motion carried

4) Reports from COPACS executive:

**President: Nancy Borden:**

The chairs of the SD61 and SD62 would like to attend a COPACS meeting to talk about the Southern Vancouver Island Parent Conference. Nancy will invite them to come to the November Meeting. Nancy will also follow up with the Deep Cove PAC to see if their planned evening of information on the teachers job action is going ahead on September 19, in light of the new developments during the summer.

**Treasurer : Tom Niemann:**

COPACS currently has \$ 4973.29 in the general account, and \$ 5092.59 in the Gaming account. Tom suggested that we strive to have a similar balance in the accounts at the end of the year. It was suggested that we first track the year-end balances from the past 5 years to see if we are accumulating money instead of spending it on parent education and other programs. Tom will track the relevant data and report at the next meeting. The executive will then discuss what an appropriate year-end balance should be.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.