



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

CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS OF SAANICH

General Meeting Minutes

Nov 1, 2012 – 7:00 pm

District Resource Centre
6843 Central Saanich Road
Victoria BC V8Z 5V4

Attendees:

COPACS Executive: Nancy Borden, Martine Lunke, Tom Niemann, Barb Schultz, James Taylor, Heather Carley, Sarah Ommundsen.

PAC delegates and parents: Melissa Drolet, Jennifer Langard, Amanda Hippolt, Steve Cooper.

Board Office: Nancy McDonald.

Board of Education: Jim Standen, Tim Dunford.

CUPE: Dean Coates

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: 1) Melissa Drolet, 2) Sarah Ommundsen. Motion passed.

3) Approval of the minutes from the October 4, 2012 meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes. 1) Barb Schultz, 2) Amanda Hippolt. Motion passed.

4) Reports from COPACS executive

a. President: Nancy Borden

The Policy 1100 meeting was very well attended and productive. Thank you to all the parents, COPACS executive members and teachers who attended.

The Graduation Requirements meeting will take place on Thursday Nov 8 from 4 to 7 pm at SG Willis school. Six parents from the district have signed up to attend.

b. Board Committee Reps: Barb Schultz, James Taylor.

There have been no new meetings since the last COPACS meeting, so the reports will be submitted and discussed in December.

c. Treasurer Tom Niemann

The signing authority has officially been transferred to the new executive. The \$2,500 grant from BC Gaming has been received. COPACS now has a total of \$12,565.96 in its accounts, with \$3,400 of commitments against that.

5) Reports from CUPE: Dean Coates

CUPE and SD63 have successfully negotiated a letter of understanding regarding CUPE staff compensation as it relates to the Spring closure.

A letter of understanding is also being negotiated on the use of the Learning Improvement Fund to improve staffing. Many additional educational assistants have been hired and, as a result, the replacement list has been absorbed. This could lead to a shortage of replacements. Additional funds have been allocated to EAs to recognize unpaid work. CUPE is hoping for the establishment of education standards for EAs throughout BC.

6) Reports from the Saanich Teachers Association-Sean Hayes-regrets

7) Reports from Board Office- Nancy McDonald

Part of the Learning Improvement Fund is being used to hire more Educational Assistants and to provide each EA with 30 minutes a week of paid time after school hours to communicate with teachers, do some planning and attend IEP meetings.

There is a shortage of Educational Assistants and the student need is high. Camosun College offers a year-long program with 30 seats. Another program at SG Willis has been cancelled. SD63 is working on offering its own EA program.

The province's new Smartphone anti-bullying app is expected to come out before Christmas. Students will be able to report bullying anonymously: the information will go directly to the administration of the appropriate school. SD63's Threat Assessment Protocol is almost ready and there will be a meeting to review it with the various community partners. The School safety teams are being assembled according to ERASE. There seems to be a heightened awareness of the issue of bullying after the tragic death of Amanda Todd, with an increased number of communications to the School Board on this issue.

The Education Directions Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Monday November 5 at 7 pm in the Learning Commons room of Claremont school. There will be a presentation from the innovation team and reports from all the ongoing pilot projects in the school district. The researchers from the University of Victoria who are attached to each pilot project will be present. It is an open meeting and all interested parents can attend.

8) Report from the School Board: Jim Standen.

The work of the Education Directions Committee is critical to the school board and having committee of the whole meetings in the evenings will allow more people to participate. SD63 has obtained permission to devolve the property on which the old North Saanich Middle School was located. The property will be subdivided and sold, bringing some much needed capital funds to the school district.

The provincial government is doing a review of the bargaining process and the school board has been asked to provide comments on behalf of the school district.

9) Old Business

Response re: motion put forward last month on special needs bussing. The motion was presented at the last school board meeting. The Chair of the Board has committed to providing a response, but has not done so yet.

10) New Business:

It would be useful to have some money allocated for parent education that could be used for things that come up between COPACS meetings.

A motion was put forward by Sarah Ommundsen, seconded by Barb Schultz, to allocate \$500 for parent education, to pay for speakers or refreshments. The motion was passed.
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Royal Oak Middle School is interested in organizing a parent education night on cyber-bullying. This event would include students in grades 5 to 9 and their parents/guardians. There would first be a presentation and then the students and parents would be separated for additional discussions. The details are still being worked out. There was also mention of inviting Darren Laur of Personal Protection Systems to give a talk, in which case the event would probably have to be postponed until February.

A motion was put forward that Sarah Ommundsen support Brenda Chan-Popham of ROMS in booking Darren Laur for a parent education night.

1. Sarah Ommundsen, 2. Melissa Drolet. Motion passed

Heather Carley would like SD63 to do more work on the power of language in the schools. She has heard words such as “retard” or “retarded” used in schools by students and staff, with no consideration given to how hurtful these words can be to some. She suggested that we “spread the word to end the word”. She would like SD63 to have an “exclude none” policy, as opposed to an inclusion policy. Nancy McDonald commented that any initiative should not be limited to one word, as it is likely that there are many other potentially hurtful words in use in schools. She suggested that COPACS could create a sub-committee focused on anti-bullying issues as part of the ERASE process.

Amanda Hippolt reported that the Canadian Parents for French executive would like to be included as a partner at COPACS meetings and at events such as the Policy 1100 meetings and would like to receive a specific invitation to attend as such.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: 1. Heather Carley, 2. James Taylor. Motion passed.