



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

CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS OF SAANICH

General Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2013 – 7:00 pm

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

Attendees:

COPACS Executive: Nancy Borden, Cathy Fountas, Martine Lunke, Tom Niemann, Barb Schultz, James Taylor.

PAC delegates and parents: Melissa Drolet, Angie Walters, Jennifer Langard.
Canadian Parents for French: Kim Currie

Board Office: Keven Elder.

Board of Education: Jim Standen, Helen Parker, Barb Menzies.

CUPE: Dean Coates

STA: Sean Hayes

FORCE: Lisa Tate

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda: Addition of 3a) Presentation by Lisa Tate from the F.O.R.C.E. society for kids' mental health. 1. Barb Schultz, 2. Cathy Fountas, agenda approved as amended.

3) Approval of the minutes from December 6, 2012. Addition under 4, Ed. Directions: Claremont global solutions, Stelly's Project 10. 1. Barb Schultz, 2. Angie. Minutes approved as amended.

3a) Presentation by Lisa Tate on the FORCE society for kids' mental health.

The FORCE society was started by parents who wanted the parent voice better recognized in the health and education systems. There are 22 local reps, who are parents with real-life experience. They mentor other parents, help navigate the systems, find community resources and generally try to empower the parents whose children are dealing with mental health issues. There is a support group called "In the Know" that hosts a parent education evening every month and provides a talk by an expert, which is video streamed in the 22 sites throughout BC. Presentations are also archived and available later on the website. FORCE is also behind the program "Friends for Life", an anti-anxiety program for children used in schools. They have produced a guide to mental health for parents in collaboration with VIHA. They work with school councillors and do information evening in schools. More information is available at www.forcesociety.com.

4) Report from Board Office: Keven Elder.

Keven Elder expressed his appreciation for the involvement of parents in the district and for the positive relationships with CUPE and the STA. SD63 is working in partnership with the local First Nations and has a Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (EA). (According to the

Ministry of Education's website, EAs are working agreements between a school district, all local aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education to enhance the educational achievement of aboriginal students, and include requirements that the school district provide strong programs on culture). More and more schools are embracing the goals of the enhancement agreement. Nancy McDonald is the person in charge of the Threat Assessment Protocol and is coordinating efforts with community partners to enhance student safety.

4b) Report from the School Board: Jim Standen

The budget process is beginning for the 2013-2014 school year. The Board will get into consultations with all the interested parties as soon as they receive the final report from the Secretary-Treasurer. Various consultation meetings will be scheduled.

The Board approved funds for 0.8 FTE Elementary Councillor. School councillors are usually certified psychologists with a Master's or PhD degree.

5) Reports from the Saanich Teachers Association: Sean Hayes

The STA and BCTF are heading back into bargaining with the current teachers contract expiring at the end of the school year. The STA is hoping for a quiet round, both locally and provincially. With the Cooperative Gains Mandate imposed by the government, any salary increase should come out of efficiencies and savings made elsewhere in the budget.

6) Report from CUPE: Dean Coates

Provincial bargaining is under way under the constraints imposed by the Cooperative Gains Mandate. CUPE does not want pay increases for the staff to come at the expense of existing services and programs.

7) Reports from the COPACS executive:

7a) Parent education: Sarah Ommundsen sends her regrets, but would like parents reminded about two upcoming events:

- the Vancouver Island Parent Conference on Saturday February 23 from 8:30 to 4:30 at Spectrum High School. COPACS is happy to be able to fund the registration fees of parents who wish to attend. Please submit your receipts to the COPACS executive. COPACS would appreciate if attending parents could provide some feedback on the conference.
- There is an evening session on Internet Safety presented by Darren Laur on February 19 at Royal Oak Middle School. It is open to all parents.

7b) Board Committee Reps: Barb Schultz and James Taylor. –See attached reports.

Educational Directions:

- ERASE: students can now report bullying anonymously through the school district or school websites. The codes of Conduct are being reviewed by the school district. SD63 believes that they should include consequences for bullies.
- Letters will be going out to parents about the FSA. The exams are mandatory and there are specific conditions under which the students can be exempted. Administrators will call all parents who wish to have their children exempted.

Motion that COPACS request of the Board of Trustees that there be a seat for a parent representative on the District Safe Schools Committee. 1. James Taylor, 2. Barb Schultz. Motion passed.

Finances & Facilities:

The committee recommended to terminate at phase 1 the proposed contract with Fortis Energy, due to ambiguity in terms of safeguards for the interests of the district.

7c) Treasurer: Tom Niemann

We have a total of about \$12,600 in both our accounts, with approximately \$4,600 of commitments against it. We have money to spend and need some good project ideas.

Motion to reimburse each PAC in the district for the cost of a cartridge of toner and a box of paper, up to \$150 per school, in order to facilitate communication with the parents. 1. Melissa Drolet, 2. Cathy Fountas. Motion passed.

Motion to provide up to \$150 for refreshments for the information night "Anxiety in Children and Youth" at Claremont. 1. Barb Schultz, 2. Melissa Drolet. Motion passed.

A suggestion was made that COPACS start a safety campaign involving buying whistles for young girls walking alone, after a couple of incidents in which young girls were approached by a man around a local school. It was decided that further research needed to be done as to how effective such a campaign would be and what other effects such a campaign might have on schools and students.

The education partners (School Board, School Admin, STA and CUPE) were released from the meeting at 8:05 and the remainder of the meeting was conducted with only COPACS executives and parent reps in attendance.

President: Nancy Borden

Concerns were raised at the last COPACS meeting about how the feedback collected on the week of school closure in the Spring was reported out to the School Board. Nancy expressed her concerns that the breakdown of the respondents in categories (parents versus staff, etc) was not clearly communicated to the Board. The great majority of respondents were staff of SD63, and their concerns would differ from those of the parent population at large, possibly skewing the results of the survey. She read out an e-mail from Keven Elder that was written following this meeting. Nancy asked for the backing of COPACS to present a response from COPACS at the next Board meeting, in the form of a document titled "Feedback on Feedback", which was circulated and discussed. This document is intended as positive constructive suggestions on how to better solicit and report feedback from the school community. Several suggestions were made to alter the document.

Motion that Nancy Borden re-work the "Feedback on Feedback" document and incorporate the suggestions made at the meeting, and send it via e-mail to the executive and COPACS reps for feedback and approval prior to presenting it at the Board meeting. 1. Barb Schultz, 2. James Taylor. Motion passed.

Cathy Fountas has produced a document entitled "2013-14 School Year Proposed Calendar – Impact Analysis", which includes data from Census Canada 2011, Census Canada 2006 and the Cost of Living Calculator from the Welcome BC website. This document hopes to provide data on demographics and financial earnings of families in the Saanich School district and inform the Board as they make decisions on the week of School Closure in Spring, considering that the decision for 2014 has to be made before the impact of the closure in 2013 can be assessed. The document was distributed.

Motion to present the document "2013-14 School Year Proposed Calendar – Impact Analysis" to the School Board to help inform their decision regarding the proposed one-week school closure in the Spring of 2014. 1. Nancy Borden, 2. James Taylor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

