



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

CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS OF SAANICH

General Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2013 – 7:00 pm

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

Attendees:

COPACS Executive: Nancy Borden, Martine Lunke, Tom Niemann, James Taylor, Sarah Ommundsen, Steve Cooper.

PAC delegates and parents: Melissa Drolet, Amanda Hippolt, Petra D'entremont, Rachel Calder.
Canadian Parents for French: Heather Van Campen.

Board Office: Keven Elder.

Board of Education: Tim Dunford, Wayne Hunter.

CUPE: Dean Coates

STA: Sean Hayes

SIDES: Holly Mair,

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda: 1. Sarah Ommundsen, 2. Amanda Hippolt. Motion passed.

3) Approval of the minutes from January 10, 2013: Add under Attendees, Board of Education: Tim Dunford. Motion to approve the minutes: 1. Melissa Drolet, 2. Amanda Hippolt. Minutes approved as amended.

4) Guest speaker: Holly Mair - SIDES (distributed learning program).

SIDES is offering full-time and part-time programs. Total enrolment is about 4,000 students, of which 1000 are full-time. Many students take one or two courses through SIDES to accommodate their timetables. There is no cost to these students. SIDES operates year-round with a one-week closure in the Spring and a one-week closure at Christmas. It offers some programs that can't be offered through each neighbourhood school, some of which offer credits for first year university or college. Distance education differs from home schooling because it offers the support of a teacher, provides a defined curriculum and assessments. Some designated students take courses through SIDES with the help of an EA. Most courses are offered on-line, some have printed materials. Children from all over the province are enrolled at SIDES. Some students enrolled in private schools take extra courses through SIDES during the summer, some students keep up with their studies while hospitalized, etc. Many are adults upgrading their education. Courses are offered from K to 12. At the present time, the Ministry of Education allocates per-course funding for students in grades 10 to 12, so they are able to take a subset of their courses through distance education. Funding for K to 9 is on a full-time attendance basis. Plans are in the works to make new rules so that students in K to 9 can also take a course at SIDES without fees.

- SIDES Open House on February 20, 2013, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at 4575 Wilkinson Rd.
- Information Session that will highlight the opportunities and assistance available for students with special needs after high school, on Wednesday February 27th, 2013, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the SIDES Beaver Lake Campus, 4828 West Saanich Rd.

5) Saanich Teachers' Association: Sean Hayes

Bargaining began on Monday provincially and will begin locally within a month. The BCTF and BCPSEA have negotiated a framework agreement for bargaining which contains the following elements: 1) there will be a facilitator present during the entire process, 2) Bargaining will begin earlier, 3) Both sides will develop an agreed statement of facts, and 4) more items will be moved back to the local bargaining level. The BCTF and BCPSEA were 2 days away from signing the agreement when the Ministry of Education issued their new 10-year plan. The BCTF and BCPSEA are currently operating under their agreement and waiting for discussions with the Ministry of Education.

6) CUPE: Dean Coates

CUPE employees have been without a contract since July 1st. Bargaining has been ongoing since November with virtually no progress. The Government insists on the net zero mandate, which would mean another wage freeze, in addition to the wage freeze from years past. Local level bargaining is about to start.

7) Reports from COPACS Executive

a. President: Nancy Borden

- The Vancouver Island Parent Conference is sold out. There are only 12 parents from SD63 registered that we know of. Anybody who still wants to attend will be put on a waiting list.
- The new COPACS website is up and running and working well, but looking a bit bland, as the technical staff of SD63 usually contracts the web design out. Nancy would like instead to have a contest in the high schools to make banners for the website. The prize money would go to the technical department of the winning school(s).

Motion to provide \$450 for prizes (\$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$50 for third place) for a contest in which secondary schools in the district would create banners for the COPACS website. 1. Nancy Borden, 2. Tom Niemann, Motion approved.

b. Board committee Rep: James Taylor

The full minutes from the committee meetings were distributed and are filed with the minutes. The Policy Development Committee discussed the letter from COPACS dated January 14, 2013, "Suggestions for collecting feedback from partner groups".

Also of interest, Lochside Elementary is requesting an exemption from policy 3130 "use of technology and information systems", which currently states that "there will be no Wi-Fi in elementary schools".

The Finance and Facilities Committee anticipates that SD63 could face a deficit for up to \$2.5M next year, as they anticipate the funding protection for districts with declining enrolment to be reduced.

C. Treasurer: Tom Niemann

We have money to spend: \$12,431.51 in both accounts, with interest accumulating...well...rather slowly! A few pennies here and there.

d. Parent Education: Sarah Ommundsen

- “ Internet/Social Media Safety and Digital Citizenship For Parents” by Darren Laur to take place on February 19, 2013 at 7 pm in the band room at ROMS. Please help spread the word. \$500 had been approved previously for this event: \$400 for the speaker’s fee and \$100 to provide refreshments and print posters.
- Presentation on Early Literacy by Colleen Politano, on March 5 at Prospect Lake school.

Motion to spend \$100 to purchase a gift card from a local book store for Coleen Politano. 1. Sarah Ommundsen, 2. James Taylor. Motion passed.

- A presentation by Steven Newlove on Restorative Justice is scheduled for April 23, 2013.

Motion to approve \$100 for a gift card for Steven Newlove. 1. Sarah Ommundsen, 2. Melissa Drolet. Motion passed.

- Sarah would like to have Allison Rees do a presentation of “Sidestepping the power struggle” some time in May.

Motion to spend \$500 for the speaker fee for Allison Rees. 1. Sarah Ommundsen, 2. Melissa Drolet. Motion passed.

There had already been \$500 approved at a prior meeting for parent education. Sarah is planning to use some of it to provide refreshments for all these events.

Motion to explore the possibility of organizing Math Information Night for Parents, geared to the elementary and middle school levels. 1. Sarah Ommundsen, 2. Melissa Drolet. Motion passed.

8) Report from the Board Office: Keven Elder

The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement is at the end of its first 5 years, and will be renewed with the same 3 goals in a few weeks. It is making a real difference in the district and is promoting cultural awareness throughout all the schools, all the time.

The Threat Assessment Protocol will be signed on February 18. It is designed to be upstream of challenges that may occur.

The budget process for the 2013-2014 school year has begun. SD63 will remain in funding protection for up to 98.5% of the previous budget, which is a decrease (funding protection used to be for 100% of the previous year). We are still expecting a decline in enrolment so there should be a shortfall of \$1.2 to \$1.3M. The Board has an unrestricted surplus for about the same amount that could be applied to the shortfall. The wisdom of depleting the savings will have to be weighed against the public perception issue of the district holding on to a surplus.

The Showcases in secondary schools are going on, with Claremont’s event happening tonight. SD63 is having a successful Kindergarten registration week. Ads in local newspaper are targeting children who live in the district, not those from neighbouring districts. The aim is to convince families to use the public education system rather than private schools or home schooling.

The external auditing team is coming to SD63 to audit the programs for children with special needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.