



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

CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS OF SAANICH

General Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2013 – 7:00 pm

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

Attendees:

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

PAC delegates and parents: Melissa Drolet
Canadian Parents for French: Kim Currie.

Board Office: Nancy McDonald

Board of Education: Wayne Hunter, Tim Dunford, Jim Standen, Barb Menzies.

CUPE: Dean Coates

Guest: Doug Mollard, school counsellor at ROMS.

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Approval of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda: 1) Barb Schultz, 2) Sarah Ommundsen. Motion passed.

3) Approval of the minutes from the March 6, 2013 meeting. On page 2 Doug Mollard's name was misspelled and needs to be corrected. Motion to approve the agenda as amended: 1) Cathy Fountas, 2) Barb Schultz. Motion passed.

4) Guest speaker: Doug Mollard, school counsellor at ROMS, on small learning communities

Although the school district has been focusing a lot lately on threat assessments and response to critical incidents, many of these occurrences could be avoided by creating safe learning environments. What is fraying our communities and how is this affecting our children? How can we build better communities? About 15% of children have mental health issues, most often depression or anxiety. Long term studies have shown that children from alcoholic family backgrounds were more resilient and fared much better in life if they had a trusting relationship with adults and were somewhat sociable. How can we incorporate this knowledge to create better school environments?

In the traditional high school model, students move from department to department for each class, and teachers stay in their respective sections, which prevents them from communicating with one another. Royal Oak Middle School has tried to do things differently. It used to have 750 students, including about 250 Grade 8 students, all in one group. That made it difficult for the teachers and staff to understand the social dynamics. When the school was renovated the student population was divided in two floors, and each floor into two distinct areas with student supports located in the middle. As a result, there are now 4 smaller groups of students in each grade, making it much easier for the adults to know the students better and be more involved. Doug Mollard would like to explore ways to move beyond what has been done so far and create better learning communities in our schools. He would like to bring an expert with more knowledge

in, to see what is being done elsewhere in the world. Nancy McDonald and the school trustees expressed interest in pursuing this further. This expert could come and work with the teachers on a Pro-D day during the next school year and possibly do a presentation for parents in the evening. A parent component would be very important from COPACS's point of view. One possible expert would be Diana Oxley from the University of Oregon.

5) Reports from the COPACS executive

a. President's report: Nancy Borden

The BCCPAC AGM and Spring Conference is coming up, from May 3 - 5 in Vancouver. We would like to encourage PACs and parents to attend.

Motion to allocate up to \$1,000 to cover the registration fees and accommodation of 2 parents to attend the BCCPAC conference. 1) Nancy Borden, 2) Heather Carley. Motion passed.

Heather Carley brought to our attention that there will be a Special Education Parent Network organized by BCCPAC, to take place in Nanaimo on April 20.

Motion to allocate up to \$500 for the registration fees and travel expenses of parents who wish to attend the Special Education Parent Network. 1) Heather Carley, 2) Sarah Ommundsen. Motion passed.

Nancy Borden will send out the relevant information to all the PACs.

b. Board Committee Rep: Barb Schultz

There were no Board Committee meetings since the last COPACS meeting, so there is no report.

c. Treasurer: Tom Niemann

No exact numbers were submitted, but the situation is very much the same as it was at the last COPACS meeting: we have money to spend. Tom suggested that COPACS allocate some funds to bring in a speaker on smaller school communities, but it was decided that this should be done at a later meeting.

6) Report from the Board Office: Nancy McDonald

A feedback consultation meeting (including administrators, teachers and Nancy Borden) took place to talk about creating a potential new policy on how to gather and interpret parent feedback. It was agreed that a new policy was required and that it should be separate from the Parent Involvement Policy. A first step would be to go and see what other districts are doing in this area. This process could be initiated now and proceed into the Fall. CUPE, the STA and the community at large should be involved.

SD63 is moving into the Spring staffing season. The principalship at Keating Elementary, and the vice-principalship at Deep Cove Elementary are open due to retirements. COPACS would like some form of PAC/parent involvement in selecting the new principals/ vice-principals. CPF would also like an opportunity to provide feedback in the process.

Local bargaining and provincial bargaining are happening, with a number of meetings scheduled throughout the Spring.

The Innovation Team's work will be coming to Ed Directions, featuring a video to document, showcase and share innovative ideas.

The School Communities Budget Meeting took place yesterday at Bayside Middle School. There were not as many parents attending as expected. Monica Shulte, the Board's secretary-treasurer

did a presentation on the figures. There is a 1.3M surplus that could be used next year to reduce the cutbacks on programs. There will be a second public meeting on April 24 at 7 pm , also at Bayside.

7) Reports from the STA: Sean Hayes – regrets

Sean Hayes is speaking at the University of Victoria tonight.

8) Reports from CUPE: Dean Coates

Province-wide strike votes are taking place and the results will be announced some time in the next two months. Saanich just finished its strike vote today. The turnout was high at about 50%. CUPE's fight is with the Provincial Government, not with the district. Even with a strike mandate there would be no job action in June, but possibly in September.

There will be a last meeting with BCPSEA on April 11, and then things will be put on hold until after the provincial elections.

9) Old Business

COPACS banner contest: Three entries were received for the COPACS banner contest. The banner designs were distributed. COPACS will need to double-check that the art work is original and does not include potentially copyright –protected clip art. We will vote for the winning banner at the next COPACS meeting in May.

Calendar feedback: Cathy Fountas created a new survey asking parents for feedback about the impact of the extended Spring Break. The questionnaire was distributed and suggestions were made to change some of the questions.

The All Candidates meetings organized by COPACS and the STA will take place on May 3 and 4. Melissa Drolet agreed to take charge of coordinating it with the STA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.



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Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2013 – 8:40 pm

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Because of the low turnout at the meeting and the shortage of candidates to fill various key positions, it was decided to postpone the AGM and the election of the new executive until next month, so that COPACS can contact all the member PACs and encourage them to attend.

Motion to postpone the AGM to May 2. 1) Tom Niemann, 2) Melissa Drolet. Motion passed.