



Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils of Saanich

**General Meeting Minutes
Sept 4, 2014**

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

COPACs Executive Present: James Taylor (*President*), Melissa Drolet (*1st Vice President*), Jen Langard (*Treasurer*), Janice Putter (*Secretary*), Heather Carley (*Diversability Rep*), Christine Etele (*Communications Coordinator*).

PAC Delegates, Parents and Guests: Jon Waters, Tara Houle, Wayne Spencer, Heather Spencer, Kelly Hoffmann, Teri Vanwell, Jill Shaw, Luanne Richardson, Keely Kastrokoff, Kelly Perry, Stef Hutchison, Jamie Disbrow, Barb Collombin, Lynn Works, Penny Malinowski, Jenny Eastman, Anita Blakley, Caitria Mason, Roland Tscheiniy, Tracey Rompain, Tracy Lawrence, Martine Lunke, Corinne Deshau, Jodi Holland, Laura Veasey, April Fisher, Kim Currie, Christine Malmberg, Ina Smith, Karin Johnston.

Board Office: Keven Elder (*Superintendent*)

Board of Education: Wayne Hunter (*Board Chair*), Jim Standen (*Vice Chair*), Tim Dunford (*Trustee*), Barb Menzies (*Trustee*), Helen Parker (*Trustee*).

Saanich Teacher's Association: Mark Skanks (*President*).

1. Call to Order: 7:04 by James Taylor
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. **Motion** to approve agenda 1. Nancy Borden 2. Melissa Drolet. **Motion passed.**
4. **Motion** to approve minutes 1. Melissa Drolet 2. Christine Etele. **Motion passed.**

5. Report from COPACS Board Committee Rep: Postponed until Oct 7th, 2014
6. Report from COPACS Treasurer – Jen Langard
 - a. We have applied for a gaming grant this year. (\$2500)
 - b. General Account Balance: \$4089.39
 - c. We use the money mainly for parent education—right now, the Parent Ed position at COPACS is open if anyone is interested. Also, if anyone has some great parent education ideas, please email copacssd63@gmail.com.
7. Report from COPACS president – James Taylor
 - a. James attended the BC BCCPAC Emergency Summit Meeting. (on the current labour dispute and teacher strike) The general consensus was that parents want a negotiated settlement, want the kids in school, want more resources for school, and a “place at the table” to contribute ideas to educational partners.
 - b. What is the parents/guardians role in this dispute? Instead of being forced to take sides, rather take a third side, parents as advocates for kids, focus on the learning needs of all kids in the classroom. Parents have knowledge and expertise, and need to contribute their ideas.
 - c. John Bird—Had an idea to move from the current top down model, (having a set amount of money and fitting it to the needs of the kids), to a bottom up model, where you document the needs of all the kids, and then go to the ministry with what the needs are and how much money is needed.
 - d. James gave a quote: “Acknowledgement is the beginning of action.”
8. Report from Board Office – Keven Elder (*Superintendent*)
 - a. Keven is back as superintendent after being seconded to the BCPSEA for the past year.
 - b. He gave a brief talk on the current labour dispute, stressing that the role of district management is to be advocates for children and education, with a common purpose as managers and leaders: “Every success for every child all the time.” The job right now is to focus on relationships at the local level to be ready for when school is back in session, to keep good working relationships, through regular communication. Saanich is a strong community.
9. Report from Saanich Teachers’ Association – Mark Skanks
 - a. The transition back to school will be good when it happens; there is no rift locally between employers and employees.
 - b. On behalf of the union, his position is that by staying on strike they are protecting a victory (the Griffin ruling) to secure resources for the classrooms.

- c. Right now the original “class size and composition” language is legally restored in the contract but is on hold while the matter is being appealed in the courts.
- d. The E80 proposal would replace all class size and composition language going forward so the appeal case wouldn’t matter. In the union’s eyes this remedy is insufficient.

10. Report from CUPE – Dean Coates – regrets

11. Report from Board of Education – Wayne Hunter (*Board Chair*)

- a. 20 million dollars has fallen off the budget in the last 15 years, which is an ongoing concern.
- b. Trustees are a part of BCPSEA, and aim to be positioned to be very positive and supportive when this is all over. This district has built up a lot of trust that keeps us going in a positive direction. Trustees currently in place are excellent. Trustees support parents, teachers, administrators, and also have a role in providing advice to the government. Hopeful that parent groups may gain leverage in this battle. Parent groups have been very supportive and good relationships are being maintained throughout the district.
- c. Elections are coming up for Trustee positions.

12. Old Business

13. New Business

- a. Brainstorming session about strike and issues surrounding it. Main ideas: Kids need to be in school, Parents need to support each other, to share information and resources, maybe plan a district wide information meeting.
- b. COPACS is sharing information through their website and new Facebook page. Look up *Confederation of Parents Advisory Council of Saanich* on Facebook in order to like the page.
- c. Lynn Works made a **motion** for Copacs to plan a meeting to provide information and support for children and parents. Martine Lunke **seconded, all approved** and the **motion passed**.
- d. Next meeting will be October 2nd, at 7:00.

14. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.