

COPACS

Confederation of Parents' Advisory Councils of Saanich

Individual Learning Centre, 1649 Mt Newton Cross Rd, Saanichton, BC

May Meeting

May 9th, 2019 7 – 9 pm

Attendees

In Person - Phil Molloy, Ceilidh Fear, Niki McIlveen, Ashley Sonosky, James Taylor, Monique Hiltz, Kelly Hoffman; School reps (names not recorded)

1 Welcome

Ashley Sonosky welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined the structure of the evening: monthly meeting followed by the annual general meeting (AGM). Ashley also acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples and the traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ peoples.

2 Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved

3 Presentation on Cyber Security by Saanich School District

Cody Henschel presented on the cyber security work done by the School District's IT team. His presentation covered the methods used to filter websites; differences among schools in the strength of their filtering; how filtering works; upgrades to the systems hardware; and the enhanced cyber security services (ECS) project the District recently completed.

3.1 Web filtering

Web filtering is controlled by the School District centrally; it is not controlled by each school. The School District received several 'black lists' of websites from trusted providers. The websites on these lists are filtered out so that anyone on the District's network cannot see these.

A District-wide assessment of internet filtering levels was completed and a stringent filtering system was applied similarly across all schools. However, Lochside now has more stringent YouTube filtering, since teachers from every school *except* Lochside had complained that the filtering was too severe and was impeding education. As such, the filtering strength in all other schools *except* Lochside was slightly lowered; Lochside's remained very high.

Filtering of images and videos on search engines has improved recently; however, the assessment mentioned above was completed before these improvements. Previously, even if Google blocked a website for inappropriate content, thumbnails of pictures on that website could be previewed on Google Images. This situation has improved as IT Departments now have more control to override search engines' default settings. Nevertheless, in theory – a nefarious and dedicated student *could* find a work-around.

3.2 The Enhanced Cyber-security Services Project

The ECS project was subcontracted by the District to Deloitte to review the status of the School District's IT infrastructure. The report, which will be available this year, made a series of recommendations, but recognized that even without these improvements SD63 is actually better than most neighbouring SDs and will be roughly twice as good after the upgrades. The main improvements will be to the Districts firewalls.

Cory also explained that the School District provides digital education to schools. The School Districts philosophy is that we use digital tools to support and help teaching.

The School District also promotes safer schools, which includes helping to reduce cyber-bullying. Nevertheless it is hard for the District to identify individual perpetrators of cyberbullying because their identities are masked by encryption software.

4 Reports from our Education Partners

4.1 Update from the School District Assistant Superintendent

Paul McKenzie, the new Assistant SI, introduced himself to attendees. Paul's bio includes:

- 31 years in education
- Former English teacher in Ontario where he was also involved in curriculum development
- Principal at three schools; Vice Principal at four
- Superintendent for 5 years in the Thames Valley, London, ON, where he was involved in developing indigenous programming

His focuses while SI here are: assessment, progress of teaching methods; preparation for the outside world. His philosophy towards technology is: *how does it support these focuses?*

5 Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Minutes approved

6 President's Report

The president provided a report, which will be attached to these notes. Her key points included:

- Summary of district administration appointments
- Summary of current budget
- Summaries of the following meetings:
 - o Trevor Billy – energy manager for the district – on Finance, Facilities and Technology
 - o May Policy Committee meeting
 - o Education Directors Committee Meeting
 - o Summary of the BC confederation of PACs (BCCPAC) convention, Vancouver, May 3-4th.
- Ashley also declared her intention to step down as the COPACs Executive President

7 New Business

No new business.

8 Next Meeting

To be decided in September or October 2019

9 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.