

Meeting Minutes

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

January 16, 2019, 7 – 9 pm

COPACS Executive

- *Monique Hiltz, President*
- *Ceilidh Fear, 1st Vice President*
- *James Taylor, 2nd Vice President*
- *Craig Morton, Treasurer*
- *Phil Molloy Recording Secretary; and voting member for Keating Elementary School*

Education Partners

- *Dave Eberwein, Superintendent*
- *Jason Reid, Secretary Treasurer*
- *Alicia Holman, Trustee*
- *Tim Dunford, Trustee*

School PAC Representatives

- *Shu Franey, Bayside Middle School*
- *Meghan Judson, Kelset Elementary School*
- *Farrah Simpson, Keating Elementary School*
- *Liz Keating, Kelset Elementary School*
- *Marie Fish, Kelset Elementary School*
- *Kelly Hoffmann Stelly's Secondary School; Bayside Middle School*
- *Wendy Bird, Prospect Lake Elementary School*
- *Lisa Gunderson, Royal Oak Middle School*

Additional Attendees

- *Carly Hunter, Guest Presenter from School District 63*

1 Introduction and Territorial Acknowledgement

Monique Hiltz welcomed attendees and recognized that the meeting is taking place on the unceded land of the Coast Salish Peoples and the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

2 Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve proposed by: Phil Molloy; seconded by: Craig Morton

Result: agenda approved

3 Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

An edit to the draft minutes was requested relating to the strike preparedness dossier. Specifically, to add that COPACS won't organize this dossier but will support anyone who wants to lead its development.

Motion to approve amended minutes by Craig Morton; seconded by Monique Hiltz. Result: November minutes approved with described edit.

4 Reports from our Education Partners

4.1 School District

- Recent Inclement Weather. Dave Eberwein acknowledged the work done by the facilities crew to help keep schools accessible and open. Dave also noted that the School District learned a lot from the last year's snowy conditions.
- Efforts taken to mitigate the impact of last year's strike:
 - Lengthened Semester 1
 - Reduced exam period
 - Moved an instructional day to June 5.
- There will be workshops on student transitions for middle school and high school students to discuss the most challenging year-to-year transitions. In particular, the shift from grade 8 to 9 is notoriously difficult.
- Technology upgrade. All technology in 5 elementary schools is being completed first: Lochside, Cordova Bay, Keating, and Sidney have been done; currently doing Brentwood Bay. Other schools will be completed after the elementary schools: middle schools next, followed by the high schools (including SIDES). Intermixed with school upgrades, the Children's Development Centre and the School Board offices will also receive upgrades. The IT team has fine-tuned the upgrade process, so it's now very efficient. The school district is receiving good feedback from the schools that have had updates. The upgrades involve improving existing hardware, adding new hardware, and providing training on the new learning opportunities now available.
- Policy 1100 Meeting. This meeting has been rescheduled from November to February 6th. The focus of the meeting is Indigenous Education and Everyone's Journey Towards Reconciliation.
- Jason Reid summarized the recent growth seen in School District 63 and the district's plan to manage that growth. The growth is driven largely by Kindergarten enrolment, compounded by the recent reduction in maximum class size. The district is undertaking several steps to manage this growth, including:
 - Reviewing the discrepancy between individual school's potential capacity and their utilization,
 - Finding innovative ways to increase capacities (e.g. re-purposing spaces)
 - Adding new features, such as at Prospect Lake Elementary School
 - Reviewing existing school catchment-area boundaries, with a view to better align capacity and demand (in particular, Lochside Elementary, which is currently supporting more student than are in its catchment).

The question was posed, why not use good facilities that are currently being used for other purposes, such as Sansbury and Greenglade? In short, because they are being used for other purposes and/or being leased to other people. Significant funds would be required to bring

those facilities back up to code (e.g. seismic upgrades); those funds are not currently available. The district expects to be able to accommodate growth within 10 years but perhaps not beyond that time period. At that point it may be necessary so may need to reopen other facilities. IT is for reasons such as this that the district is reviewing its long-term facility plan.

4.1.1 Questions for the Superintendent

It was noted that childcare, including out-of-school care (OSC), in and around the Kelset area is critically scarce. Recently, three providers have been lost: a Montessori closed; garden centre care closed; Beacon Community services also closed. Parents would benefit from understanding *why* these facilities have been closed and what the outlook is for new facilities becoming available.

The school district is planning to meet with local PACs to discuss this issue. The district noted that the challenge with creating new child-care programs is that it takes a long time to get the necessary approvals, and recognised that to lose so many quickly is very challenging for parents. The district is hopeful that Beacon Community Centre will find a new location and more spaces next year. Further, Greenglade has OSC and appears interested in expanding that program. The district is also exploring if it is possible to provide transportation to/from that program. The district also explore OSC at Kelset but the idea was complicated by the agricultural land reserve status of the field and the safety considerations of the forested area (steep slope and overhanging trees). The district is aiming to have some new OSC for the start of September 2020 but noted that discussions are in early stages. Greenglade is currently the best option.

Alicia Holman noted that municipalities do work with schools and day-care providers to come up with solutions. She cited the example of Oak Bay which got funding for and added child-care services. Alicia recommended that it would be worth exploring similar partnership opportunities with local municipalities.

4.2 Trustees

The Trustee report was delivered by Tim Dunford and Alicia Holman.

4.2.1 Tim Dunford

- Tim expressed gratitude for inviting the trustees and for the work that COPACS does as a district PAC. He noted that COPACS has existed since 1982 (predating the School Act), and is a big and important partner group for the trustees. Tim reported that while the work of the board is ongoing, currently it is lowkey, reflecting the minor adjustments at board level due to strike, holidays, changes in composition of the board.
- Provincial teacher bargaining. Tim explained that nothing had been achieved despite many days of bargaining. While trustees don't have direct influence on negotiations, they do offer input. They are awaiting progress soon because, without such a progress, we could see broad job action. Tim said that while parents shouldn't be alarmed yet, job action is a possibility, which he felt should flag.
- Implementation of new funding formula. Time reported that there remain uncertainties to do with the new funding formula. It these unknowns that become concerning in any new system. He mentioned that consultation on the new formula and its implementation is ongoing.

4.2.2 Alicia Holman

Alicia discussed the ongoing policy review process.

- There several hundred policies. These policies are being reviewed with a focus on making them easier and simpler to work with
- In Year 1, the board looked at governance policy: Board vs staff roles; divisions in responsibility
- Roughly 12 are ready for approval in principle
- They are currently working on 4 more: Public consultation; parent involvement; sustainability and environment; and school lands and improvement. These are coming to the board next Wednesday (January 22nd) for review and implementation/adoption.
- Next the administrative policies will be reviewed

4.2.3 Questions for the Trustees

Q: Do we have an anti-racism policy? Vancouver has one.

A: (From Dave Eberwein) No, but we have a policy that encompasses human rights. All schools have to update their conduct policies so there is no discrimination for any reason.

Q: Is there any thought in recognising the UN's international decade for people of African descent? Ends 2024. If not, would you consider doing so if someone brought suggestions to the table (i.e., a policy suggestion)?

A: Typically, such suggestions come through the education side (e.g. Carly Hunter or through the superintendent). If such a suggestion is made, certainly it would be looked at and forward on to schools for consideration.

5 Presentation by Carly Hunter on Middle School Assessment and Reporting

Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction - Learning & Innovation, School District 63, delivered a presentation on the recent changes to middle school assessment and reporting. Her slides are attached to these minutes.

The presentation generated considerable discussion on issues, including:

- Links between letter-grade systems and the new proficiency scale
- Possible implications for university requirements and universities' perspective of the new system (which remains an unknown)
- When parents should expect to have had conversations with teachers if their children have received an "emerging" or "extending" rating. In the case of an emerging student, one would expect to have had a conversation if they receive this rating in a second (but not necessarily first) assessment. In the case of an extending student, it would be worth speaking to the teacher regarding a plan for the student's next grade.
- The level of support for extending middle school students, which Carly noted is an area of growth.
- The level of dialogue between teachers and students about the new assessment scale. Lots of work has been done with teachers to help them communicate the new system to students.
- The possibility of another talk in the future, which Carly said would be possible, if sufficient demand (e.g. for a specific PAC or PACs)
- The research behind the proficiency scale (links to which are in Carly's notes)

- The transition for students who will have had the proficiency scale from Kindergarten to Grade 8 and then having to switch to the letter-grade system at Grade 9. Carly noted this remains a key issue and the district is exploring ways to facilitate this transition.

6 Executive Reports

6.1 President

- Vaping Presentation: See Update on Planned Parent Education Nights
- Policy 1100 Meeting: See Policy 1100 Update
- Next COPACS meeting: See Next Meeting

6.2 Vice-Presidents

6.2.1 James Taylor

- Prospect Lake Upgrades. Jason Reid presented on this topic at the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee meeting (his report is [online](#)). The School is losing a small amount of space but gaining access to municipality soccer field. Lots more work to happen. The municipality plans to start building by April.
- Parkland Secondary School track drainage issues. The school has a planning group who has launched a fundraising campaign to deal with this issue.
- James noted that we are in budget season so historically partner groups come together and form an advisory committee, which COPACS is represented on it. That's starting soon. James expressed a willingness to represent COPACS on this committee; which was agreed upon by the rest of the COPACS exec.

6.2.2 Ceilidh Fear

Ceilidh noted that the Kindergarten information night was being held on January 23rd. Both James and Ceilidh plan to go and represent COPACS.

6.3 Treasurer

Craig Morton presented a financial report, noting that spending since the last report was \$116 and that he now has access to online banking and, hence, will be able to provide actual statements henceforth.

- Operating Account balance: \$5,977.14
- Gaming Account balance: \$4,628.41

7 Old Business

7.1 Update on Planned Parent Education Nights

- Vaping Parent Information Night
 - Date: February 20th
 - Location: TBC
 - Presenter: Aaron Severs
- Naloxone Education – no update
- Racial issues talk – To be discussed by Royal Oak Middle School PAC at their next meeting
- Farrah Simpson, Keating Elementary School PAC Co-president, discussed plans by the Keating PAC (KPAC) to host a parent education talk by Mark Sherman on Mindfulness at Home. Farrah requested financial support for this presentation by COPACS, recognizing that the evening would

be opened up to parents from across School District 63. Specifically, a motion was tabled by Kelly Hoffman for COPACS to cover \$200 to cover the presenter's fees and for KPAC to cover any extra costs. The motion was seconded by Phil Molloy. Voting yielded unanimous support. Monique noted that since there is already lots going on in February, it may be best to host this talk in April.

- Farrah Simpson also noted that Keating PAC is hosting a talk on the impact of entertainment media on today's society by Shannon Husk (January 23rd).

7.2 Update on PAC Presidents' Social

This social is now scheduled for January 31st, 6:30pm. The tentative venue is Sassy's Family Restaurant (pending confirmation).

Phil Molloy motioned for COPACS to pay \$25 per head towards the cost of this social (to cover to cost of food and one drink per attendee), with a cap at \$400. This motion was seconded by Ceilidh Fear. Voting yielded unanimous support.

7.3 Policy 1100 Update

The Policy 1100 meeting, which was postponed from November, is now scheduled for February 6th and will be held at Bayside Middle School. A formal notification will follow.

7.4 Vancouver Island Parent Conference

The Vancouver Island Parent Conference is scheduled for February 29th. COPACS has approved budget to sponsor attendees (and it was noted that early bird rates are currently available).

- PACs to communicate this sponsorship to parents and reach out to COPACS if interested.

8 New Business

February is black history month.

- Lisa Gunderson to send links to COPACS relating to this celebration (e.g. www.bcblackhistory.ca)
- COPACS to circulate links on to schools (for teachers)

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27th, 7-9 pm.

10 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn proposed by Phil Molloy; seconded by Monique Hiltz. Result: Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.