

# COPACS

The Confederation of Parents' Advisory Councils of Saanich

## Meeting Minutes

Individual Learning Centre, 1649 Mt Newton Cross Rd, Saanichton, BC  
February 27, 2020, 7 – 9 pm

### Attendees

#### COPACS Executive

- *Monique Hiltz, President*
- *James Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*
- *Craig Morton, Treasurer*
- *Phil Molloy Recording Secretary; and voting member for Keating Elementary School*

#### Education Partners

- *Jason Reid, Secretary Treasurer*
- *Nola Silzer, Trustee*
- *Teri VanWell, Trustee*
- *Brock Simmonds, District Instructional Support Teacher - Technology, Saanich Schools*
- *Cody Henschell, Director of Information Technology, Information Technology, Saanich Schools*
- *Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction - Learning & Innovation, Saanich Schools*

#### School PAC Representatives

- *Liz Keating, Kelset Elementary School*
- *Wendy Bird, Prospect Lake Elementary School*

#### Regrets

- *Ceilidh Fear, COPACS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

## 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: Monique; seconded by: Phil Molloy

Result: agenda approved

## 3 Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

An edit to the draft minutes was requested: Correct the year in the date from 2019 to 2020.

Motion to approve amended minutes by Phil Molloy; seconded by Monique. Result: January minutes approved with described edit.

## 4 Reports from our Education Partners

### 4.1 School District

- Jason Reid provided a summary of the most recent Budget Advisory meeting, in which an update was provide on Provincial funding. Generally, this funding is forecasted to increase over several years then level off 3-5 years out. Jason noted that information is available online ([here](#)) from budget advisory committee meetings, including consultation leading to the adoption of a preliminary budget.
- Cody Henshell provided an update on the information technology upgrades ongoing in the School District. Key points of this update were:
  - Consultation with schools informed the updates being undertaken this year.
  - New computers have now been installed in Elementary Schools and, so far, Bayside Middle School. In total, 650 new computers have been installed so far.
  - Planning upgrades for North Saanich Middle School and Royal Oak Middle School
  - Next, upgrades will be done at the high schools and remaining middle schools
  - Next year's refresh cycle starts in June, which is the District's ongoing upgrades process.
  - After hardware and software has been installed, the IT staff stays and helps teachers to make sure they're working well.
  - Next Projects:
    - Develop a Communications Plan for the School District, with focus on websites and digital connections with parents and the broader public.
    - The School District is seeking to develop communications via many points of contact. The IT team has developed a survey to help receive information from parents, which will inform this communications plan.

#### Cody to send survey link to COPACS

#### COPACS to circulate link to PACs and post on Facebook

- The goal is to develop this plan by the end of the school year
- There was a discussion on the focus of the review of communication preferences and appropriate solutions. Cody and Brock explained that the District's approach is to identify what functionality is desired and then determine which products would best fulfil those functions.
- A draft of the survey was shown and initial feedback was provided, including making the language as accessible as possible for parents
- Carly Hunter provided an update on the French Immersion program within the School District, with focus on sibling entry. Key points of this summary were:
  - Sibling entry is no longer happening
  - There are still some students from last year looking for French Immersion places
  - This year the District has managed to accommodate almost everyone
  - Order of priority when a student enters into their program of choice (of which, French Immersion is one). Placement is done by lottery but with priority given to students with siblings in the school, followed by catchment-area children, and finally out-of-catchment area. So, for example, if a parent of a French Immersion middle-school student has

another child entering Kindergarten, the Kindergarten child does not get automatic entry into French Immersion.

- These changes will be reflected in amendments to Policy 4000

Carly also commented on the new Proficiency Scale method of student reporting and assessment. She noted that (1) student learning honour-roll certificates are stopping but their achievements will be recognized in other ways, and (2) the key way of measuring student growth is transition through the levels of the Proficiency Scale.

## 4.2 Trustees

Key points of the Trustees report were:

- BC Teachers Federation is in mediation this week; no news is good news. Hopefully a new teachers' contract will be achieved soon
- The School Board is finalizing its policy and procedures review, which should be completed before the end of the year.
- Once the policy and procedures review is completed, the School Board will be thinking about Strategic Planning (which the Board hopes will involve COPACS via consultation) since the current Strategic Plan expires June 2021.
- A motion was passed at a recent meeting to encourage the Ministry of Education to consider a dual credit program when making decisions about funding distributions.
- Vancouver Island School Board Trustees' meeting took place in Nanaimo with focus on Indigenous Education.

## 5 Executive Reports

### 5.1 President

- PAC Social Mingler
  - This event went well and we managed to connect with many of the School District's PACs and connect folks from these PACs.
  - We are hoping to do another mingler next year, details of which are to be confirmed.
- The Policy 1100 Meeting took place in early Feb. with focus on *Indigenous Education and Everyone Journey Towards Reconciliation*. The event was well organized, with lots of indigenous student speakers and considerable discussion of the indigenous education work being done in the district. The event covered topics such as, what does reconciliation mean to different people? It was noted that SENĆOŦEN is now quite widely taught in the District in an effort to revitalize this language.
- BCCPAC
  - Seeking people to be on their board
  - Requesting nominations for formal recognition of services at the AGM. COPACS wanted to recognise James Taylor for his many years of service in our school district. Unfortunately, he is not eligible for nomination. Nevertheless, it is formally noted that James' contributions are very well appreciated by COPACS.
  - It was noted that Phil Molloy is likely to represent COPACS at the BCCPAC meeting, but this decision need finalizing.

## 5.2 Vice-Presidents

- No report

## 5.3 Treasurer

Craig Morton presented a financial report, noting that account balances are:

- Operating Account: \$5,935
- Gaming Account: \$4,626

Craig noted that the School Board Grant has not been received. It was confirmed that this situation is because the School Board has not yet approved the budget.

Craig also noted that we haven't received any interest in bank a/cs.

- **Craig to follow up to find out why.**

# 6 Old Business

## 6.1 Planned Parent Education Nights

- A summary was provided of Aaron Severs' Vaping presentation.
  - The presentation was very interesting covering the subject matter in depth. Some key points of the presentation included:
    - Some dispensers are very stealthy.
    - Some oils have very little cloud or scent so very hard to police.
    - Slick marketing is happening.
    - The misconception of vaping being safe is misleading people.
    - Vaping is better than chronic smoking but not clean; the process of inhaling a combusted substance is still detrimental
  - It was noted that there were lots of teachers and other staff, including the Superintendent, at the presentation.
  - The presentation also touched on THC with respect to 'popcorn lung' disease.
  - A couple of Physical Education teachers in attendance mentioned that vaping is appealing to a wider range of students than smoking because it's considered "less unhealthy". They are seeing the impact on athletes. Beyond that, vaping is not in curriculum.
  - Many parents still very misinformed about what is in "vape"
  - Aaron Severs' is available to speak to more people, PACs etc.
- Mindfulness at Home presentation by Mark Sherman is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm, at Keating Elementary School in the Multipurpose Room. (Note, this overlaps w/ the next scheduled COPACS meeting)
- It was noted that there was a recent discussion at Fairmont Middle School about a news story about human trafficking by British Columbians. This note triggered a discussion relating to mental health management through peer mentoring. COPACS previously hosted a night relating to fentanyl and links to anxiety, depression; it would be worth revisiting this topic as another Parent Education night.

## *6.2 PAC Presidents' Social*

See above

## *6.3 Policy 1100 Meeting Summary*

See above

## *6.4 Vancouver Island Parent Conference*

It was noted that only one person is being funded to attend this conference through COPACS.

## **7 New Business**

### *7.1 Sibling Entry into French Immersion*

See Above

### *7.2 PACs, Grant Applications, and Charity Status*

Phil Molloy noted that when PACs are applying for grants (1) if grant eligibility stipulates that the applicant must be a charity, the PAC can work with the School District to use their charity status, and (2) remember that PACs are Non-Profit Organizations, which makes them eligible for some grants.

## **8 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm.

Note that our AGM will be planned to occur after the *May* (not April) meeting, to avoid conflict with the Mark Sherman meeting.

## **9 Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn proposed by Phil Molloy; seconded by Craig Morton.

Result: Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.