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DPAC Meeting  
November 24th 2009

Meeting brought to order 7:00 pm

Introductions of attendees

see attendance list

Adoption of October minutes

motioned to accept Cheryl  
seconded by Lynn

Trustee's Report - Shelley Clarke

See attached report - extra notes as follows

Daryl asked about absentee rates for district. Ms. Hyer said this week there are no schools over 10% absenteeism. There have been numerous schools that have been over 20%. Parents are advised at the affected schools.

PAC Reports;

Queen's Park - Movie night once a month. It is a great money maker. Also the floor hockey tournament that has been a tradition for many years. They are doing the 'Learn to Skate' program at the Memorial Arena. They have donated skates from the arena and helmets from the hockey school.

McNicoll - Leadership is the focus of the school. We have had school-wide programs involving 'Be the Change' activities for the students. It makes our school a wonderful place for students to learn. The parent involvement is not good so far this year though. We are working on getting more parents to PAC meetings.

Skaha Lake Middle School - PAC Executive positions are filled but there is always a struggle to get volunteers. Discussed the concession proceeds that some charities are getting at the SOEC. We wonder if PAC's would be eligible as we know the Holy Cross school was there recently.

Columbia - The Rep from there has not been able to attend any PAC meetings yet so couldn't tell us too much. They do lots of good fundraising programs there and seem to have lots of volunteers.

Pen Hi - They have been audited by the gaming commission. The treasurer is looking into different ways to list the items so that they may be approved. The government can ask for the money back if the items are not justified. The gaming bank account is frozen until things are settled. Sports teams are doing really well. Discussed the School Planning Council. Daryl mentioned that the SPC meetings at Pen Hi are being run at the same time as the PAC meeting. The members are almost always the same parents and this way more people may hear the issues. Discussed the new school progress report that the schools and SPC's are using. Daryl asked the parents at the meeting to discuss the SPC process with their schools. We will discuss this further at future meetings.

Old Business:

Daryl went to the BCCPAC conference. Their budget has been slashed from \$100,000 to \$15,000! The parent advocacy project has been terminated. They also discussed the SPC's and the FSA's. Daryl also went to the BCTF conference. The teachers want the FSA's to be abolished. The BCCPAC does not but they don't want the Fraser Instituted to have the results. Parents across the province want the

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knowledge that our children are getting the same education wherever they go. Daryl really liked the feeling from the BCTF members at the conference. As a parent he felt included and welcomed. He also has a good relationship with our BCTF rep in our district. Daryl has agreed to get parents feelings about the FSA's. Reps that are here will discuss it at their schools. Wendy mentioned that she did alot of work with the FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment) test policies. She stated that she has watched it work throughout the last years and she has seen a focus on the initiatives to support the results. EG...the Strong Start programs. There seem to be ways to keep the Fraser Institute from having the individual satistics. There was a really broad spectrum of people at the BCTF Conference also. The teachers union seems willing to work with parents and other groups to fight the funding cuts.

DPAC Executive:

We have a new treasurer who was elected by acclamation. His name is Darren Bitzer. He is from Queen's Park School. THANK YOU Darren.

Agenda Item 'School closure'. Daryl mentioned that he was asked to go to the budget meetings last year because there were not enough representatives. He noted, and will continue to note, that there was an item listed last year about a closure of an elementary school in the future. There is still declining enrollment in the district so it is a possibility. We don't want to be shocked if this does come to fruition. The funding cuts are a threat that looms over every issue in our district.

Shatford building...discussed in trustee's report.

New Business:

Discussed the FSA issue again.

Secretary Treasurer hiring process. Discussed the process of having parents sit on the hiring committee.

Budget Ideas...It will be time to look at the budget for 2010/2011 and Daryl urges parents with children in elementary school to get involved. The next few years will get worse before they get better and children in elementary school have a longer time in our education system.

From the Floor:

Zoe Magnus, the president of CUPE spoke. She thanked us for inviting her and..... to our meeting. She agrees that we need to build on the relationships between all the partner groups, especially with the funding crisis we face. CUPE has a national education department that put on many workshops and Zoe is working on having them available to interested parents. She discussed their position on the FSA testing. If we all speak with a common voice on the issue of the Fraser Institute advertising results. Discussed the SPC issue. She does not understand why CUPE staff are not allowed to participate. Discussed the work of CUPE staff in our schools. If anyone has questions about CUPE either Zoe or ..... will be at all our meetings in future. She advised that she is proud of the districts library services. she is involved in setting up a program where the students can access their school library resources. AJ mentioned his thanks for being invited also.

Daryl mentioned that it is wonderful to see so many partners at our meeting, Parents, CUPE, Trustee, Superintendent.

Daryl mentioned his idea to set up a self sustaining sports foundation to help pay for the students' expenses. He is asking if there is a way PAC's can use some of their gaming funds to start such a program. He is wondering what parents think...would we be interested? It sounds like there is interest in the issue, we will discuss it in future as well.

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Laura mentioned the BCCPAC registrations again.  
Question from a parent about a fridge that belongs to PAC  
Adjourned at 8:32

Next Meeting JANUARY 26TH 2010