

Minutes of DPAC Meeting
September 22, 2009

Meeting brought to order @ 7:00 pm

- Introductions;
 Wendy Hyer, our new superintendent attended and was welcomed by everyone.
- Adoption of minutes from June 16, 2009 meeting
 Lynn Gibb and Laura Willson
- Trustee's Report – Larry Little (llittle@summer.com)

Larry discussed the frustration that is being felt throughout the district and with the school board because of the horrendous funding cuts being made by our government. The board, together with all the partner groups including DPAC has sent a letter to the government voicing our concerns and disappointment with their decisions concerning education funding. There will be a public information event, more information to follow.

Daryl asked the question of whether an elementary school closure is still a possibility. Larry said the board has talked generally about it but have not had any formal discussion.

Larry spoke further about the grave situation we are facing with funding in our district as well as in our province.

- Old Business:

Executive Elections;

Vice Chair – Lynn Gibb elected by acclamation

Treasurer and Member at Large still VACANT

Discussed the @ summer.com e-mail addresses. Daryl is having trouble getting a hold of the new executives for the PAC's. Laura mentioned that she has had the same problems in years past. That is why we are working to get all the PAC's using the summer e-mails, so that there is no changeover every year. Wendy will check with individual principals and try to help Daryl get the information.

Discussed the importance of getting people involved. It is an age old problem but in these times of real danger to the education system as we know it parents HAVE to get involved and learn the issues. The government will listen to parents who stand up and speak out much more readily than they will the teachers and people working for them!

Discussed BCCPAC registrations. Laura will work on getting them from all the PAC's. This MUST be done this year. Some of our schools did not get their forms in last year and consequently lost their vote on resolutions taken to the government on behalf of parents.

A mail out must be done. Laura will send a copy of the minutes and a copy of the BCCPAC registration to all PAC's. DPAC has paid the \$65 fee for all our district PAC's for the last few years. We feel it is important for everyone to have a voice so we use some of our gaming funds to do that.

New Business;

Discussed e-mails again. We are really focusing on getting the lines of communication open and flowing so it is a major topic at meetings.

Daryl asked everyone what they want to see happen with DPAC. One of the attendees asked Daryl what he thinks the major issue is and he answered - Funding. We all agreed. We brainstormed about ways to get parents out so that they can understand what is happening and help with a solution.

One of the suggestions was to have the DPAC meetings in different places. Maybe provide snacks. Wendy suggested possibly using the Pen-Hi caterers and having the meeting at Pen-Hi with a possible tour for parents. If they don't have a child in Pen-Hi, they probably haven't seen the amazing facility we have. We will check it out with the principal of course. We would like to have one in Summerland as well to showcase the beautiful work that has been done there.

Daryl discussed his efforts to communicate with all partner groups about issues in the district. He is striving for open, frank discussion with everyone. (Meaning the school board, the teachers, the principals, CUPE..everyone) And he is speaking on behalf of the parents, with our point of view. We would really love to hear more of the parent's points of view, as now he can only respond with the ideas of the few people who come to DPAC meetings!

From the floor;

Laura mentioned an issue that has been bothering her for quite a few years. It is that many of the schools in the district have their beginning of the year open house events on the same night. Even feeder schools, who will most likely have students in multiple schools! DPAC has offered to coordinate a list in the past but has had no luck.

Daryl discussed the leadership conference. He said he thought it was a great event for our district and our city. It has become another political merry go round where people don't know the real issues. Laura agreed that it was an amazing conference. Parents from every school were given free tickets every year and she has attended the past 3. DPAC was also the recipient of some of the profits. For the past 2 years we have received over \$5,000.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50

Next Meeting: October 29th, 2009. 7:00 in the School Board Office