

District Parent Advisory Council
School District # 33 Chilliwack
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 25, 2010

Attendance: Kirsten Brandreth G.W. Graham, Sardis Secondary
Tammy Chivers F.G. Leary
Mary Giesler Sardis Secondary
Andrea Brezden Cultus Lake
Karen Jarvis Promontory, CHANCE, G.W.Graham
Sandra Lindhout Cheam
Michelle Dick Greendale
Kim Edmondson McCammon
Laurie Lawrin Chilliwack Middle
Heather Brezden Promontory
Gord Byers Chilliwack Middle

Guest: Corinne McCabe, School District Superintendent

1. Kirsten called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. **Motion:** To adopt the meeting agenda, the November 26, 2009 and January 28, 2010 minutes, moved by Heather, seconded by Gord, carried.
3. Superintendent's Report: Corinne McCabe asked if parents has enough opportunity to review the budget considerations. It will be a difficult year because cuts have to be made. We will have our next DPAC meeting on Thursday, March 18 at Sardis Secondary to review the District budget. The Superintendent and interested school trustees will be in attendance.
Families will have to pay for bussing starting in September 2010. Cost will be \$ 200 per student to a maximum of \$ 600 per family. If a family cannot afford the cost they need to talk to their principal to have the fee waived due to hardship. Letters will be going home in April and payments can be made on line or at the Board office. The letter will also explain if school calendar changes are being made for the next school year.
Corinne thanked the parents for staying involved and asked us not to get frustrated, we do matter!
4. Treasurer's Report: Heather reported approximately \$ 600 in chequing and \$ 1,200 in the gaming account. The Bully Back Off presentation at Robertson may not be happening.
5. Committee Reports:
 - A) Ed. Policy and Planning: Laurie reported that they had students attend the last Policy meeting. The Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, etc. students would like a policy to reflect what they go through at school. They feel that it's more than bullying and what to be recognized at the school Board level. It was asked if policy was the right place for this and if the bullying policy would cover it. They will review what other Districts are doing.
 - B) Curriculum and Instruction: Mary and Tammy reported that the District lost about \$ 250,000 after the Aboriginal Education Audit. Some schools do not have an attendance process in place so could not verify the Aboriginal students attending their programs.
A Lodging Management course and an Introductory French 11 course have been approved. We were updated on Formative Assessment. There are five teachers available to help out. The District received a \$ 10,000 Olympic Grant that they have used to buy material for Talking Tables, currently a kindergarten based program.

Toe to Toe is a program from Scotland to help with Literacy. Trustee Heather Maas went to Scotland to review the program on her own time and would like our District to implement it.

- C) BCCPAC: Gord reported the AGM is April 17 – 18 at the Coast Hotel in Vancouver. Seminars and guest speakers will be on April 16. We have tabled a discussion on funding assistance to the AGM until the March meeting. They are currently looking for new office space.
- 6) Old Business: Over 50 people attended the DPAC Parent/Student Forum in February. Our only cost was for thank you gifts for the presenters.
- 7) New Business:
 - A) Grant/Gaming Opportunities: DPAC would like all PAC's to provide DPAC with names of available funding opportunities so a list can be compiled for all PAC's to access. Some grants ask for proof of social-economic need. This information is available from the Census reports. CHANCE school has been asking community groups to sponsor items on their wish list. Campbell Soup, Canadian Tire money and Save-on-More points can be collected.
 - B) BCCPAC Spring AGM: see above.
 - C) Scholarship Committee: Kirsten asked for volunteers to review and recommend winners for the DPAC scholarships. Gord, Kim and Tammy volunteered. There will be a Dessert night at Sardis Secondary on March 25 for scholarship donors.
 - D) Trust Fund: Two Vedder Elementary school families lost their home to a fire on Feb. 24. There is a Trust Fund set up at Scotia Bank.
 - E) Communication: We should all ask our schools to include a line on the September registration forms to ask that PAC have access to e-mail addresses so they can correspond with parents. This would also improve school to parent communication. If your school has a planner or fridge magnet, ask that PAC meeting dates be included.
- 8) Networking:
 - A) The new construction plan for CSS will be a distraction to learning. This could mean more students wanting to attend one of the other high schools.
 - B) Tammy asked if the District has a policy on earthquake drills. Kirsten will ask what other schools are doing and check the District Emergency Policy.
 - C) Thanks to Kiwanis for sponsoring Student of the Month at our middle and high schools.
 - D) G.W. Graham had a motivational speaker to prepare them for Take Action Days. Students from CHANCE were invited to attend and Karen really appreciated that.

Motion: To adjourn, moved by Gord.