

DPAC Meeting
Spring Creek Elementary School
Oct. 26 2011

In attendance:

Sonia Southam, Stephanie McHugh, Beth Miller, Lisa McCullough, Marion Abramo, Tammie Cassettari, Karen Saenger, Barb Leigh, Clare Ogilvie, Sandy (teleconference), Christine Cuttle, Christiane Loring, Karen Gardner

Meeting was called to order and noted that we have quorum.

Barb approved agenda, Clare seconded and motion passed to approve agenda.

Discussion about the chair position being open. Karen and Barb are in their last year. Job descriptions will be distributed.

Treasurer's report,

Last year we spent our budgetted funds on attending conferences. Cathy was able to go. We get \$2500 per year for DPAC. Barb proposed that we do some parent workshops this year. Outstanding expenses, \$176 for Cathy's gift and BCCPAC \$75, for a total of \$251.32 A motion to pay Barb Leigh \$176 and BCCPAC \$75 was made by Karen, seconded by Clare. Motion carried to approve payment.

Superintendent, Lisa McCullough

Lisa McCullough, introduced herself. She started on Monday and has been to most of the schools as of today, Wednesday. Her background: she is from Ontario, born and raised in London, taught in North York. She and her family love the area and wanted to live here. Has taught and been a principal at all ages. Welcome Lisa!

Thanks was noted by all to Dallas for stepping in as an interim superintendent and bringing Lisa around.

SSTA, Beth Miller

Beth reported that there is a newsletter and advised on teachers policy on communicating with parents. Teachers do not want to allienate their best supporters, parents and students. Teachers have a choice as to how they want to communicate with parents. Parents should feel free to contact teachers.

Grade 12 students: Exams and marks necessary for graduation and university admission will be done as needed. Teachers are in negotiations for the long hull and are not going to be provoked to escalate. Dallas wanted to publicly acknowledge that Beth is doing a very good job in a difficult situation.

Teachers are philosophically against fundraising activity for things that should be provided by the ministry of education. It makes school unequal depending on ability of a school to fundraise within a district. The employers are indicating that 15% of the job

is not being done by teachers currently and possibly require reimbursement. This appears to be a high estimate to say the least.

What is a good way to communicate with teachers? The teachers can come to PAC meetings. Feel free to phone, visit or e-mail teachers. It is up to the individual teacher how they want to communicate.

Field trips may be affected because there is so much paperwork involved. If a volunteer parent were to do it, it is possible.

How will it affect grade 12 students and their graduation? There will be no affect.

Karen Saenger -SSVPPA

Last friday there was a pro-D day; teachers attended conferences, worked on skills, math44, reading 44, writing 44, etc.

The principals met to review a book that had been read in their book club. Student learning is being brought to the next level. Shift to a thinking, deep questions, sub-questions and skills. They took a look at successful models. The premiss is that we are preparing children for the new workforce. examples were reviewed from kindergarten to grade 12. Most teachers and principals are on twitter to follow people involved in this new approach and share their information, ideas and practices. The Buck institute for education is a resource.

Discussion on the value of twitter for the educators and students.

PAC reports: see attached

Old Business

We discussed the possibility of rescheduling a presentation by Raj Dhasi. She is expensive and we can't afford to have her in all three communities

There are other parent workshops: 'education on Cyberage' and 'parents in the driver's seat'. We need to spend money. Ask your PAC's what they would like to have.

2 week Spring break - how's it going? Ask your PAC's: is it working for your schools with the extra minutes?

DPAC gift for John Hetherington / Nancy Edwards and Dallas Cristofil - A motion was made to buy a gifts for a total of \$40 by Clare, Christiane seconded, motion carried. Barb will take care this.

Tammie will get a gmail account for DPAC

Laurie Arneson is looking for a replacement on the District finance committee.

Adjourn at 9:10

next meeting Jan. 25, 2012 at Signal Hill in Pemberton