



MARK R. ISFELD SECONDARY  
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016

Attendees: Lisa Taylor, Jeff Taylor, Arla Calman, Sheila McDonnell, Ineke Burritt, Tammi Whelan, Mary-Jane Douglas, Joka Belyk, Jo Payne, Lorne Taylor, Mariah Moraes, Rob Bonar, Ian Langmann.

- 1) Call to Order 7:02
- 2) Approval of Agenda – with amendments - Moriah and Ian.
- 3) Approval of Previous Month's Minutes- Moriah and Ian.
- 4) Reports
  - a. Principal's Report – Jeff Taylor

Mark R. Isfeld PAC Meeting

Principal's Report:

Highlights from the last month

- Achievement in Athletics: Our basketball program is in the home stretch, and we seem to have overcome some early struggles this season. Our junior girls came off a disappointing seventh place to come first in their next tournament. The senior girls have struggled with injuries and depth, but still came second in the North Islands and will go to the Islands next weekend. Our Senior boys are practicing now for the North Islands later this week at Ballenas. The Junior boys continue to seek out challenging games and are looking to the future as senior players. Wrestling has two students attending events, with one student making gold after a string of silver finishes. Ski and Snowboard are racing on Mondays, but have no plans to attend Provincials this year as it is cost-prohibitive. Instead, a wrap-up race at Whistler will close out their season. Girls' rugby has started, but we were unable to get enough boys out to form a team.
- Citizenship check: Pink Shirt Day, a.k.a. Diversity Day is on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We have a Green Thumb theatre presentation on depression and anxiety coming up next Tuesday. Our Spirit Week allowed those students who had been suppressing their spirit the opportunity to participate in four days of fun activities.

This culminated in a highly successful and engaging assembly last Friday. We are particularly proud of our Interact Club, currently canvassing for attendees to the Rotary's Gala event, which will raise even more money for their sponsored school in Tegucigalpa. Isfeld will, for the first time, be a blood donation site on April 14 in our MPR. We have fifty appointments to fill with Isfeld students, staff and parents.

- What's Up with Arts: Two Junior and one Senior Improv Team competed in the Islands. Our junior team place first on the Island, following up a first place finish at the North Islands. Our senior improv team placed third behind Gulf Islands and Vanier. Robotics team participated in the regional competition. Destination Imagination is ramping up with a local planned for Wednesday, Feb 24. The Regional Championships will be held at Highland on March 5, now encompassing the whole island, and Isfeld has five teams competing.
- Academics: This is not glowing news. We have a significant increase in struggling students, but roughly the same number of honour roll students. Our I-day at the end of January proved to be highly successful. 210 students attended.

#### Upcoming Events-

- Grad Parent meeting Feb 29 at 7:00 pm in the MPR
- Report Cards home Feb 17
- Pink Shirt Day Feb 24.
- Destination Imagination Regional Tournament at Highland on March 5th.
- Cabane a Sucre on March 12<sup>th</sup>
- March Break begins March 21 and ends on April 1.
- Look for a mail-merged document in your email, providing a link and a code to take part in the Parent part of the Ministry of Education's Satisfaction Survey. This info will also be available from our office. Students in grades 10 and 12 will be asked to participate in the survey sometime in March.

#### Discussion Items-

- Alternative school week proposal-2.3 million in the hole. 85% funding goes to staffing. Increased raises by the province, must be funded by each school board. Proposal is for 4.5 days of school time each week, to minimize loss of teachers/aides. The teachers are being requested to require evidence of learning outcomes, not busy work. Teachers are learning how to focus on learning outcomes. Mr. Green was teaching by learning outcomes for 10 years, and still is. Teachers have 'teacher's autonomy' and do not have to teach this way. As a parent, you can ask the teachers how your student is doing with respect to learning outcomes. A dramatic shake-up is needed to a save a decaying public education system. There is a need for communication, from all levels - from

board, to admin, to teachers to students and parents. Parents can go online to see the new curriculum – and then we can ask for it. Ideally there needs to be more time for one-on-one attention for struggling students. The teacher’s union is officially against the 4.5 day week. Lorne mentioned that the PAC should take responsibility for informing all the parents of the issues facing us. The people of the PAC here today have requested a Trustee and an administrator and parent to present the issues to the larger parent body. To this end a motion was put forward:

- As a PAC, we will plan a school-wide meeting, inviting all parents, students, teachers and administration, as well as trustees and School Board staff, in order to communicate and discuss the issues affecting Isfeld around education budget cuts and a possible shortened school week; student achievement; new curriculum and student assessment; and parent involvement in supporting student success in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning model.  
– Moved by Lisa, seconded by Tammi; motion was unanimously carried.
  - Europe trip in 2017 - Spring Break – Grade10-12- French and English- Mme. Lockwell.
  - Thursday meeting on revised curriculum; Gerald Fussell will pick up students willing to participate at Isfeld on February 25<sup>th</sup> but they will have to come on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to prep. This would be a day off.
  - Mr.Taylor is asking for help with smoking; cigarettes, vaping- and vaping with other products including marijuana. There is a 1:1 correlation between attendance, failing and spending time in the smoke pit. He proposed writing a letter to the parents of the students in the smoke pit to ensure they are aware of their child’s behavior. Members of the PAC agreed that if it were their children, they would welcome that letter, and being informed.
- b. Trustee’s Report – Sheila McDonnell – the 4.5day work week is not the ideal solution or cost-saving measure but it may be better than any alternative. After the unexpected loss of the superintendent, a new discussion has begun as to what qualities in a leader would best benefit SD71.
- c. Treasurer’s Report – Mary-Jane Douglas - report submitted- moved to accept by Mary Jane and Mariah seconded. It included an opening balance in January of \$20,728.34 with \$20 given for fashion show licenses, and \$3200 for sports disbursements, for a closing balance of \$17,488.34. It was noted that all the monies will be disbursed before the end of the year.

- d. DPAC Report – Ineke Burritt- Ineke attended a presentation by Gary Anaka on “The Teenage Brain,” and said it was very informative, focusing on the importance of movement, avoiding numb bum, time in nature, meditation, good nutrition and omega 3’s.

The draft minutes of the DPAC meeting follow:

**Presentation:**

2.1 James Robinson – Compass Adventures

- over 3000 students have participated in their innovative programs
- now feature a National Catamaran Training Center program, for students across Canada who are competitive racers; this is the only school district in North America with a program like this

- they also have shorter sessions that can be accessed by local schools for students in grade 4 and up; \$123 per student for a 6 session program, or \$45 per student for a “beach day” taster program; funding is available through Jumpstart and Kidsport

- more information is available at [www.compassadventure.ca](http://www.compassadventure.ca)

2.2 Kara Dawson – Learn 71

- Kara is the lead tech support for the District, and helps to guide teachers through e-portfolios and digital learning

- Learn71.ca is a portal for teachers, parents and students to find information on learning resources; links are included to sites such as MyEdBC, My Site, Innovative Inklings (Gerald Fussell’s blog), and information on the new curriculum, school databases, and a searchable database on District PLC projects

- also available as a link off of the District website, is **Learn Now BC**, which features live tutors for high school students Sunday – Thursday from 6pm-10pm and lesson videos for grade 4 and up; other Districts are also now using this site and its links to help their own communities.

**4.AGM and Election of Officers:** presided over by Janice Caton

Chair – David Gillis nominated; elected by acclimation

Vice-Chair – Tonia Frawley nominated; elected by acclimation

Secretary – Sheri Graham nominated; elected by acclimation

Treasurer – Donna Graves nominated; elected by acclimation

**5. Approval of past minutes:**

Correction: Chair’s Report – regarding in-service PAC funds; the money is directed to the school and PAC’s must ask their principal for access to these funds

Approval of corrected minutes: Tonia / Kat CARRIED

**6. Correspondence:**

6.1 Christina Willard-Stepan: Parenting on Purpose Workshop

ACTION ITEM: Chair to invite Christina to present at an upcoming meeting

#### 6.2 Safety Gear for Kids – James Flawith

- will be presenting his product for parent feedback at the April DPAC meeting

#### 6.3 FSA's – information from CDTA

- information for parents on opting out of the FSA's
- will be distributed via email to our parent contact list

#### 6.4 UBC Online Parenting Study

- request for parent participation in a research study from UBC
- will be distributed via email to our parent contact list

### 7. Reports:

#### **Superintendent's Report – provided by Tom Demeo**

- there have been a number of changes at the School Board Office level; Sherry Elwood is going to Richmond and Russell Horswill will be going to Vancouver; they will be replaced by Tom Demeo and Sheldon Lee respectively for the interim
- the Long Range Facilities Reports are being reviewed and a report will be provided to Trustees
- the final meeting in the Puntledge consultation will be in March
- budget deliberations are currently happening
- cross-border transfers and kindergarten registration will not be considered until after the long range facilities plan is completed
- the budget will be short by \$2 million to \$2.6 million, and the District is looking at a variety of ways to overcome it
- the recent high school production of Footloose was very well done; all 3 high schools took part with Vanier organising; this collaboration will continue and rotate through all the high schools; could possibly expand to the creation of a District Choir and upper intermediate production done in a similar manner.

#### **Trustee's Report provided by Janice Caton**

- copies of the Strategic Plan for 2015-2016 were handed out; these are also available online
- there have lately been many challenges for Trustees
- March 8 from 6-9pm is the last public meeting for Puntledge
- everything will be on the table when it comes to possible cuts this year, and right now
- information is being gathered on all of the possibilities; however, everything is just talk until it becomes a board motion for investigation; watch the Trustees at the Board meetings for where they direct senior staff to investigate to determine which options are being considered
- out of 13 years as a Trustee, 11 of those years have included various cuts to the budget
- approximately 90% of the current budget goes towards wages

- June 30 is when the next budget has to be passed; Bill 11 gives the government authority to completely replace the board if the budget is not balanced

- please attend (in person or online) the next few board meetings to get the first hand information

on the issues in this district

- keep sending feedback (both positive and negative) to the Trustees (email contacts are

available on the District website)

ACTION ITEM: David, Danielle H and Michael will work together to update and maintain the DPAC website.

#### **Treasurers Report – provided by David Gillis**

- approximately \$2300 in the gaming account and \$3500 in the non-gaming account

#### **Aboriginal Education Council Report provided by Kathleen Hawksby**

- Bruce Carlos is putting together packages for all of the PACs regarding the Truth and

Reconciliation “Project of Heart” for all of the PACs to use and distribute

#### **Chairs Report provided by David Gillis**

- NIC and SD 71 are cohosting a dinner on February 10 regarding adult learning accessibility; more information will be dispersed via email

#### **Ad-Hoc Committee Report**

- this committee is currently suspended

### **8. Business from last meeting**

#### **8.1 Upcoming Speakers and Meetings**

- DPAC has received the opportunity to present the following two speakers for parent sessions: Maria LeRose (parent session at Isfeld, February 25, 6:30-9pm)

- former host of CBC

- will speak on “Educating Through the Heart”

- will also be speaking to teachers on their Pro-D (Feb 25)

MOTION: that DPAC spend up to \$500 to have Maria LeRose speak at a parent session on Feb 24

Gesa / Chettie CARRIED

Kristin Buhr (parent session place and time to be confirmed, April 11)

- consultant for AnxietyBC website

- will be speaking to parents on anxiety and resiliency

- will also be speaking to school counsellors and District staff earlier that day

MOTION: that DPAC spend up to \$1000 to support bringing in Kristin Buhr to speak on anxiety

Gesa / Kat CARRIED

- Gary Anaka will be presenting "Understanding the Teenage Brain" at Isfeld on February 10 from 7pm-8:30pm. This workshop is recommended for parents of students from grade 4 to 12.

Donations to the CV Foodbank will be gratefully accepted.

- February 27 is the VI Parent Conference in Colwood

- February 29 is the next DPAC meeting, and will feature Doug David and Jay Bridges speaking on the "iCan" program, and Chantal Stefan speaking on the "EDAS" program

- There is no DPAC meeting in March, as this is when Spring Break is happening and the schools are closed

- at the April 25 DPAC meeting, Angela Holmes will be speaking about Active Transportation, and

James Flawith will be presenting and seeking feedback about his line of safety gear for children

- April 29 to May 1 is the BCCPAC AGM and Spring Conference, and will be held in Kelowna this year. Any requests for financial assistance to attend this must be in at the February DPAC meeting

### **8.2 Treasurer Training**

- due to time constraints, this item has been tabled to the next meeting

### **8.3 Financial Policies Tabled for next time**

### **8.4 VI Parents Conference**

MOTION: That \$250 be provided by DPAC to Queneesh PAC to support two (2) parents to attend the VI

Parents conference

Cara / Danielle H

After discussion, the motion was amended to: That \$160 be provided by DPAC to Queneesh PAC to support the early bird registration costs of two (2) parents for the VI Parents Conference

CARRIED

### **8.5 Advocating for Public Education (follow up from November workshop)**

- due to time constraints, this item has been tabled to the next meeting

### **8.6 Gary Anaka Workshop**

- Gary Anaka will be presenting "Understanding the Teenage Brain" at Isfeld on February 10 from 7pm-8:30pm. This workshop is recommended for parents of students from grade 4 to 12.

Donations to the CV Foodbank will be gratefully accepted.

### 8.7 Calendar Updates

- calendar updates are now available on the District web site. It is recommended that everyone visit the site and provide feedback, either positive or negative

## 9. New Business

### 9.1 BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM

- this years conference will be in Kelowna, from April 29 to May1, 2016. DPAC has some money available to support attendees; please bring requests for assistance to the next DPAC

END DPAC MINUTES

e) CPF Report – Lisa – see report below. Cabane á sucre tickets available as of today, February 15, 2016, at all four French Immersion schools.

- CPF – Comox Valley Chapter held a meeting on Dec. 7, 2015 with French Immersion parents represented from each of the FI schools in the valley (École Robb Road, École Puntledge, and Mark Isfeld, as well as the Francophone school). Clyde Woolman gave a brief presentation on the SD71 proposal to create a dual-track school at Robb Road and at Airport Elementary, and opened the meeting up to discussion and feedback.
- There have been two planning meetings so far regarding Cabane á sucre, which is a Quebec-style Maple Sugar Festival held at the Francophone school each spring – this year the date is **March 12, 2016** at **école Au-cœur-de-l'île**. **Any parents who are interested in volunteering are always welcome, and families are welcome to attend. Details will be sent out closer to the time.**
- Upcoming event – Concours d'art oratoire – French public speaking – Comox Valley event date will be **March 16**, 5:30pm, École Robb Road, and provincial event will be on **May 7, 2016** at SFU Surrey Campus. Students from all of the FI schools have regularly participated in this, and have done very well at the provincial level in the past.
- Here is an overview of how the Comox Valley chapter of CPF is funded: it is given \$22 out of every \$25 paid as a membership fee by any local parents who join CPF, and that money goes towards local cultural events such as the Cabane á sucre, the French public speaking competition for French Immersion students (Concours d'art oratoire), bursaries for two graduating French Immersion students each year, free memberships in the past to any FI Kindergarten families, and any other cultural presentations at our local schools, such as the Maple Man, Théâtre la Seizième, and other performers over the years, in order to give our French Immersion students a taste of French culture and support them in their language

learning. Money is also donated from the Robb Road hot dog sales four times each year to CPF – Comox Valley Chapter, which is gratefully received and appreciated! All of the money raised or donated to CPF goes back to directly support and benefit SD71 French Immersion students from Grades K-12.

- The CPF executive this year for our local chapter is: Lisa Taylor (president), Ingrid Whetter (secretary), Jeff Taylor (treasurer) and Stacey Fussell (past-president). Please feel free to contact us at any time for more information. Email Lisa at [lisa.taylor.ed@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.taylor.ed@gmail.com) or Stacey at [stald@shaw.ca](mailto:stald@shaw.ca).
- To join CPF and contribute membership fees towards our local students and events, as well as receiving notice of opportunities for French Immersion students and families throughout the year, you can go to the website at [cpf.ca](http://cpf.ca).

#### 5) New Business

- Tutors for SD71 students - there seem to be growing numbers and needs – should this be a concern? The difference between educational support vs motivational support is important. In Blocks C and D there is a senior math teacher giving support esp. to grade 9. Learn now BC is available. Flipped Classrooms are being used for Math 10, where the students watch an online tutorial for the lesson, then do the homework in class.
- New project for grant pursuit and/or fundraising – is this something the PAC would like to consider? Do we have a new project or idea? Tabled to next week.
- Discussion of how the school will address the possible lack of spaces for students who wish to register in required academic courses at Isfeld next year – e.g. Chemistry 11/12. Mr. Taylor explained why they are needing to limit the number of sections, why they have to select the students that take them. There is a huge attrition rate of students in Chem 11, 12 and Calc 11, 12. ILC blocks can help with this situation.
- Discussion about communication regarding opportunities for student trips and exchanges – one example, is a program called Encounters With Canada that has many opportunities for students in athletics, medicine, media, history, etc. Google Encounters with Canada to access. Also, Anotiv- is an app the students use to share and receive information.

#### 6) Adjournment 9:53 – moved by Lorne, seconded by Ian.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016