

Brentwood Park Elementary School
Parent Advisory Council Meeting
February 22, 2017 7pm-8:10pm
Minutes of the Meeting

In Attendance:

PAC Executives: Margo Hrennikoff (Co-chair), Kamaljeet Guram (Treasurer), Donna Rae (DPAC)

and Principal Jillian Lewis

PAC Members-at-large: Karina Power-Otero, Saicy Moyneur, Mary Tsang, Chad Haile, Wendy Haile, Stig Tollefsen, Darlene Allanson, Karmen D'Alfonso, Janine Asahina, Ed Asahina, Peter Wong, Jennifer Lee-Wong, Deborah Liou, plus one not signed in.

Regrets: Sharron Wang (Co-treasurer), Connie Leung (Secretary)

- All encouraged to engage in person and online via PAC button on school website:
 - a. <http://brentwood.sd41.bc.ca/pac/>
or via email to:
 - b. brentwoodpac@gmail.com

1. Emergency Preparedness Update:

- Stig Tollefsen updates on purchase of trauma kit to be located with emergency kit in main office –
- Q: who is qualified to use trauma kit?
- A: some of staff trained in first aid and in an emergency, they will be first to respond

- Purchase of 5 unit radio set – also to be located in front office
- Should be charged and used occasionally to discharge & refresh and check for readiness
- Stig also showed purchase of a wheeled Stanley brand tool chest as possible type of replacement item for current white bins that hold in-class emergency supplies. Would enable younger children to be able to help in case of evacuation. Lower on priority and will build up these replacement bins as they become available at prices appropriate to our budget. As they become available, classrooms of younger students are first to be replaced and then move up through to older student divisions.

- DY asks if parent community can be sent a copy of school emergency response plan, get clarification on terminology used by corresponding emergency charge units (ie. School board, City of Burnaby, regional response agencies...are they on common language?)
- School Board in middle of drafting / working up updated emergency response plan so schedule ahead to YR 2017/2018 to distribute this new set of protocols as soon as made available

- Q: How do parents get updates in case of an emergency?
- A: depends on what type of emergency. Different if lock-down, vs. evacuation. Primary note of concern is that we understand the differences of type of emergency. For example, in a lock-down, it is recommended that parents DO NOT call students on cell phones in case sound of ringtones brings attention to the students. In case of an evacuation, the student pick-up procedures are activated.
- Have not collected emergency preparedness funds for 2 years. Will need to make a call-out again this year.
- Should do so by end of this school year or at beginning of September 2017

2. Financial Update

- Presented by Kamal Guram
- Copies of detailed financial statements available upon request and available in hard copy at school for parents to view upon request
- Financial position positive and on track: summary of key income to date (Sept.'16-Jan.'17) are as follows:
 - Gift cards \$667
 - Winter Concert Raffle \$3260 profit net of \$180 expenses
 - Pies and Cookies \$953
 - Donations in cash \$1,325 (different from Direct Donations from Brentwood Park families)
- Discussed not doing plant sale this year and was agreed to decline option. Profits continue to decline year on year and not worth the effort. Perhaps reconsider and do again next year.

3. Grade 7 Leaving Committee

- Planning groups in place
- Nearly reached fundraising goal but should be completed by May ?
- Theme is "Hollywood"
- Usual camping and Playland outings in place

4. DPAC Update

- Majority of agenda given over to a presentation from:
Burnaby School District's SOGI Committee: Garth Errico, Dan Adrian, Sarah Larsen
See presentation posted on the DPAC website for details.
- Presentation Highlights • District has moved to using the term SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), the same term used by BC Human Rights Code, so as to be broader in its definition and scope. The district's work around SOGI is motivated by the Burnaby

School District Mission Statement – with emphasis on the words “inclusive” and “caring”.

- District Code of Conduct was recently updated to include gender identity and expression language. <http://www.sd41.bc.ca/code-of-conduct/>
- Professional Development for Staff: SD41 has partnered with SOGI 123 (<https://www.sogieducation.org/>) to provide professional development for staff. The district recently hosted a SOGI Education Leadership Summit in October 2016, which was attended by 140 educators from 9 school districts.
- Summit summary:<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58056b68f5e2316903750b43/t/58990974ff7c503111960e7b/1486424442833/Summit+2016+Summary+Report.pdf> • SOGI Committee:
 - o Meets monthly, hosted by different secondary schools each month, and consists of 2 part-time teaching positions (1 elementary, 1 secondary), students, parents, teachers, CUPE support staff, principals and vice principals, district staff, and trustees (all partner groups).
 - o Committee work includes universal washroom implementation, Pride celebration, Pride parade, IDAHAT breakfast (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia). See presentation for complete list.

Other DPAC Business:

- BCCPAC: § AGM & Spring Conference: May 5-7, 2017 at Sheraton Guildford Hotel. One of the main topics of the conference is inclusion.
- BCCPAC elections are taking place for President, 1st Vice President, Treasurer, and 2 directors. Resolutions are still being accepted. Please see <http://bccpac.bc.ca/> for details.
- MOTION: That Burnaby DPAC nominate Jen Mezei for BCCPAC President in the upcoming BCCPAC election in May, 2017. MOVED by Dave Dye, Burnaby Mountain PAC. SECONDED by Valentine Wu, Marlborough PAC. CARRIED unanimously. §
- All Parties Meeting Hosted by BCCPAC: April 4 at the Shadbolt Centre. This is the only all party forum on education and space is limited to 200 seats. BCCPAC members will receive a code for registering 1-2 parent attendees (no fee). It will be up to PACs to coordinate who will attend from their school (code provided for registration). The event will also be live streamed (access code will be made available to BCCPAC members only). NDP, Liberal, and Green party have all RSVP'd their participation. d. Education Advocacy: Discussion occurred around whether DPAC should engage in letter writing to the Ministries of Education and Finance around education advocacy. The 6 recommendations from the report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services were reviewed.
- MOTION: That Burnaby DPAC send a letter to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance advocating for adequate funding for public education and to adhere the standing committees' recommendations. Moved by Jocelyn Schonekess, Central Secondary PAC. Seconded by Denise Taylor, Brantford PAC.
- MOTION TO AMEND: Amend motion to read: That Burnaby DPAC send a letter to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance in support of the Select Standing Committee on Finance 6 and Government Services' recommendations, in particular, Recommendation 49: "Provide predictable, sustainable and adequate yearly funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to continue to provide access to quality public education.". CARRIED unanimously as amended.

- Q: Have letters written by parents, PACs, DPACs historically made any impact on actual government practice and decisions?
- A: Advocacy of this type does have impact. As an example, when SPCs were taken out of the School Act a couple of years ago, DPAC chairs sent over 60 letters to the Ministry of Education about the need to include parents' role in the new language of the Act around school planning. This resulted in PACs being assigned a role in the Act to provide input for the School Plan.
- As per usual, all DPAC meeting minutes, documentation, discussion forum can be found in detail on the website: www.burnabydpac.com

5. Principal's Report

Jillian presented a mini workshop on another aspect of the redesigned curriculum – focusing on: **CORE COMPETENCIES**: Parents were invited to envision a young adult version of their children and put to words what kind of person they hope that adult child would be like. Key words returned were:

- Independent
- Confident
- Capable
- Considerate
- Curious
- Creative
- Problem solvers
- Responsible
- Adventurous
- Respectful
- Empathetic
- Engaged
- Self-aware
- “know what they don't know”
- Healthy
- Fit
- Accepting
- Reflective

From these hopeful words, these “values” were discussed next as aspects of “core competencies” that teachers and the new vision of teaching through the “new approach” curriculum would work towards and engender -- these being viewed from the teaching side as threads of abilities / competencies that students build by translating and applying knowledge and by the process through which they acquire that knowledge.

In summary terms, these core competencies can be roughly labelled as:

- Communication
- Creative thinking
- Critical thinking
- Positive personal and cultural identity
- Personal awareness and responsibility
- Social responsibility

Some parent feedback that continues to resonate is that these above don't remove concern and value of solid knowledge based learning and some embrace of need for rudimentary and rigorous learning outcomes **ALONGSIDE** these listed competencies. It is as if there is an over-emphasis on process above content.

Parents invited to continue this dialogue with school, teachers, engage with curriculum plans with open mind and see what is happening in the classroom as a way to check where and how these new approaches / emphasis mesh with their own children's learning.

---presented as draft until minutes approved at next general meeting---