

MINUTES

Coast Mountains School District #82 Parent Advisory Council

*Date | time 4/25/2016 6:05 PM | Meeting called to order by Rebecca Georges
Minutes taken by Krystal Miller*

In Attendance

Present: Krystal Miller, Rebecca Georges, Krystal Jesson, Jacquie Strachan, Terri Edmonds, Katherine McIntosh (Superintendent)

Regrets: Karen Young

Presenters: Travis Elwood, Director of Facility Services & Luis Gonzales, Operations Manager with Diversified Transportation.

Cathy Lambright, President, Terrace District Teachers' Union #881

Special Presentations

Transportation

- Luis is the Operations Manager for Diversified and works closely with the local manager in charge of the Terrace division.
- Diversified is privately owned by Pacific Western Group of Companies.
- Canadian owned and operated.
- Deep conviction to safety.
- Yearly audit for safety internally and an external audit every 3 years.
- Company will soon be implementing a tracking system that will tell the company where the bus was, how fast it was going, etc.
- Busses have governors to limit speed.
- Drivers inspect the bus each morning and at the end of each day.
- The school board investigated Diversified and checked with other communities that currently use Diversified buses before switching.
- While on the bus, students are the responsibility of their principal as they know the students best.
 - Principal is the hub for all communication.
 - If a parent has a bussing concern, they need to speak with their child's principal.
 - If a resolution cannot be reached, the parent can speak with the Superintendent's office.
- School Code of Conduct includes the bus.
- Removing a student off the bus as a consequence is an old way of thinking, now the focus is on changing the behavior overall.
- Besides insurance and workplace safety issues, having a parent volunteer on a bus to help manage any challenges is not a viable long term solution.
 - Bus drivers need to be able to manage the bus and need to be taught how if they struggle.
- Use of camera surveillance on busses is also not a good solution as the driver often rely on the camera.
- Concern was raised about the busses sitting at the school with the engine running.
 - Children are exposed to the exhaust as they wait for and/or walk to their bus.
 - This is a known health issue.

- Diversified had already addressed this issue with their drivers who have been instructed to not leave their engines running unless during the winter months when it is necessary.
- Discussion about the distance that in-town students (especially younger children in Kindergarten/Grade 1) are expected to walk (3 km) because they do not qualify for bussing. The concern was that this is a very long way for small children to walk and even for some parents who have health issues.
- Suggestion was made that parents may wish to have a walking bus which is where parents arrange to escort students to school as a group with parents either taking turns walking with the children or walking part way and handing the group off to another parent who walks the remainder of the distance.

Presentation ended at 6:50 pm

TDTU

- Cathy's job is to defend the collective agreement (benefits, salary, what the classroom looks like, etc..)
- Advocates for the teachers and the public education system.
- The School Board tries to prevent budget cuts from affecting students but it's at a point that it is no longer possible.
- Teachers are spending vast amount of their own money to supply classrooms.
 - BC Government does not provide adequate funding.
 - We are one of the lowest funded provinces in Canada.
 - Current funding formula makes it difficult for rural areas.
- BCTF.ca has a page for parents:
 - Q&A
 - Curriculum changes
 - Presentations (some available in French)
- Parents can help by contacting their MLA's to add weight for advocating for more education funding.
- If a parent is having difficulty with a teacher and is getting nowhere with the principal, go to the Superintendent.
 - If the parent isn't satisfied with the direction the Superintendent is going there are other avenues that can be looked at.
- TDTU has offered to have a parent attend their conference next year.

Presentation ended at 7:27 pm

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the past meeting were passed as submitted.

Unfinished Business

Registered Sexual Health Educator

- Selena Hallet contacted Rebecca to find out what sexual health education is offered to students in our district (grades 4-10.)
- What is happening in our district?
 - Curriculum is covered in grade 5, 6 7, and 12.
 - How it is taught depends on the school.
 - Provincially mandated and is part of the redesigned curriculum.
- Rebecca will arrange to have her come and speak to us.

New Business

Banking

- Our current Vice Chair lives out of town and is unable to regularly access the bank.
- Krystal M. suggested maybe we change the constitution so that all the executives have signing authority.
- A motion was presented by Jacquie to have all executives as signers in the constitution with any three to have signing rights at any given time. The executive would decide who the signers should be but one must be treasurer. The motion was seconded by Krystal J.

Passed Unanimously

Transportation

- Rather than kilometers the executive has decided to pay the actual gas cost (receipt required.)
- Cap would be \$200.
- Motion was made by Krystal M. and seconded by Jacquie

Passed Unanimously

Chair Report

- Rebecca made a presentation to the Cassie Hall PAC.
- Explained who we are, what we do, and who BCCPAC is.
- Is open to talking to other PAC's if they are interested.
- Attended a conference on Vancouver Island.
 - Shelly Moore talked a lot about inclusiveness and how it works well for most kids (www.blogsomemoor.com)
 - Maybe DPAC should look at bringing her here to do a presentation.
 - Major problem province wide in getting parents more involved with their children's education.
 - How do we get them more involved? Perhaps we could have a mini conference.

Vice-Chair Report

- No report was provided.

Treasurer Report

March 31 2016

- Regular account has \$1,690.04
- Gaming has \$4,194.65 with some outstanding.
 - \$3,322.38 as of the date of the meeting.
- Krystal J. reminded Rebecca that there is paperwork the bank forgot to get her to sign so she'll need to go back in.

Secretary Report

- No report given.

External Committee Report

- Education meeting report will be sent out via email.
- Budget meeting minutes will be sent out once completed by Carole.

Superintendent of Schools Report

Chris Weber

- Working with school teams to look at students who aren't successful and trying to find out why.
 - What do they need to experience difference in the classroom?
 - Look at the SE teacher to find out what will work best and what is their role.
 - What is the role of the principal?
- Final visit this year but will be back next year working with different schools than this year.
- This year he mainly worked with Caledonia and Skeena.
 - Looking at a common language to help transition between Skeena and Cal.
 - Types of methods of interventions change by the time the kids get to middle school and high school.
- Next year Hazelton and Kitimat will be focused.
- This has been a significant investment by the board to bring him in but they consider it a long term investment.

Lorna Williams

- Learning how to best implement the aboriginal studies into the classroom.
- Community Language Forum
 - Get First Nations language into Hazelton schools.
- Lorna is world renowned and respected.
- Huge investment for the board but they are hoping for a long term partnership.
- So far she has been positively received.

New Curriculum

- Next NID is the last day this year towards the redesigned curriculum.
- They have worked successfully with the Union to get a model and helps teachers with the new curriculum.
- There will be one additional PD day next year for the new curriculum.

French Immersion Consultative Committee

- Currently involved in a consultation process.
- Last year there was a presentation to the Education Committee about the French Immersion program and enrollment numbers.
- Ad Hoc committee is exploring options to maintain French language education in higher levels.
- Exploring the possibilities and looking at other models.
- Decided that the chairperson needed to set up forum with Canadian Parents for French
 - Find out what are challenges/needs and what do parents want to see change.
 - Recommendations will come from these forums.

- The board hoped that all the meetings would have happened so that recommendations would be made by Spring.
 - Not likely going to happen as there has been an unexpected delay in the meeting process.
 - They will take the time they need to do this properly.
 - Will likely be a recommendation for the next school year.

Final Meeting (AGM)

5/30/2016 6:00 PM, School Board Office board room

Meeting Adjourned 8:26 PM