

## DPAC Meetings Report – Debora Zilber

### **DPAC Meeting - October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The DPAC General Meeting was held online, via ZOOM, on October 28th.

**Present:** 42 attendees (34 schools represented) and 2 guests

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Adoption of agenda

3. Adoption of the previous General Meeting Minute.

**Motion:** To adopt the minute of February 26, 2020 General Meeting (full version here:

<http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/DPAC-GM-Minutes-2020.02.26-Approved.pdf>)

CARRIED

4. Results of DPAC Board of Directors and Executive elections

All nine Directors nominated at the AGM were confirmed as elected, although Dean McGee's nomination was withdrawn prior to the meeting. This left a minimum of one vacancy on the Board, which should consist of nine to thirteen Directors. Following DPAC's C&B, executive elections took place at the next Board of Directors meeting.

• **President:** Lakhbir Johal

• **Vice President:** Eka Sidhu

• **Co-Secretaries:** Amanda Grimson and Megan Carbonetto

• **Treasurer:** Alexandria Villafane

• **Media Relations:** Rani Senghera

**5. Director nominations for vacant positions**

Three nominations were received for the vacant Director positions.

**Nominations:**

• Suzy Fong

• Amrit Johal

• Elaine Cheung

All nominated Directors were elected.

**6. 2020-21 budget**

DPAC's financial statement was reviewed.

**7. PAC 101, Finance 101, and Zoom 101**

The President of the DPAC Lakhbir Johal presented guidance for PAC governance, Gaming grants, financial best practices, and Zoom tips.

BCCPAC has provided Surrey DPAC with seven Zoom licenses to share with PACs. Interested PACs can contact DPAC to schedule their meetings.

(Full PAC 101, Finance 101, and Zoom 101 presentation here: <http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Surrey-DPAC-Oct-28-General-Meeting.pdf>)

**8. Board of Trustees update**

Trustee Garry Thind provided a district update (District news for October 2020 available here: <http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/District-News-DPAC-meeting-October-2020.pdf>).

**9. Discussion**

Attendee questions were addressed. PACs were asked to send any questions for the district to DPAC, so that they can be directed to the superintendent.

## **10. Adjournment**

### **DPAC Meeting - November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The DPAC Meeting was held online, via ZOOM, on November 25th.

#### **Surrey DPAC Directors - 2020-2021:**

- **President:** Lakhbir Johal
- **Vice President:** Eka Sidhu
- **Co-Secretaries:** Amanda Grimson and Megan Carbonetto
- **Treasurer:** Alexandria Villafane
- **Media Relations:** Rani Senghera
- **Director:** Joytika Jasuja
- **Director:** Rina Diaz
- **Director:** Elaine Cheung
- **Director:** Suzy Fong
- **Director:** Amrit Johal

#### **1. Acknowledgement**

Territorial Acknowledgement (Surrey) read by the DPAC President, Lakhbir Johal

*“We would like to acknowledge the shared, unceded traditional territory of the Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwantlen and other Coast Salish Peoples on which we work, play and learn.”*

(Guidelines and rationale regarding the Acknowledgement and other suggested wordings can be found here: <http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Territorial-Acknowledgement-Dec-2019.pdf>)

2. Call to order (Lakhbir Johal, DPAC President)

3. Adoption of agenda

4. Adoption of the previous Meeting Minute.

**Motion:** To adopt the minute of October 28, 2020 General Meeting (full version here:

<http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/DPAC-GM-Minutes-2020.10.28-draft.pdf>)

CARRIED.

#### **5. Financial statement**

The DPAC Treasurer, Alexandria Villafane, presented the financial statement updates (Chequing account and Gaming account).

**6. Laughing Yoga Holiday Party** – Helen Hilarapy, attending the meeting, took the opportunity to invite the attendees to enrol their organizations into this online event. It is a free event and more information or to enrol, please visit the site: [https://www.hilarapyhub.com/laughing-yoga-organization?r\\_done=1](https://www.hilarapyhub.com/laughing-yoga-organization?r_done=1)

#### **8. Board of Trustees update**

Trustee Garry Thind provided the district update (District news for November 2020 available here:

<http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/District-News-DPAC-meeting-November-2020.pdf>

Garry Thind also addressed some questions brought to his attention by the attendees. Nothing has been decided regarding to anticipate or extend the winter break. It is true that some conversation related to this matter had taken place during the District Trustee Meeting, but bottom line, this is a decision that will be taken, or not, solely and exclusively under the direction of the BC Health Authority.

If an extension occurs, all the students will be put online – same model used after Spring Break. So far, no option to expand the blended program. According to Garry Thind, budgeted wise, the maintenance of the blended program is extremely expensive and the District is already deficitary. Chances are for the continuity of the blended program in January, in the way the program already exists (meaning, with the same students that are taking it now), if the cases continue rising, while the vaccines are not available.

A question about why the blended program is so costly has arisen and the Trustee suggested that the District Treasurer could better provide further clarification related to this point. Lakhbir said she is going to contact the District Treasurer and come back to the parents with the answer.

Parents also asked if *in person* support would be provided to the kids with special needs in case of an extension of the winter break. Garry Thind said that this is a very important question and a challenging situation because unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and the District/CUPE Collective Agreement, the District cannot send the support staff (EAs, ABA-SWs, CCWs) to the work with the students at home.

Lakhbir made very clear to the Trustee that the parents concern about the special needs kids is a very important issue to be addressed by the District and asked the Trustee to move this concern ahead in the next District Trustee Meeting.

Considering all the questions opposed by the parents, Garry Thind suggested to the Board of the DPAC to invite the people of the District who could talk about budget and special needs affair to join the upcoming meetings.

## **7. Children's Mental Health and COVID-19**

The psychologist Dr. Vanessa Lapointe presented a speech about Children's Mental Health and COVID-19. Dr. Lapointe's speech will be available on the DPAC Facebook Page until Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 10pm. Please, click on the link below and take some time to watch it. It is really instructive and will provide you with strategies to better support your kid to navigate through this uncertain time.  
<https://www.facebook.com/surreydpac/videos/448215303249857>

## **8. BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils Presentation**

Andrea Sinclair, BCCPAC President, presented: Understanding Parent Stakeholders in Public Education, explaining topics such as: Key Players in BC Public Education; Who BDDPAC is and Why it Matters; The respect and credibility of the BCCPAC among parents, partners and with the Government and how BCCPAC Affects Change; The Importance and Advantages of your PAC becoming a member of the BCCPAC (Tangibles and Intangibles benefits); \$75.00 dollars annual Membership fee – Why is that needed?

After these and other topics related have been presented, Andrea addressed some attendee's questions such as: the possibility of a PAC member contacting the BCCPAC directly, through a toll free line, to clarify doubts and formulate questions; and the possibility to still apply for the gaming account grant.

## **9. Discussion: Inclusion of diverse learners**

Please watch these two videos shared by parents of special needs kids to get familiar and raise awareness about some struggles these kids and their families are living with.

- <http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Inclusion-Complex-Learners-part-1-1-1.mp4>
- <http://surreydpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Inclusion-Complex-Learners-part-2-1-1.mp4>

Due to the importance of the subject, a motion to discuss this subject as the main topic of the next DPAC meeting was carried.

DPAC also carried a motion to create an internal committee focused on inclusion of diverse in Surrey Schools.

If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact [info@surreydpac.ca](mailto:info@surreydpac.ca). More information will be presented at the January 27, 2021 meeting as, voted and approved.

Attendee questions were addressed.

## **10. Adjournment**

### **REMINDERS**

All general meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday monthly (except December and March), 7-9 pm. Registration/login begins at 6:45 pm.

Meetings will be conducted online via Zoom until further notice.

- Jan. 27, 2021
- Feb. 24, 2021
- April 28, 2021
- May 26, 2021: AGM

If there is something specific you would like to see discussed at a DPAC General Meeting, please send an email to [info@surreydpac.ca](mailto:info@surreydpac.ca).

More information about DPAC is available at [www.surreydpac.ca](http://www.surreydpac.ca).