

Surrey District Parents Advisory Council

Wednesday October 23, 2024

7:00pm Meeting called to order -Anne Whitmore

7:02 Welcome & Land acknowledgement

7:03 School Trustee -Bob Homes

- Capital Funding
- Climate Change-we need to see provincial plan
 - reduce carbon emission-we are largest district
- New schools-colaboration space
 - daycare space
- Growth-capital needs
- [Media Release: Report Highlights Urgent Need for School Maintenance Funding - British Columbia School Trustees Association](#)
 - school site acquisition charge-amenities for municipality
 - \$76-\$230 million/year
 - NDP promise 20,000 new seats
 - 50,000 new students/ per year
 - 5 year capital plan
 - 2023-2024 (25 biggest districts) \$7.5 billion/year
 - province has only committed \$550/entire province (surrey needs \$350 per year)
 - maintaining
 - extended school day
 - hybrid learning (classroom & online)
 - holds on budget -operations-90% mostly goes to operations (teachers, support staff, classroom, equipment)
 - current portable count -370 (about 9,000 students)
 - aqusition is almost as much as it is to move them (\$7mill spent last year)

7:24 District Principle--Raj Puri

- Traditional schools
 - growth experienced by Surrey District
 - 1,500 new students this year alone
 - long range facilities plan

- 3 sites traditional schools on -convert to catchment schools or keep
- community forum October 28 & Nov 6 @ District office
- met with students & teachers

[Traditional Schools Consultation 2024](#)

- report go to board for decision December 11—decision to follow
- secondary schools -some already doing
- extended day model
- hybrid model
- tri-semester
- possibly adding traditional schools to this list
- what is important to people -what & how we implement
- ministry funding issue for traditional schools -doesn't come forward when there is a choice (aka traditional)
- strong culture for traditional schools (not just uniforms) both from parents & students—discipline & structure
- concerns-small in size –less students available
- takes 3-5 years to build/set-up new school (20 years from ask to completion) -lengthy process controlled by ministry of education
- area standards growth 15% growth -we have exceeded growth every year
- hard to get funding for students already there-always working behind

[Traditional schools could be losing unique status in Surrey, B.C. | CBC News](#)

Q&A

- choice program—lottery only is there an alternative way to do it so we can make it more available
- what can we do as parents & PAC to help move things along with gov't (talk to media, gov't mp etc)
- media request is are very effective
- 83,000 students in Surrey District –try to keep fingers on pulse of each school/community & bring to district for discussion
- frustration around us knowing the data but not executing it –why?
- meet with MLA -permits, funding, growth
- need alignment between federal, provincial & municipal development plans—children focus

- 8:07 Review May Meeting/AGM minutes
- 8:08 Adoption of Agenda
- 8:10 Approve September 2024 minutes
- 8:11 School Trustee -Bob Homes
- Reviewing district budget
- Extended day costing \$200-\$400/day
- Provides 10-15% more space
- 8:13 Super Intendent -meeting information
- Bussing –some students are missing 2-2.5 hours of school/week
 - Some students are sitting & waiting for 45 minutes or longer before being picked up (long day from 7:30-3:30)
 - Funded by Surrey District not Municipal Gov't
 - 95 modulares—only half of these are replacing portables
 - searching for incremental space not temporary space
 - running water, elevators, concrete foundation, not attached to school (not glorified portables) paid for by gov't -doesn't increase collaborative space (library, gym, teachers office etc)
 - Students receiving support -inequitable distribution—trying to disperse equally throughout province
 - replacing only retired EA not adding anymore
 - PAC training session
 - Cost of Modular \$1-1.5 million per unit vs \$200-300,000 per portable
 - everytime portable moved it shortens their lifespan 15-20 year lifespan vs modular 20-30 year lifespan
 - modulares can be built/put in place for 1/3 of brick school build
- 8:28 BCCPAC-updates
- Facilities committee
 - Elections committee
 - Facing bi-election (3 vacant seats require bi-election)
 - BC DPAC summit for end of November

- DPAC coalition for holding BCCPAC accountable -request copy of agenda & minutes—original minutes NOT amended ones
- Important that PAC & DPAC have a voice & consultation so important that we are represented

8:32 DPAC Coalition

- Provide value to PAC & DPAC -resource, guidance collaboration for district & each local PAC

8:34 DPAC Co-Ordinator Role

- January/February 2025 in person -Collaborate & provide training for PAC roles (most likely held on a Saturday)
- BCCPAC -request to be more transparent—declined
-issue about retreat—intense conflict amongst executive
-lost deposit & a bunch of travel expense
- BCCPAC request for investigation for investigation for code of conduct by executive
- Email from DPAC -if you want to have a vote-register by end of month
-want each PAC to register for BCCPAC can vote \$100/year cost
-benefits AGM & elections that come forward
PAC & DPAC present issues & find resolutions
Board NOT enacting wishes of membership
5 board positions currently empty -need to run bi-election
51 PAC registered with DPAC (approx. 80 PAC not registered) no cost
We need to get registered to be able to support (DPAC will carry proxy)
- Encourage PAC collaboration to network & exchange ideas as well as share cost for training

8:54 Shana -Racial Equity/Diversification & Equity

Gwen/Theresa -communications

Sheri -Inclusion for diverse learners committee

Bill -finance

Bobbi-minutes

8:56 Sheri -provide resources for families -transitions, accessibilities, advocates,
Helping families-students get equity in accessibility to their education

-active whats app group (approx. 90 min/month)

-representation between elementary & high school

8:59 Request for training for individual PACs provided by DPAC

ie: constitution & by-laws, finances etc

9:00 Ajourn the meeting