

DPAC Meeting – Nov 21, 2016 (School Board office, attended by Kerri Deane, DSS DPAC rep)

Rod Allnut, director of HR, gave presentation regarding recent court decision re class size:

In 2002, government decided class size should be legislated

In 2010, teachers went to court

In 2011, court agreed and Bill 22 was passed with hard limits for class size

In 2014, BCTF took government to court again and court agreed. Government appealed. Court favoured government. BCTF took it to the Supreme Court and BCTF won in 2016.

The 2013 Collective Agreement made allowances to negotiate terms going forward. The government and BCTF will negotiate “how and when”. We don’t know how long it will take to implement. We will carry on with current staffing until negotiations are complete. The current contract is in place until 2019. We will be reverting in some way to the 2002 contract. Will likely need more teachers, some specialists. May need more classroom space. Bottom line is it has to be worked out between the BCTF and the government. There is no input from school districts. Many media reports are inaccurate – there will be no changes put in place for January, 2017 as some have reported. It will be business as usual for this school year. School trustee Laura Dixon said it’s up to BCTF to initiate the negotiations with government re class size and composition. FYI – Surrey already has shift work: some classes start early and others later, to accommodate everyone. There is lots of good planning required and good faith bargaining consultation is the key point. There may be a callout for parent engagement down the road.

Joanna Angelidis, Director of Inclusive Learning spoke about BC’s framework for enhancing student learning, including indigenous, special needs and vulnerable students. All our goals should include all our students. Need to give students full access to learning and the ability to contribute. It’s hard work for teachers as they may have a student that needs quiet and have a student in the same class that is loud. We have to stick to our principles but be soft on our people. Help teachers and parents. We want all students to reach their potential of contribution. Standards are: safety, orderly, accessible, engaging. Values: dignity, caring, growth, comfortable failure, excellence, considerations, shared with school and home, emotion. What is the barrier? How does that student get through barrier to access learning? Merging special needs and regular needs is in the new curriculum. From special needs all the way to gifted students. Low floor to high ceiling activities...includes all kids. Establishing an inclusive advisory council.

Doug Sheppard – Superintendent

Two things every student needs: 1) someone who believes they can be a success and 2) doing something they like, every day.

Question asked from the floor re ministry's parent feedback form. Doug thinks it's good to include parents but believes the ministry already has most parent concerns in their sights. Info re upcoming parent meetings will be re-sent in January with specific dates, times and locations.

Treasurer's report – individual parent education grants of \$200 per school available (need one month's notice)

DPAC executive member attended BCCPAC meeting. It's the largest lobbying body in BC from a parent perspective and they have a direct line to the ministry. The Minister of Education attended the meeting.

Laura Dixon advised that at the BCCPAC AGM, motions can be put forward and voted on to make changes. They amplify the voice of the district. Education should be a higher priority during elections – only 30% of BC population has children in the public education system. But all sectors should be interested as business wants properly educated employees, etc.