



# École Mark R. Isfeld Secondary PAC

Monday, October 17, 2011

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Marlene Ricard, Chris Ricard, Shelley Gailloux, Sallie Crawford, Barry Walker, Bill Village, Annette Schmidt-Schweda, Janice Caton, Carla Morrison, Jeannette Gingras, Lisa Taylor, Donna Kane, Arla Calman, and Brenda Geddes.

1) **Call to order** - 7 pm

2) **Approval of agenda** - Barry Walker – 1<sup>st</sup> and Sallie Crawford – 2<sup>nd</sup>, agenda approved

3) **Approval of previous month's minutes** – District superintendent Sherry Elwood's name was misspelled. There was an omission of Treasurer's name for elections - Donna Kane is the treasurer once again this year. Bill Village, not Bill Taylor under SPC. Approved as amended. Lisa Taylor – 1<sup>st</sup> and Sallie Crawford – 2<sup>nd</sup>

4) **Reports**

**a. Principal's report**

- Have had one earthquake drill and another is forthcoming.
- Terry fox run held and successful.
- Early dismissal event saw a huge increase in parents coming to see teachers during that time. Several factors could have contributed; no reports, teachers communicating home, more involvement, etc.
- Sports teams are doing really well. Good, full schedules.
- A change was made a few weeks ago in scheduling for year-end as grad landed on the same day as Vanier again but a change in Provincial exam schedule allowed it to move to Wednesday June 27, 2012. Grad activities are into full swing and there is great involvement with both parents and students. Several staff members are also involved in many of the grad activities.
- Job action is still happening. Other than staff meetings and some small issues around that, things are running very smoothly. This school has a great staff.
- Bill is looking to have the sexual health speaker, Dr. Claire Vanston, return this year. Focus on males and dating etiquette. This speaker is a no nonsense, straight talking speaker who doesn't mince words and really engages the kids in a positive way.

**b. Trustee's report** – The director of operations and district treasurer positions are being vacated. Those job postings will be filled soon. Three returning trustees, Janice Caton -

Courtenay, Sheila McDonnell – Area C, and Tom Weber – area B. Others joining by acclamation are Paula Selby – Area C, Peter Coleman – Comox, and Donna Gambacorta – Courtenay. Two trustees are running for one spot in Cumberland; Rick Grinham and Yolanda Goodwin. On Dec 6 they will be sworn in and begin business. Janice going to trustees conference and will have much to report from that at the next meeting.

- c. Treasurer`s report** – no activity to speak of. Some outstanding expenses from last year. \$20 per student grant upcoming. Need a couple of parents to audit treasurer`s books as per constitution. Lisa Taylor`s husband may be able to do it as well as Sallie Crawford. They will examine the books and make note for the PAC that they have done so and whether or not there are any concerns or discrepancies. Asked about BCCDPAC membership. DPAC is leaning away from their membership (Jeannette). Trustee Janice Caton argued that this is the parent`s voice to the province and they have had their funding cut by the province and need parent`s support. She encouraged us to renew our membership. 20<sup>th</sup> century learning initiative to increase parent involvement. BCCPAC is the provincial voice for that. Cost is \$75 but the district reimburses us for that money. Vote held and all in favour. Passed. The membership will be renewed.
- d. DPAC Report** – Jeannette Gingras
- Darryl Calnan is the DPAC chair [darrylgc@telus.net](mailto:darrylgc@telus.net)
  - Day long workshop being held on hiring staff in the district. Parents encouraged to attend and the names need to be sent to Darryl. Wednesday October 19, 2011. Lunch is provided.
  - Vancouver Island Parent Conference (VIPC) on February 11, 2012. The website is <http://www.vipc.ca/>
  - Aboriginal Education AGM being held at the aboriginal education centre at the Courtenay El school.
  - Session with John Abbott on the 24<sup>th</sup>. For students on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Having dialogue with students about education into the future. There may be a session planned for parents in the evening. (See Note \*)
  - Comox Valley refugee support committee looking for help.
- e. FAC Report** – no rep present but FAC minutes shared by PAC secretary Marlene Ricard.
- f. SPC Report** – Bill Taylor...oops, Bill Village, Lisa Taylor, Sallie Crawford and Shelley Gailloux.
- Teacher rep will be invited to the next SPC meeting but Job action could be a problem with that. Gus Valen expressed interest.
  - Four pillars are being upheld as goal.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century learning large part of this school.
  - Adding more technology...more to follow on that.
  - Assessment and raising the bar/standard for students. Culture of completion in school. Higher standard needs to be upheld. X-block has been very useful in this initiative. The

job action has had an impact here in that communication isn't happening between staff and admin. Kids need to be "assigned" to X-block, not suggested to attend, if they have work not completed or are struggling to succeed in that class. There is a structure in place that can work but the breakdown in communication isn't supporting this happening and is impeding reaching the potential possible.

#### 5) Old Business

- a. **School sign.** Bill has met with the fellow from Grant signs who has been very helpful. City has not been helpful. They blocked it again. Bill met with Sherry Elwood as well as she is interested in what is happening here. There are issues between the district and the city around the frontage of the school in terms of planting trees etc and leaving room for a sign. The road in front of the school will see changes with Thrifty's coming in down the road as well as they make changes for their access. This may open the way for this discussion with the city as well. Janice shared that the district is very supportive of getting this sign. Relationships with the city are slowly improving but it will be a slow process. Remember, there is an election coming up. Speak to the candidates on this issue. Bill is planning to involve the student leadership to speak to the city on this issue and go with a "green" tack to address the sign bylaw. Let the kids have a voice in this for their school. Involve the press in the quest.

**\*Note** - Barry questioned why we bring in a speaker who is British for the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning initiative in that our school system is already far superior to the British model or many others around the world for that matter. Why are we not seeking a speaker where they already have a superior system? Why is the government funding this? (John Abbott).

- b. **Emergency Preparedness.** No committee members present. Bill spoke to Paul Barry who has been charged with getting the schools equipped, at least in part, for emergency preparedness. Bill questioned our procedures as well with Paul and how things are done at this point. He had some good suggestions and Bill looks forward to working with the committee on this initiative. He sees the first need for funding to be spent on large tarps for each TA. More to come on this topic.

#### 6) New Business

- a. **Reporting to parents** – no report cards as part of the job action. Teachers do talk to their students about their marks and students should have a good idea how they are doing. Parents can contact the teachers to inquire about how their child is doing and teachers are obligated to respond to parent inquiries. They are supposed to contact parents directly if the student is doing poorly. Teachers at the grade 12 level are aware of and supporting the need to make students aware of their marks for college applications etc. There is good communication between the district superintendent and the president of the CDTA. They are working toward solutions to problems as they arise. Provincial exams have been eliminated. Now grades 10 and 11 count toward scholarships for the passports to education. The kids have been informed of this on several occasions.

- b. Teen suicide** – in light of grade 9 Highland school student’s suicide – Although the implementation of this predates this event, VIHA will be running workshops for grades 9, 10, 11 students around this issue. It is mandatory as part of the health education program. District has a very good crisis prevention team who are available with trained counsellors to support students around these issues. There may be a parent workshop being set up around this issue as well. Look for this in the near future. There needs to be talking about this topic. Break the stigma and get kids/parents talking.
- c. PARTY program.** Will those who missed it last year get it this year? Bill will look into it.

**7) Adjournment** – 8:30 pm Barry Walker – 1<sup>st</sup> and Annette Schmidt-schweda – 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Next PAC Meeting – Monday November 14, 2011**