

Raymer Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC)  
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, February 16, 2015

Meeting Guidelines and Agreements

- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- Demonstrate mutual respect: respect people and ideas. Such respect does not necessarily represent agreement. Everyone has a voice.
- Be confidential and use discretion.
- Respect everyone's time. Hold Questions until the Q&A at the end of each Report

DRAFT

In Attendance:

Deannie Z. (President), Nicola E. (Treasurer/Secretary), Adam C. (VicePresident), Kristina L. (Artistic Design & Spirit Leader), Denise B. (PACMember at Large), Lynnzi M., Daniel G., Kelly H., Susan Bergen (Principal)

Guests: Kevin Kardaal, SD 23 Superintendent; Lee Mossman, SD23 School Trustee; and Traci Cooke, Canadian Mental Health Association.

6:30

1. Call to order Theme: TOGETHER WE LEARN - *Parents as Partners, Get to Know SD23 Community Partners*  
President's Welcome of Parents and School Community Partners – Deannie Zahara, PAC President

6:32

2. Principal's Report – Susan Bergen

- Registration for next year now closed and projected 34 kindergarteners for 2016/17. This may change by September but realistically anticipate 25-30 students and have one full K class and a combined K/1 class.
- Current school population at 242 students
- LiD Update – launched our LiD project (Learning in Depth) – originally presented at Dec mtg by Ms. Daum and Mrs. Bergen going very well.
  - The kick-off assembly was very popular with the students and teachers. Children are enthusiastic had fun, positive energy
  - Students and staff received their topic and some direction on how the first few weeks would be structured.
  - Introductory activities described (*shared photos and described process*)
  - Puzzle pieces are fundamental to the program to teach how to connect ideas and explore.
  - Children showing how pliable their minds are, program recombines groups and uses different school spaces
  - Purpose is to encourage creative thinking, critical thinking, and ways to communicate
  - Mrs. Bergen reviewed intent of LiD project and alignment with redesigned curriculum.
  - Discussed plan to extend project to include Grade 3 students next year if possible.
  - **Parents are encouraged to visit the school and see project in action on Fridays 10-11.**

6:45

3. Guest Speakers

Lee Mossman SD23 School Trustee (and former Raymer parent, PAC Executive and School Planning Committee member)

- Lee and his family were deeply invested in their children's education and the Raymer Community,
- Education is also the parent's job – **EMPOWER your child to be curious. PARTICPATE in their education.** A "wraparound" mentality of moral support brings success and good values.
- Potential \$3.5M shortfall in budget, as Chair of Finance Committee the challenge is to minimize extreme impact – does it have to be a cut or is there another solution?
- Before we can really tell if there are not enough funds, do we have our funding formulas correct? I.e. is money being used most efficiently?

Kevin Kardaal SD23 Superintendent

- **"WE CARE DEEPLY"** – three words that describe SD23– believes parents are the ambassadors for learning.
- 90% of budget is on people (contractual spending) so there will be a big impact as a result of the cuts. In April the government will give more concrete budget to work with.
- Upcoming year there are no guarantees on funding extra students coming into BC. In 2014/15 these were taken care of by a \$55M holdback – SD23s share was between \$2-3M. Next year there may be no holdback/cushion.
- SD23 is a high performing school district with a growth mindset and consistently above standard in BC.
- Upcoming online parental feedback to ask community how they want to see changes made – i.e. keep programs but reduce service or remove some entirely to preserve others?

- Kevin's priorities not that different from predecessor Hugh Gloster; Curriculum transformation has been number one. Also looking to expand the business model for international students to generate more revenue over and above government funding. Coherence; new ways for accountability and finding authentic role for parents in replacing School Planning Council, with School Improvement Plans
- SD23 has the lowest administrative costs compared to other districts and is #2 in highest use capacity (efficiency)
- Encourage the "Spiral of Inquiry" that includes parents within it to learn with and support kids. Find a collective strategy that can be supported by the PAC, e.g. implementing non-curriculum programs to support learners.

**Traci Cooke, Parent in Residence for The F.O.R.C.E Society**

- The Friends Program is in many schools throughout SD23. The Friends program is one of many programs offered in SD23 for Social Emotional Learning. [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental\\_health/friends.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/friends.htm)  
There is also an online Parent program so parents are able to use the same tools as used in schools and is a great support for strengthening resiliency and teaching coping strategies to reduce anxiety, while building self-esteem. <http://www.friendsparentprogram.com/>
- Tracy recommends mandating social and emotional learning into schools

7:15

**4. COPAC Report**

- [SD23 Budget Development Timeline](#) - February 17<sup>th</sup> Public Finance Committee Meeting 6:30PM at SBO on Underhill
  - Online consultation survey to come later in February
- ~~BCCPAC Leadership Conference & AGM – April, Kelowna~~  
[Ran out of time, tabled until March PAC meeting](#)

**5. New Business**

- Funding Request for Library Author Visit – Karen Autio \$125 for Grades 2-3. *Approved.*
- New School Sound System – *equipment quote received, waiting on SD work order quote. More discussion to come in March with more information.*

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

THANK YOU and see you at the Anti-Bullying Workshop Tuesday February 23rd  
Next PAC General Meeting – Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>