

DPAC Meeting Minutes

September 18th, 2024

Qualicum Commons / Library

6:30pm - 9:15pm

Edits can be found highlighted in yellow after the information that needed to be corrected.

Attendees:

Ray Woroniak / DPAC President,

Angel Delange / DPAC Secretary

Brenda Fisher / DPAC Treasurer & BSS DPAC Rep

Raani Desai / EOES DPAC Rep

Zack McCool / EOES DPAC Rep

Erin West / EES DPAC Rep

Jacquie Harkema / AES, KSS, & Save The Commons

Bill Preston / Qualicum Community Education and Wellness Society (QCEWS), & Save the Commons

Julie Birlew / SES DPAC Rep

Maleah Bajich / WLC, CEAP, & PASS DPAC Rep

Janelle Brooks / EOES & BSS Parent

Harlem Brooks / EOES & BSS Parent

Lisa Haupt / KSS DPAC Rep

Matt Woods / MATA PRESIDENT (Mount Arrowsmith Teachers Association)

Carol Kellogg / QSD School Trustee

Rudy Terpstra / QSD Director of Instruction & Sr. Team Rep

REGRETS: Jessica Threlfall DPAC Vice President

Call to order at 6:31pm

- 1. Acknowledgements - Land recognition by Ray**
- 2. Introductions - round table**
- 3. Adoption of the agenda motioned by Lisa and seconded by Erin**
- 4. Approval of the May 2024 DPAC meeting minutes motioned by Raani and seconded by Maleah**
- 5. Delegations (5 mins each)**
 - a. Oceanside Commons Society Update shared by Jacquie (unless someone else is tagged)
 - May/June 2024 QSD announced their intention to dispose of the Craig St and the Qualicum Commons in 2025 and have given notice to tenants to vacate by June 30th, 2025
 - Many people came forward including our MLA Adam Walker to help keep these facilities open to the many community members and user groups that use these two facilities.
 - The group is trying to develop a plan for repairs, manage the tenancies, looking for a non-profit society to support this role, to hold meetings of governance and finance.
 - October 11, 2024 is the QSD deadline to receive applications from the public
 - Seeking community support from PACS, and DPAC
 - Looking for a 25-30 year lease from the QSD to operate both facilities so the non-profit will be eligible to qualify for a mortgage and receive funding for repairs etc, that the QSD is unable to access.
 - Other meetings are being held

- Matt/MATA asked when their proposal would be available to view, they are currently working on a draft version, and working out final details but the application deadline is Oct 11, people can visit their website, savethecommons.ca
- November 27th, 2024 is the date the QSD will announce their decision
- Rudy commented - the Board put a Public Notice for consideration of future potential use.
- October 11 is the deadline for all public applications.
- Raani - commented that both buildings have a unique configurations, and so many user groups use these facilities than she was aware of prior to this project
- The Qualicum Commons is in less dire condition than the Craig St Commons, but the Society would manage both buildings.
- Both sites occupy approximately a total of 18 kms of land
- Ray - commented that he went to a meeting and some tenants had talked about how they would consider paying more in rent if it means they can keep the space, Qualicum Dance has approximately 180 students, 4 daycares between the two schools, and a private school with approximately 90 students
- Bob - commented that there is specialized equipment for off hour use for all QSD students, previously known as Brain Body Fitness, now called, Oceanside Integrated Fitness Society, and has been funded by the QSD and sometimes Naomi Doanes/physiotherapist is onsite

6. Information Request Items (30 minutes)

Trustee Carol Kellogg re: The Craig St Commons / Qualicum Commons & QSD Committee of the Whole meetings and Rudy Terpstra

- Ray shared that previous Superintendents Rolly Koop and Dr. Elder said they were not attending DPAC meetings to entertain us, and therefore Ray would prefer to submit requests need to be submitted to the QSD
- Lisa - agreed so that DPAC will brainstorm questions for the QSD staff and for the QSD regular board meeting updates

Rudy's Update:

- Most start up has gone smoothly, early learning at the elementary schools are well into their learning, high school course changes are mostly complete, looking at enrollment and numbers will be presented at the next QSD board meeting
- New bussing program is going well, prior to the new software scheduling details were done on paper, this is way more efficient, the QSD knows who is getting on/off the busses, and they've been able to tighten up routes so kids are on the busses for less time
- Cell phones use in schools policy changes have come from the Ministry of Ed, not too much noticeable changes for elementary but at the high school students are expected not to use their phones from bell to bell unless the classroom teacher is approving the use for classroom studies, students will go over code of conduct, guidelines and what will happen if they choose not to follow the rules
- Sites for parents to consider check out: AwayfortheDay.org has lots of resources and videos
- The QSD cannot afford to keep and maintain both Commons
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/cellphones-in-schools#parent-supports>
- <https://www.awayfortheDay.org/about>

Carol's Update:

- We cannot discuss the application process for the commons because it is open to the public and the proposal deadline is Oct 11, and discussing it would not be fair to the groups who are submitting an application
- COW/Committee of the Whole Meetings are for the board members, unions and staff are invited to participate, and they are available for parents/caregivers to attend.
- They are not trying to not be transparent, and at this time the COW meetings will remain at the same times and days of the week
- The meetings are a place for the board to discuss matters being brought to them for review and for potential voting, all voting must be done at a public board meeting
- Currently there is no intent to record these meetings
- COW/Ed report does get reported and shared back
- Was the Chair for the Bylaw (Policy) and now is the Chair for the Finance COW
- They review these positions yearly
- Commented that she didn't become a Trustee to not be transparent, or to hide stuff, she became a Trustee and their job is to help create quality Education
- Vice Chair of the BCSTA, District Health & Safety and Long Service Committee
- Liaison Trustee for BSS, SES, and False Bay
- Coffee with Trustees update - they have 3 schools remaining from last year's rotation, they weren't well attended. They will complete the last three schools and will decide if they will start the up again in the new year
- Recording of the COW meetings is being discussed for the 2025/2026 year.
- Provincial election this fall.

Matt's Update:

- New cell phone rules have come into place, rules are already in their code of conduct, most may not notice many changes
- Regarding the Commons, targeted funding does not cover repairs to buildings not used for SD students. These buildings were closed due to poor building condition and although they have been rented at a new zero minus the fixit price, they also agree these buildings need to come off the SD books so the SD can keep targeted funding for students.
- COW meetings are less formal, decision making is done at the SD Regular Board meetings and even one meeting is a challenge for MATA to attend, but there isn't much room for changing them up.
- MATA is planning a Provincial MLA's candidate's forum for October 9th - Time/Location TBD, so far Adam Walker/Independent and Stephane Higginson/NDP have confirmed attendance, and they are waiting for confirmation from Brett Fee.
- Ray asked a question - Can DPAC submit some questions to MATA that could possibly be used by MATA at their forum, and Matt's reply is yes.
- The Union's position that Rustad's conservative platform for the 2024 election is not kind to education, very similar to what Falcon's Liberals did to decimate public education.

Bob wanted to make sure he and his group are clear that they are no way antagonizing the QSD because of the Qualicum Commons and the Craig St Commons needing to be disposed of. They understand that the

buildings cannot remain on the QSD's books, and are hoping to find a way to do that while keeping the buildings open for use to the community.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- Gaming account: \$17.84
- General account: \$12,908.27
- Gaming Summary Report for 2023/2024 is ready to be mailed out
- Applied for the 2024/2025 Gaming Grant several months ago and DPAC should be receiving \$2,500 in October

8. Business arising from the minutes/ action items - NONE

9. Break - NO BREAK TAKEN

10. New Business:

A. Nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and Directors

- Maleah self nominates herself as a Director and currently sits on the WLC PAC
- Ray nominates Lisa Hupt (edit- Haupt) for Secretary and currently sits on the KSS PAC
- Ray nominates Megan Hurd for Vice President and currently sits on the AES PAC
- Ray nominates Janelle Brooks for Treasurer, unfortunately Janelle does not sit on her school PAC Executive and cannot be voted in unless she is an active PAC Executive on a school PAC.

Maleah went to speak and Ray had to call, "point of order, I'm talking"

B. PAC use of school internet:

Appears that all school PACs have access to their school wifi for meetings (if needed)

C. BCCPAC membership renewal of \$200

- Ray recommends DPAC write a letter to BCCPAC and not pay the fees.
- Ray makes a motion, and seconded by Maleah: QSD DPAC writes a letter to BCCPAC recommending that our QSD PACs not renew their membership fees until the BCCPAC Minutes and AGM minutes are released to all PACs and DPAC, as per BCCPAC Bylaws 10.5 **MOTION PASSED**

D. Pro's & Con's of current bank

- Angel shared some history of why DPAC changed banks 3 years ago
 - Prior to 2020, DPAC used the Credit Union and if someone wanted to be the Treasurer they would have to pass a credit check, essentially requiring a volunteer to accept having a credit check drawn on their name
 - The account was so old that when we looked into it, the woman who originally opened it many years prior was still listed on the account. Thankfully we had someone who recognized the name and thankfully she still lived locally and was surprised to find out that her name was still linked to our account, she had to go in and sign off closing the account
 - We transferred accounts to the TD

- If you change accounts you **MUST** order real cheques at approximately \$118 for the Gaming account - the Gov't requires chqs that have are computer generated in full, and handwritten name/address **MUST** be computer generated or they will not accept it for issuing the Gaming grant
- The general account does not require this because we do not issue very many chqs so she has been issuing bank drafts
- Ray will reach out to the Credit Union in Qualicum to confirm if credit checks are required for the position of Treasurer, if the Pres, VP, and Treasurer can have login access to view the accounts, and what the bank fees would be for our accounts

E. DPAC's position on the Commons

- Ray makes **TWO** motions, seconded by Maleah: 1st - The QSD DPAC write a letter of support for the Oceanside Commons Society/OCS to the Trustees and QSD board during the QSD regular board meeting, and 2nd That the QSDPAC also write a support letter on behalf of OCS to the QSD and Trustees. **BOTH MOTIONS PASSED**

F. What do we do with the old DPAC email and facebook page

- Ray will reach out to Jessica (current VP) to set up an auto reply on the old DPAC email so anyone sending an email to that email will be given a reply letting the sender know the old email is closed.
- Ray believes there are a couple of option for facebook -
 1. Forward all posts to the new facebook then delete the old one
 2. Leave it status quo
- Angel expressed concern about closing the old facebook down, that it had been closed for 9/10 months and in June 2024 we showcased all of the amazing achievements our PACs and SD has done over the year. We've had people reach out to us in June expressing their appreciation for this, and I would hate to see it all disappear.
- Raani commented that she sees this as a "here and now" and let's keep it archived, what do we need facebook to be, it's not a formal record of what DPAC does.
- Jason Howard suggested it seems like an admin issue
- Recommendation to have the new DPAC President receive the password

G. Are we violating section 13.1 (regarding financial signing authority)

- Ray has not been added to the bank account and therefore does not have access to the accounts
- Ray asked to be put on the accounts for July 1 and was denied
- Angel commented that it was the first time that she's aware of that a Vice President was not voted in during the May election and there can only be 3 signatories on the account and because Jessica was not elected in May, removing her and the others to be able to put Ray on could be problematic, and between July and October there was only one cheque written for the Pride benches.
- Ray and others are concerned because the President is not currently on the accounts with signing authority

H. Bylaw Committee - nothing to report

I. Access to Committee of the Whole Meetings/COW

- Jaquie wants to ask the Trustee to record all COW meetings
- Ray makes a motion: Ray will request the QSD start recording and uploading to a social media platform
- Jaquie would like the PACs to speak to their families and inquire how much interest there is to have those meetings recorded and then bring that info back to the next meeting

J. Zoom Account

- Lisa makes a motion and seconded by Maleah - DPAC will purchase either a Zoom or Teams account for up to \$500

K. In person hybrid meetings video conference mic would be beneficial & recording of DPAC meetings

- Motion by Ray and seconded by Erin that DPAC should purchase a mic for hybrid meetings
MOTION PASSED
- Recordings of DPAC meetings - Motion by Ray seconded by Jason Howard to have the DPAC meetings recorded and shared to a publicly shared social media platform **MOTION PASSED**
- Janelle and Lisa shared that they felt this would be a year of healing for DPAC and hoped that the environment created at DPAC meetings would make parents feel more welcome.
- Angel voiced concern, and commented that considering she was DPAC President for two years, and this year as Secretary, she cannot help but take those comments personally

L. General Discussions

- Ideas for questions to potential MLA's could include
 - Funding
 - Class size
 - Education Assistants
 - Independent Schools
 - Declassifying student needs
- Jason asked if the QSD can reduce the amount of paper forms that are required each year by parents

M. Round table discussion about what's happening at their schools

- QBES/Jason - welcome picnic with bouncy castles, meet the teacher night
- KSS/Lisa - New Chair, the VC and Chair have swapped roles, 9/11 Executives have kids graduating this year, lots of new staffing, 9 new teachers, new daytime custodian, Healing Forest is progressing, received \$1,500 from the Biosphere Suzuki foundation, Biosphere Awareness Event - November 22 and KSS/BSS students get to meet about 50 groups, open to school students until 3pm then open to the public from 3-4pm
- AES/Ray - Brandt Wildlife Children's Festival, every school (Leadership groups) being invited to have a table and it's being held at the Civic Ctr in Qualicum scheduled for April 2025, specific date TBD

- SES/Julie - they had chalk drawings on the sidewalks for the restart, gaga ball pit is a go, first pac meeting is coming up, they'll be running Purdys, art cards, fresh foods, and a coupon book for fundraisers this year.
 - Janelle asked if the gaga ball pit is wheelchair accessible
 - Julie was able to confirm via messaging with a pac person that yes it is
- EES/Erin - they had their first meeting last week, shifting focus away from lots of fundraising, trying to shift away from "asking" parents, limiting fundraising to help draw parents in, exciting news they are partnering up with grades 6/7 for Leadership Entrepreneurs and offering micro loans to grade 6/7's to put a business plan together and then follow through making, selling, and repaying loans - **through Business of your Own, Junior Achievements - edit/EES is aware of these resources, but they are not actually using these programs.**
- EOES/Raani - 11 pac execs, every position filled 5 of which are new members, new VC and directors, Bagel Cafe starting up, charging \$40/pass for the year to have bagels each morning, hot lunch program is starting up, running Purdys, art cards, Holiday store, we have a new librarian, and a fun day for May is planned
- BSS/Brenda - Change room renos have been complete, the Leadership students helped provide insight and ideas, track work is progressing, they've removed some lockers and made some changes to the free hall space to create more seating and lounge spaces
- WLC/Maleah - they are planning a group dance

N. Question ideas to send to the QSD so they can answer at the next DPAC meeting:

- Teacher retention
- Why are COWs not being recorded - Ray wants to wait a bit and come up with a clear position of unity on this before submitting this as a question
- Why are parents being asked to duplicate the startup school forms - 4 kids 4 sets of papers
- Accessibility
-
- NRT Training - why is \$267K of our budget planned for this training
- What is NRT Training and why prioritize this over EAs and Maintenance Budget
- Why do PACs have to fundraise to pay for playgrounds
- Bus Passes - why are parents being asked to pay admin fees, seems like a cash grab

O. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15pm.