

NVPAC APPROVED - General Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2008

Place: LMCC Conference Room

Chair: Franci Stratton

In Attendance:

NVPAC Exec: Franci Stratton, Karen Stewart, Leslie Uhlenbruck, Verna Dyk, Susan Corcoran

Regrets: Lisa Cartwright, David Whitehead

Parents and PAC Reps: Linda Buchanan, Marlene Warner, Cathy Floe, Kristin McNulty, Claire Freyvogel, Lucy Zhong, Tina Meyer, Jo Woronchalk, Christina Medland, Nahid Tavakoh, Barry Forward, Susan Ratsp, Mara Stickland, Ann Backnouse, Shamina Vahedi.

A. FORMAL BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order and Welcome 7:05 pm**
2. **Introductions by Franci and Notice of All Candidates Meeting by Karen Stewart**
3. **Approval of Agenda 7:10 pm** Moved by Christina Medland, seconded Tina Meyer and carried.
4. **Approval and Discussion of Minute – General Meeting of September 25/08 7:10 pm** Moved by Linda Buchanan, seconded by Karen Stewart and carried.
5. **Approval of NVPAC Budget (Treasurer's Report) 7:15** Discussion on changes, including income of district funding broken out, have added separate account for office supplies & conferences (side note 6-7 parents attending BCCPAC leadership Conference - \$1800 allocated), also new family of school funding \$200 for each of 7 secondary schools; pointed out the intent to run a deficit because NVPAC has had a surplus in the last few years. (Budget attached). Moved by Jo Woronchok, seconded by Leslie Uhlenbruck and carried.

B. MEETING FOCUS

6. **International Baccalaureate Program: Speakers Celine Kaufman, IB Coordinator Carson Graham Secondary and Toby MacDonald, IB-MYP Coordinator, Balmoral Junior Secondary School**

Toby spoke on International Baccalaureate focus on life long learning, well-rounded exploration of studies. Points of interest:

 - The class doesn't look much different from before IB but it involves the learners to become a more active learner, its gets students to be more engaged in their own learning process.
 - MYP is based on the BC curriculum used throughout the Province; however how the middle years learn is different.
 - MYP does not have the standard 8 subjects of high school and there are no longer electives. In MYP the main subject areas are Math, English, Social Studies, Science, PE, French (Language B), Fine Arts, Technology.

- MYP also has 5 areas of interaction, these can be describes as the lenses that form the core of the MYP around the student's learning. These are:
 - Approaches to learning (skills to learn like research, collaboration),
 - Community & Service,
 - Health & Social Education (awareness of self),
 - Environments (this can include their school, classroom, neighbourhood, global community),
 - Human Ingenuity (consequences of things invented).
- Students don't have more work with the IB program; however, currently the teachers are going through a learning curve and are working hard to integrate all elements into all subject areas.
- Community and Service component is expected of all students to develop responsible citizens giving back to their community.
- Personal Project is required for students that will demonstrate their development as learners. This is a written document incorporating lots of elements and work. Students often describe this as a lot of hard work but also lots of fun.
- What MYP is not: it isn't curriculum as all learners in BC get the Ministry curriculum, it is not testing, it is not more stress, nor an add on, it is not different subjects than are already being taught, it is not an exclusive program.

Questions: How does MYP work for students on a modified program?

Answer: IB makes exceptions for students on modified programs. The student's program will be assessed on what teachers value, what is an acceptable level for that student (held to their own expectations).

Q: How often do teachers meet with parents?

A: IB does encourage parents are regularly updated on what the students are doing, but does not require additional contact with parents. Balmoral is looking at incorporating student lead parent conferences.

Q: Will the volume of homework increase?

A: No because curriculum is the same, but type of work will change, for example students will do more projects and won't be not cramming for tests.

Celine Kaufman, IB Coordinator at Carson Graham for the Diploma Program

IB Diploma at Carson points of interest:

- It is a rigorous, specialized college/university preparatory program.
- It is not for every student because it is not just academics but also includes an ability to have a global perspective.
- IB graduate students tend to be more successful at university, and may get some credits towards their 1st year university programs.
- More IB students tend to qualify for scholarships and early entrance at universities.
- Canadian IB students tend to have higher success rates in graduating with IB & in university.
- Advantages for the Carson community is that with teachers who have IB accredited professional development, that traditionally this translates well throughout the whole school increasing overall levels.

- Students in the Diploma Program will focus on either a Humanities or Sciences strand. Each incorporating language, history, math, visual arts, sciences, extended essay, theory of knowledge (learning of self & ideas), creativity, action, service hours.
- Carson has built a relationship with Capilano University to utilize their library in June for the IB students to experience university level research and resources.
- DP will have two kinds of assessment – external assessment worth 70%, written in May in Year 2. And graded by an external adjudicator. The internal assessment is worth 30% = collection of teacher assessments during Years 1 and 2.
- IBO has done a site visit at Carson with a good response. Carson is anticipating approval in Jan 09.
- Carson is aiming for two cohorts of approximately 50-60 students each.
- The application process will be assessed based on:
 1. Student having a reasonable level of numeracy & literacy (i.e. good B in Math & English).
 - 2 Will required two recommendations from teachers.
 - 3 All qualities not necessary academic, also include can you handle stress, are you organized, good flexibility.

Watch for more update on the Carson school site for upcoming presentations in November and December, or email ckaufman@nvsde44.bc.ca for specific questions. More info on IB at www.ibo.org

C. NVPAC BUSINESS MEETING

7. **School Reports:** 100 Anniversary at Capilano Elementary held a successful open house on the 17th. It was extremely well attended by past students and community members with about 600 in attendance.
- The Seycove graduating class embarked on their annual Black Tusk Trip and this year was particularly special as the students and teachers worked together to include a student who was helped up the trail with a special all kids helped get Larson had a guest speaker, a Para Olympian skier who spoke to the students & the impact was huge.
- Q: What is the SD doing during the 2010 Olympic period? A: SD will take a look at this and is seeking parent's input. The calendar committee will be meeting to discuss this further.

D. NVPAC EVENTS UPDATE

8. **All-Candidates Meeting Thursday Nov 6/08 – Input From PACs**
9. **General Meeting – Thursday Nov 20/08 – Communications Audit Update**

Adjourned 9:06