

## BCSD Parent Consultative Meeting Minutes

**Monday, October 16, 2017**

**What is PCC?** PCC is similar to a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). We act as the Parents voice when it comes to decision-making, improvement and achievement relating to the BC School for the Deaf (BCSD).

**Present:** Laura Batista, Michelle Turcotte, Leigh Chan, Tammy Symons, Kathleen Stubbs, Darren O’Shea, Heather Ratzlaff (Chairperson), Heather Malloy, Jaz Peterson, Gwen Wong (Minute Taker)

**Staff:** Sarah-Anne Hrycenko (PDHHS), Jennifer Zuvic, Gordon Li, Margaret Paris, Janene Seabrook

Agenda	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heather chaired the meeting.</li></ul>	
2. Qualifications of Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion about the shortage of qualified teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing.</li><li>• Heather raised the issue of re-prioritizing to the following: ASL competency, teaching degree, deaf culture/experience, and then Masters of Education in Deaf and Hard of Hearing.</li><li>• Margaret explained that the District tries their best but the priority continues to be the hiring of a teacher with ASL competency with a Masters in Deaf Education.</li><li>• Currently the Elementary School had to hire a hearing teacher with a teaching degree with the support of two interpreters. Sarah raised the concern that an interpreter cannot connect the students to the teacher to have a relationship.</li><li>• Jaz informed the group that there is a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing available but he does not yet have the TQS (Teacher Qualification System which is certification that a teacher needs to complete before working in the BC School System).</li></ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jaz explained that this particular teacher only needs to be filmed in the classroom but cannot receive approval to come into the classroom.</li> </ul>	
3. High School Placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion regarding the opportunity for high school students to enroll in different courses. All BCSD students have a designation which indicates their deafness and having an IEP (Individual Education Plan). Currently the maximum number of students allowed in a high school classroom is 30 with the maximum 26 in a trade class. If a BCSD student is added to a mainstream class, then the maximum number of hearing students allowed needs to drop to 29. The challenge then is the number of designations allowed in the class.</li> <li>All BCSD high school students were in placements that they requested which only took 1.5 weeks to complete at the start of the year.</li> <li>Question asked if a student can attend the Oral Program as well as BCSD? The response was yes but the teachers in the Oral Program do not have the same ASL competency as teachers of Deaf Education.</li> </ul>	
4. Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Margaret provided a summary.</li> <li>IEP meetings are in process.</li> <li>BCSD/Southslope hosted Green Thumb Theatre that focused on social/emotional.</li> <li>Orange Shirt Day that brought about Aboriginal awareness and Residential School. Jodi organized and made a video with an Aboriginal woman that will be made available on utube.</li> <li>Terry Fox Run was organized.</li> <li>Allysa who was the SLP (Speech Language) has resigned.</li> </ul>	SLP position is being posted.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAS (Foundations Skills Assessment) are being conducted with students in grades 4 and 7. School is implementing new curriculum (core competencies with training being provided to teachers).</li> <li>• Report cards – Students will be doing self-assessments. This is part of the redesigning of the curriculum.</li> <li>• Discussion about interpreter support for BCSD students wanting to participate in South Slope sports. If a student is interested, BCSD will try to arrange for an interpreter but sports usually happen after school which conflicts with transportation pick up. Current budget will not permit a later pick up time.</li> </ul>	<p>Those students with a lower literacy level will not need to participate in FAS.</p>
<p>5. Principal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordon shared new information.</li> <li>• He is piloting a few clubs in the high school to start at lunch and after school: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building models eg. Airplane</li> <li>2. Drones – He would like to see clubs develop that do not normally happen with hearing students. School has purchased 4 drones. Club will teach kids to code .</li> <li>3. Dragon Boat Team</li> </ol> </li> <li>• School had a curriculum development day with a brainstorm session with teachers. Sometimes session was a challenge but sometimes it became an opportunity.</li> <li>• Gordon shared that he feels connected to BCSD. He is touched by kids and wants our kids to lead. He is trying to learn a new sign each day.</li> <li>• Leigh wanted to remind the School that we need to still focus on the basic rights that our kids should have in the classroom.</li> </ul>	

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6. Jennifer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer shared about the upcoming Flying Hand Competition. It will be a 2 day tournament in March for students in grade 4 and above. Younger students who are interested will need to be accompanied by their parent. In the first year, 7 students participated. In the second year, 12 students participated. A limited number of students will be set for this year. The goal is to keep the costs low. Question about whether to take the train (kids wish to stay together) versus taking a vehicle which was last year.</li> </ul>	Exploring possibility of taking a charter bus.
7. Margaret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year, the School set up a media club.</li> <li>• Lunch time, some sports are offered but limited.</li> <li>• October 27 is the Pumpkin Patch Event.</li> <li>• Laura inquired about whether mainstreaming is an option in the High School? Gordon replied that students can mainstream in academic and elective courses. At the Elementary level, mainstream may be possible because there are fewer students and an additional interpreter.</li> </ul>	Exploring possibility of setting up a Media Club again.
8. Promotion of BCSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion ensued about how to attract more students to apply to BCSD. Jaz raised the issue of how the School can raise the academic level.</li> <li>• Sarah expressed that there are problems with the Special Needs Policy as defined by the Ministry of Education.</li> <li>• Margaret shared that the BC Deaf Education Committee is in the process of reviewing the Special Needs Policy to include parental rights, the right to decide which school their child can attend.</li> <li>• Heather expressed a concern regarding what are we doing to encourage our kids to stay local versus applying to Gaulledet after high school graduation.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordon shared that many graduates from BCSD stay local. The process that students go through to transfer schools is the same as hearing students. To apply into BCSD, the students must register in their neighbourhood school and then register and transfer into BCSD. The success of our students will attract new students to BCSD.</li> <li>• Heather shared that the issue stems back to the Early Hearing Program and which path families decide to choose. Most families are overwhelmed about having to choose one agency.</li> <li>• Sarah expressed concern that BCSD is seen as the last resort.</li> <li>• Gordon shared that he would like BCSD to be the better choice. How can we change the perception?</li> <li>• Jennifer shared that the School has filmed students as to why they are at BCSD.</li> <li>• Jaz inquired about why is there a huge discussion about whether to go to BCSD?</li> </ul>	
9. Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan is to schedule a meeting in February 2018.</li> </ul>	Book next meeting in February 2018.