

BCSD Parent Consultative Committee (PCC) Meeting

February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00 – 8:30 PM, virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Committee: Brianne Braun, Matthew Kalenuik, Nora Maldonado, and Joy Santos

Parents: Leigh Chan, Genevieve Hohnadel, Dawne Kalenuik, Shanna O’Coin, and Gwen Wong

BCSD Administrators: Cathy Bennett – Principal, Jennifer Zuvic - Vice Principal

Burnaby School District: David Greve - District Principal - Provincial Resource Programs and Learning Pathways

Minutes

- Meeting started at 7:00 PM
- Matt – reminder of purpose and format of meeting
- Introductions

- **PCC Update** – Brianne
 - all PCC positions are now full

- **School News/Updates:**
 - BCSD Elementary - Jennifer
 - some new students this year, one starting next week
 - 39 students in total as of now
 - population is diverse in terms of linguistic ability, looking specifically at bilingualism and assessment, we are looking at daily Literacy Blocks, 45 mins in length
 - primary group split into three groups, mixed groups grades 1-4
 - all students are working from the same book and working in break out groups
 - also encouraging reading at home
 - letter came out regarding these literacy blocks some time ago
 - Flying Hands: initial meeting was had with students to see who was interested, next meeting is next week, where the trip will be discussed, and ideas for poetry/art, after that they will start practicing and then there will be a virtual parent meeting to go over specifics (cost, logistics etc.)
 - Spring Concert: May 22, Thursday evening, time TBA, Wizard of Oz theme. This was their first time doing auditions, but all students will be involved. Danielle Tarchuk is taking the lead on that. We will need parent support for props and costumes, background, set, woodwork etc.
 - Newsletter should go out by tomorrow
 - Question: Jan 22 letter said literacy blocks would come to an end in June.
 - Response: It will continue again in the fall.

BCSD Secondary - Cathy

- 55 students total, 3 new arrived last week
- Grade 10 and 12 students were assessed last week
- Ice skating and bowling trips recently, good experience with Deaf mentors
- course selection time is happening now, Jan 6 letter sent out, there will be presentations for students soon, on Jan 29 there was a presentation for parents, but only a few parents attended, course selection form due Feb 14
- will be continuing flex time with some changes
- flex time is for extra support with their teachers, some changes might be made to ensure it is well-utilized
- new PBS (Positive Behaviour Supports) started a month ago, it focuses on P-positive attitude, E-empathy, R-respect, S-safety
- when a teacher notices one of those positive behaviours, they give out a ticket, and that goes to a prize draw at the end of the week, so far it's been going well
- permission form coming soon for an offsite performance "SpongeBob" – no cost, permission form coming soon, performance is on Mar 6, for all students K-12
- newsletter a bit late, should be done by tomorrow or Monday

- **BCSD/Burnaby South Update – Joy**

- Next in-person meeting is March 5, Joy will attend
- SpongeBob play – one BCSD student is participating in that
- Winter Formal coming up – a group of BCSD students will attend, end of February

- **BCSD Website - Cathy**

- has been a long process, in contact with district IT person to make it user-friendly and to have ASL on the website, recently received district approval for the changes, follow-up meeting coming up
- Brianna: we look forward to having PCC information, meeting dates, and minutes from past meetings available on the website, this will be helpful for parents
- Jennifer: newsletter can also be on the new website

- **Update from District Principal - David**

- Strategic plan – district is redoing strategic plan, last one is 4 years old, has been ongoing since Sept, recently there was a townhall regarding this, so far it is just information gathering
- Extended days and/or changes to schedules – Burnaby South is not going to extended schedules (5 period days with staggered starts), this is better for BCSD due to transportation
- Budget preparation and submission – PRPs are under a lot of pressure, BCSD is the largest PRP funded by government and the provincial budget is under strain, there have been lots of conversations, whole envelope of funding has not increased in 10 years despite increase in costs, main area of pressure is transportation budget. There was a significant cut last year, there will be pressures this year. David would like to have a meeting with the PCC to share additional information and to see how the PCC could help.
- Quality review/program review – date TBA, should have a date soon

Question: Brianne, would they want feedback from parents? Could we get a heads up of the dates?

Response: Yes, parents will be informed

Question: Gwen, will it impact operations at BCSD? Funding?

Response: No, it's about being accountable, it was a positive experience last time.

Comment: Cathy, POPDHH, and other POPs/PRPs, will also go through reviews

- **Deaf Education Questions – Gwen**
 - difficulty in finding TDHs, especially Deaf TDHs
 - cost of living for teachers at BCSD
 - how is Deaf education defined?
 - how is the province supporting deaf education?
 - how will Deaf education be supported in the future?

Cathy would like more time to prepare answers.

Brianne: Council of Service Providers (CSP) Deaf Education Proposal: not much happened, only partially addressed recommendation regarding assessment, by providing more funding for literacy team members through POPDHH

- **Donation Drive – Joy**
 - December visit to Philippines School for the Deaf
 - visited the school, over 600 students, there was a Christmas party, toured the school, students performed a dance, it was a very meaningful trip, 65lbs of gifts distributed
- **General Q & A/Comments**

Brianne: Is BCSD thinking of opening a pre-school?

Cathy – meeting with MFCD regarding this. District 41 has someone who facilitates and works with preschools and kindergartens, Cathy met with that person. The district does create agreements with schools (like the one DCS had with South Slope) but it's a very difficult process. BCFHRS has reached out to BCSD to set up family tours for kindergarten etc. Ideally, there would be a preschool at BCSD, Pre-K to 12, but the ministry of education is really K-12.

Jennifer – BCFHRS does an education fair in October where BCSD is involved, along with POPDHH, PDHHS, and the Surrey School District. Three families from BCFHRS toured BCSD today.

Cathy – a grade 11 student has been chosen to represent BCSD at a leadership camp, for the whole month of July. She is now looking for support to fund her trip.

Next meeting – May 1, 2025