

BCSC Parent Consultative Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 7 – 9pm

Present: Joy Santos, Marcela Kline, Laura Batista, Karen Birchenall, Sarah Coyle, Jaz Peterson, Gwen Wong, Heather Ratzlaff

Staff: Margaret Paris, Scott Jefferey, Patrick Tarchuk, Christine Ehrlich-Brady, Terry Maloney, Jennifer Zuvic, Victoria Lee

Agenda	Description	Action
1. Introduction and Welcome	Heather chaired the meeting.	
2. Motion to accept February 20, 2017 Minutes	Marcela gave first motion. Laura gave second motion.	All in favour of accepting February 20th meeting minutes.
3. Deaf Educators	<p>Karen raised the issue about the lack of deaf educators. Victoria explained that the school is not losing any staff but the issue is can we hire staff. Relative to other Provinces, BC does not provide a higher wage for the Masters degree nor does BC acknowledge the practicum. The shortage of qualified deaf educators is happening across Canada and in the US. Charlie expressed concern about ALS not being a requirement for Masters Program. Margaret explained that teacher regulation branch has limited power. Victoria has written a letter to the regulation branch to address issue. No response yet so will send a second letter. She is encouraging that a letter be sent from PCC group – heartfelt from parents. Jen expressed a concern that if ASL is a requirement, then we may lose potential teachers.</p> <p>Regarding the vacant Principal position, the Burnaby District has hired a company to recruit across North America and internationally. When actual process of hiring happens, deaf community will have representation which has been done in the past.</p>	PCC write a letter to Teacher Regulation Branch about importance of hiring deaf educators with competency in ASL.
4. Provincial Resource Program (PRP)	BCSD is a Provincial Resource Program. If the school was to go independent, school would have no access to Burnaby resources. Ministry of Education is planning to review the PRP model in the future. School is experiencing students with wider needs than in the past. Ministry feels that school needs to narrow their focus. Heather asked if parents can be involved in the review process. PRP funding has remained stable but the needs of the student have changed.	

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	Currently two students are on the wait list because school does not have the human resource (mainly looking for teachers with deaf and HH experience and special needs experience). Discussion about whether a Principal will be hired in time to start in the fall. Discussion about whether students can write a letter or can teachers be involved with helping the students write about what do you like about BCSD? Admin's position is that it is politically not best to involve students nor teachers who belong to a union.	
5. Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Heather raised the issue regarding the lack of follow up regarding the IEP process. Margaret explained that this year, there were a number of teacher changes so not all students have received their IEP. Heather explained her experience with Southslopes which appears to be more stream lined. High School is now using on line system so student can access IEP through MyEdBC. Not the case with Elementary School.	Improve IEP process for fall 2017.
6. Staff Changes and Clarification	Christine has stepped down as Vice Principal. She will continue to teach at the High School and will also focus on curriculum development. Discussion about teachers who miss lots of classroom time. Victoria explained that Burnaby School District has a process in place to address work absentee. There is also no mandatory retirement age. Discussion about role that Jodi plays. Margaret explained that Jodi is still the Child and Youth Care Worker but with additional responsibilities of addressing social/emotional learning and use of media. Both schools now have a Counsellor. Regarding the ASL competency of new teachers, Jen is working on a formal assessment process.	Admin to provide a staff flow chart so that parents can understand staffing roles and responsibilities.
7. PERCI changed to Education Review Team/Student Enrollment	Regarding the acceptance of new students, PERCI was the process used which was run by the Ministry of Education with a panel of reps. Process now changed to Education Review Team (BC Deaf Education Committee) composed of 4 Admin from BCSD (2 Vice Principals, 1 Dorm rep and 1 from Burnaby School District). Committee decides if student is eligible. Then School decides if student is eligible and if they have the resources. Process is shorter and is a choice to family.	

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	<p>Terry explained that the following criteria are considered: Deaf or HH, ASL communication, not violent or risk to other students, level of support needed, additional needs (needs greater than Deaf or HH), language is seen as a priority. For the fall, Elementary will have about the same number of students which is about 48. Two new kindergarten students. One is graduating and moving to the high school. Two are moving, Delta and Victoria.</p> <p>In the High School, many are graduating. Three new students for Oral Program and 1 new student for Deaf Program.</p> <p>Parent from Prince George (on conference call) expressed her concern: Son is in Oral Program but since Christmas, has not wanted to wear his hearing aids. He has asked for an interpreter but was told no access. Parent said that son is feeling sad and they do not know if BCSD is the right place for him. HH world is difficult to navigate. Discussion about how son can be supported. Dorm would like to provide more support for him when he is ready to share.</p> <p>Victoria explained that the Oral Program and BCSD are set up differently. Oral Program has a separate budget and no funds for interpreters. The Oral Program is for students who do not use ASL where teaching is in verbal instruction. The goal is for the student to be mainstreamed by grade 10 with hearing school at Burnaby South. She suggested that perhaps son can be paired with a deaf student who is using an interpreter in a class.</p>	
8. Next Meeting	<p>Discussion about next meeting taking place when Outreach parents are in town about second or third week in October.</p>	<p>Heather will follow up with Margaret about scheduling of first meeting in the fall.</p>