

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: October 24, 2019

Time / Location: 7pm, School Board Office

Attendance:

Special Guests: Teresa Weatherby, YMCA Alternate Suspension Program, Corinna Landsberger, Parent in Residence Family Support, Nathan Ngieng Director of Instruction Learning Support Services, Korky Neufeld Trustee

7:00pm **Welcome & Introductions**

7:05pm Teresa Weatherby – Presentation on YMCA Alternate Suspension

- Now in its 10th year
- Initiated in Quebec in 1999 by Schools and Police due to increased suspensions
- Today over 40 sites across Canada, 3 in BC
- Grants from National Crime Prevention, School District funded Program
- Mostly for secondary school students, middle school students taken on case by case basis
- Referral made by VP, discussed with parents, 6 students per day, students come for 3-5 days, 0800-1330hrs, held at ARC, morning is academic work, afternoon is group session work, plan made for reintegration back into school, reconnect done at 4 week and 12 week mark by Program with Student
- Approx. 1200 students have been put through since its inception

7:25pm Nathan Ngieng - Learning Support Presentation

- Inclusion = Diveristy + Engagement
- Lots of work being done that provide students with engaging opportunities in schools that give them meaning
- Equal opportunities do not always create equal access to education for all
- Ongoing continued work with Shelley Moore who is an Education Advocate within BC and known worldwide, 2nd year working with Shelley, doing work around universal design and planning for diversity
- School based Team – the problem-solving structure that exists in each one of our 46 schools, parents as partners is very important, can be requested by teacher or parent, can also be a referral point for other services (ie. Pscy ed assessments, SLP assessments, outside agency support POPARD, etc).
- Comprised of Principle, VP, School LSS, Classroom teacher, counsellor, school psychologist
- Tiered supports available – Tier 1 Supports for all, Tier 2 Supports for some, Tier 3 Individual Supports

- District Helping Teachers – Learning Support Services, Social Emotional Learning, Intensive Intervention for Inclusion, Student Engagement and Safety
- School Psychologists provide psych ed assessments and consultation, SD fortunate in that they have been able to recruit and hire this year
- SLP provide assessment and consultation in the area of speech and language in elementary and middle school, can include direct therapy
- Vision and Hearing teachers provides support to teachers and kids in all levels of school
- District Elementary counsellors provide support through case management and consultation, fortunate in that they have been able to recruit and hire this year
- Occupational therapy and Physical therapy supports supported through local CDC, SD has part time OT assisting in the area of sensory supports
- Early literacy support teachers of which there are 5 who go into schools and provide support through co-planning and co-teaching in the areas of literacy in our primary classrooms
- LSS mandate is to work with parents as partners, goal is to work collaboratively to find strategies and supports that work for the student, meet with school staff early on in the school year
- Best ways to communication concerns is to 1) connect with teacher, 2) connect with Principle, 3) connect with Assistant Superintendent, 4) written appeal to the Board of Education
- District LSS welcomes questions/concerns from parents, they are there to support a positive relationship between the school and families involved

Mental Health Literacy – Bonnie

- General wellness includes mental health literacy, social emotional wellbeing and trauma
- Attended some training at UBC – 3 attendees who are now certified as trainers and can train teachers within the District
- Curriculum developed by Stan Kutcher
- <http://teenmentalhealth.org/schoolmhl/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/DRAFT-6-2015-Version-New-Design.compressed.pdf>
- <https://pdce.educ.ubc.ca/teach-mental-health-literacy/>

8:00pm

Corrina Landsberger – Family Smart Parent in Residence

- Non-profit agency that works alongside parents who have children who suffer mental health and addiction concerns
- Experience in knowing what it feels like, how isolating it can be, how much there is to learn, how hard you are working...

- Peer support offered to parents
- Provide resources and information around mental health advocacy and literacy
- Can provide assistance in preparing for meetings with professionals
- No wait list and no charge for services, funded by MCFD
- Monthly event “In the Know”, free monthly event for families
- May 7th – Children and Youth Mental Health Day
- <http://familysmart.ca/program/parent-youth-in-residence/>

8:10pm September’s Minutes – approved and seconded

8:15pm Treasurer’s Report

- 993.43
- BCCPAC reimbursement to come from District approx. 3375.00

8:20pm BCCPAC Memberships

- District Board will cover the membership fee for all schools

8:25pm SOGI 123 Information night update

- People in attendance were those of support and those that came with an agenda of their own
- Thank you to the District for supporting the event
- DPAC vice-chair Kandyce can come out to school PACs should they want SOGI 123 information offered

8:30pm DPAC Minutes

- Facebook can be accessed for DRAFT minutes at the following link:
https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=abbotsford%20school%20district%20pac&epa=SEARCH_BOX
- Minutes to be approved at the next meeting and the forwarded for posting to District site at the following link: <https://www.abbyschools.ca/dpac>

9:00pm Adjourned

Next meeting is November 28, 2019