



District Parent Advisory Council

DPAC Pulse

February 2021

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DPAC Executive Updates

Budget Meetings

- ◆ DPAC Executive met with the Board and District Leadership Team on February 4, 2021 to discuss budget items.
- ◆ DPAC President Marvin Klassen provided the DPAC Stakeholder input to the Board at the Open Public Meeting on February 16, 2021. The presentation was well received.
- ◆ PLEASE ATTEND the public **Presentation of the Preliminary Budget on Tuesday April 13, 2021, 7 p.m.** This will be an online presentation available to the general public. The link for this meeting will be provided at a later date.

Your school events on Social Media and DPAC Website

“Children must be taught
how to think, not what to
think.”
—Margaret Mead

If your school has a community event and you would like DPAC to share it on its social media channels or website, please send a .jpg and a short description to our Communication Coordinators and Newsletter/Website Editor:

communication@dpac43.ca and *newsletter@dpac43.ca*

Follow us on Facebook (dpac 43 - District Parent Advisory Council) and on Twitter (@dpac43)

21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge

Starting March 1, 2021, further details on page 4.

CONTACT US:

Do you have any questions, comments, or suggestions?

Please contact the DPAC at:

Ph: 604.939.3690 || Email: office@dpac43.ca || Web: www.dpac43.ca || 1100B Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam V3J 2G3



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President's Corner, a message from DPAC President

As School District 43's budget process begins this year, we are faced with the knowledge that this budget will be one of the most challenging of the past few years. Although the District uses a multi-year financial planning framework to stabilize year to year funding changes, the inflationary pressures related to operational overhead continues to increase the gap between the provincial funding grant and the District's actual costs. Added to this, is a reduced revenue stream from the International Education program, which historically represents ten percent of the District's budget.

What does this actually mean? Simply put, costs are going up, but income is not increasing at the same rate, and may in fact be going down. This means a very real chance of cutbacks. DPAC has addressed these concerns in our recent stakeholder consultation meeting with the Board on February 4th, our letter to the Board for the February 16th *Special Public Meeting – Stakeholder Input Session* and in our presentation at the Stakeholder meeting. Our position has been, and continues to be, that the District needs to work with its partners and stakeholders to achieve cost reductions where necessary with limited effect on the classroom.

I am confident that the School Board will do so, but you might wonder why. In my time on DPAC I've had the privilege to meet with the Board and the District Leadership Team for five budget rotations now. Each year I've been more impressed than the previous year with regard to the Board's desire to involve partners in the consultation process. The movement towards hosting the pre-budget special public meeting that took place on February 16th is one of those signs, showing a legitimate interest in consultation prior to decision making. Another reason is the fact that budget materials, Directions 2025 and the actual attitude I've experienced with SD43's Financial and Corporate Services, all place Students First. Watching the SD43 Secretary Treasurer and CFO, Chris Nichols, over these past years gives me confidence that this is not just a motto but also a true goal.

This does not mean we can be complacent as we watch the budget process unfold. The education of our children depends on a financially sound foundation, able to accommodate both the operation needs inside our schools and the building and maintenance of those schools. To help with this, DPAC43 has determined that we are able to reduce our request for funding from the District for the coming year due to the lower costs we've encountered over the past two years. I hope this may cause others in our district to consider their true needs and encourage them to reduce their own requests, to assure that the students in our schools have the learning environment they deserve.

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Volunteering for DPAC

The DPAC is only as strong as the people who give their time for this voluntary work, so we encourage all those who want to make a difference in our District to consider running for a position on the Executive in May 2021. Maybe you can join us at the District level to advocate for the parents and students of SD43 on issues that we have yet to address.

Elections will be held at our AGM on May 26th. All Executive positions but for President will be up for election. These are one year terms while the President role is a two year term. Nominations are taken before the meeting and at the meeting from the floor. Think about it over spring break, check out our last two general meetings in April then join us in May!

DPAC Executive commitments involve attending the monthly DPAC General Meetings on the last Wednesday of each month, attending the DPAC Executive meeting once a month and assisting with our Parent Education evenings. Of course attendance at all meetings is not mandatory as we are all parents with multiple commitments. For those that have more time available, some of us are active on sub-committees, attend School Board meetings and represent DPAC on District committees.

Important Information and Dates, BUDGET SCHOOL DISTRICT 43

The budget process is a collaborative process involving many stakeholders including the Board of Education, the District Leadership Team, teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and community members. The budget process occurs annually starting in February with preliminary meetings then moves into formal presentation of the draft budget, consultations and adoption of a budget for the coming year by the Board of Education in April.

Multiple opportunities are provided for stakeholders to contribute input throughout the process at public meetings and online.

Regular Public Meeting - Presentation of Preliminary Budget Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 7 p.m. The Preliminary Budget will be presented at this Regular Public Board Meeting. As with all Board meetings, there is an opportunity to send questions directly to the Board during question period.

Special Public Meeting - Stakeholder Feedback Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 6:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback to the Board of Education on the presented budget. If you or your group would like to present feedback, please review the *Guidelines for Stakeholder Feedback* published on the SD43 Budget Process Website. There are timelines involved for providing notice of your feedback and presentation.

Regular Public Board Meeting - Final Budget Presentation and Board Approval. Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 7 p.m. The annual budget will be presented to the Board of Education for approval. This final budget will incorporate changes requested by the Board.



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Have you heard about our 21 Day Challenge?

**21 DAY
RACIAL EQUITY
CHALLENGE**
March 1 – 21, 2021
Adapted from Dr. Eddie Moore Jr's

How do I begin the conversation about racism? How can I become part of the change?

To answer these questions about equity, diversity and inclusion in SD43 School Communities, join the DPAC43 21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge.

This 21-Day Plan suggests readings, podcasts, videos, observations, and ways to form and deepen community connections.

Ending on March 21, the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, together we will further our understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity and create social justice in our community.

For more information, contact the **DPAC43 - 21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge** Facebook Group.

The graphic features a teal background with a small DPAC 43 logo at the top left. Below the logo is the text '21 DAY RACIAL EQUITY CHALLENGE' in large white letters, followed by the dates 'March 1 – 21, 2021' and 'Adapted from Dr. Eddie Moore Jr's'. At the bottom of the graphic is an illustration of six diverse children of various ethnicities and genders holding hands in a circle.

Sign up and join us starting on March 1, 2021

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/158235196064201>

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Executive Email Addresses

Here is a list of the 2020/2021 SD43 DPAC Executive emails. Please send us any questions, concerns or new ideas to present at DPAC meetings.

Marvin Klassen	President	president@dpac43.ca
Charlie Loo	Vice President	vicepresident@dpac43.ca
Jamie Manchester	Treasurer	treasurer@dpac43.ca
Judi Zaklan	Secretary	secretary@dpac43.ca
Vacant	Newsletter/Website Editor	newsletter@dpac43.ca
Zainab Alkassab	Parent Education Coordinator	parented@dpac43.ca
Rosey Manhas	Health and Safety Coordinator	healthandsafety@dpac43.ca
Nipa Bhalla	Parent Communication	communication@dpac43.ca
Andrea Howorth	Coordinator	
Joy Schiffner	Member at Large 1	member1@dpac43.ca
Corrie Noble	Member at Large 2	member2@dpac43.ca
Tara Lyons	Member at Large 3	member3@dpac43.ca
Rayne Johnson	Member at Large 4	member4@dpac43.ca

Next DPAC General Meeting is

April 7th, 2021

“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.”

-Robert Frost