

DISTRICT OPERATIONS - BUSINESS SERVICES
Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Parent Representation on District Standing Committees

The attached letter from Ms. Jen Mezei, Burnaby DPAC Chairperson, includes a request for expanded parent representation on the district standing committees listed below. This request is in addition to the existing parent representation on the district's Education Committee:

- Buildings and Grounds
- Policy
- Youth and Community Services

Parent participation on district standing committees exists in some districts within the province and, as mentioned above, the Education Committee of the Board has successfully functioned with parent representation for a number of years. Parent representation on district standing committees may impact the operation of the committee, particularly in areas where "in camera" discussion is required; however, it is generally believed that these issues can be accommodated for the three additional committees identified.

The Board's existing procedural bylaw does not preclude the addition of parent representation on standing committees. The procedural bylaw does contemplate the appointment of non-trustees to standing committees in Part 5, paragraph 1(i), as follows:

The Board may appoint non-trustees to be regular participants in standing committees. Board-appointed participants may fully participate in the committee meetings but only appointed Trustee members of the committee may vote.

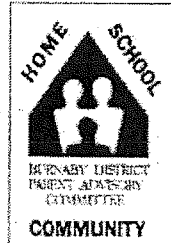
The attached correspondence also acknowledges that, in accordance with the district's procedural bylaw, parents' role on the committees would be as fully participating non-voting members.

If the Board wanted to implement a change to permit parent representation on the standing committees as requested, it would be appropriate to approve a motion as follows:

That the Board of Education approve the appointment of a DPAC representative to the following standing committees: Buildings and Grounds, Policy, Youth and Community Services in accordance with Part 5, paragraph 1(i) of the Board's Procedural Bylaw for the remainder of the 2011/2012 school year.

Attachment

Burnaby DPAC
c/o Burnaby School District 41
5325 Kincaid Street
Burnaby, BC V5G 1W2



October 7, 2011

RE: Parent Representation on District Standing Committees

Dear Board Chair Hayes,

The DPAC executive is looking forward to another productive year working with the Burnaby Board of Education, its staff and the families of Burnaby. Although it will most probably be a more challenging year, we are confident that we as a district will continue to focus on the needs of students.

DPAC is very proud of the relationship that has been built between parents and the District of Burnaby – a relationship of mutual respect. We continue to work at improving our effectiveness as a DPAC to achieve our objectives and goals as determined by our membership.

Two of the objectives of DPAC are:

1. To serve as an advisory group to the School Board.
2. To assist in decision-making with regard to school district programs, policies and practices through information, input and recommendations.

We feel that our efficacy in achieving these goals would be enhanced by having parent representation on District Standing committees. We are aware that our potential role, in accordance with Procedural Bylaw 1978 (revised 2010), part 5.1i, would be as a fully participating non-voting member. This is the role we have on the Education committee, and we feel that it is an effective way to communicate feedback in a timely way during discussion rather than providing feedback days or weeks later.

The DPAC executive would like to formally request that DPAC representatives be appointed to the following standing committees for the 2011-2012 school year:

- Buildings and Grounds
- Policy
- Youth and Community Services

Please feel free to call me to discuss DPAC representation in more detail. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jen Mezei', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Jen Mezei
Burnaby DPAC Chairperson