



**COWICHAN SECONDARY PAC MINUTES (DRAFT)**

***January 27 2016 – CSS Library (James St Campus)***

The meeting was called to order by PAC Chair Sara Lowe at 7:05 PM

Introductions of attendees from SD79 Senior Management Team, Board of Education, CSS Administration, CSS Parents, invited parents, CVTF. Full attendee list TBC

CSS PAC Chair Sara Lowe: Presented an overview of the previous week by since the call for a Special Board of Education Meeting and announcement of a public consultation to discuss the CSS Dual Campus and the suggestion of dividing the school into two 8-12 schools put forward by the Superintendent – lots of responses to suggestion had been received by the CSS PAC Chair from parents and students. A document of the responses is being created.

DPAC Vice Chair & CSS PAC Vice Chair Caroline Kirman: Spoke to how quickly the Special Board of Education Meeting had been brought forward and that the announcement and subsequent consultation was very hasty, and had not surprisingly caused a very reactionary response from the school community. This action by the Board and Superintendent had caused a lot of stress within the CSS community and particularly the student population at a time that Grades 10-12 were preparing for Provincial Exams. It was explained that during the DPAC Meeting a motion had been passed asking the Superintendent to rescind the SD briefing note and that an invitation should be presented to parents to start a more lengthy conversation regarding the CSS Dual Campus. The following day the SD had issued a notice to postpone the public consultation meeting planned for 28 Jan 2016 without an explanation.

Q & A Period in which parents asked questions and the most appropriate member of the School District or CSS Administrative team responded.

Having listened to the responses by the SD administration there remained concerns from CSS parents. It was felt that parents of current CSS students would not wish to see a significant change to CSS as this may limit course options for students, and also cause considerable disruption and anxiety for students who have already undergone much change and uncertainty having experienced the recent reconfiguration.

There was a general feeling that parents need to send a clear message to the Board of Education that this process has been too hasty and was not presented as the start of a 'conversation', but rather was put forward as a consultation on the single option presented by the Superintendent. CSS PAC would like to put forward that there is a general feeling that CSS is working well with a wide variety of courses offered, successful sports teams, and enhanced opportunities for students. Parents would welcome an open discussion on how to improve and enhance further the good work that is happening already at CSS and promote a cohesive school community across the two campuses, until such a time that funding for a replacement for the James St Campus becomes a reality.

Due to CSS parent concerns the following motion was made:

Motion by Caroline Kirman CSS PAC Vice Chair: **"That CSS PAC demand the School Board do not consider the creation of two separate 8-12 schools for the 2016/2017 school year."**

Seconded by Michell Cherneff, CSS Parent

PASSED

CSS PAC asked that the School Trustee for CSS, Elizabeth Croft, respectfully take the motion above on behalf of the CSS PAC to the next SD79 Board meeting scheduled for Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Elizabeth Croft agreed to do so.