

DPAC rep report October 26, 2016 – Alan Patola Moosmann

So much has been happening in the last month that I thought it best for a brief report to focus on providing links to more complete information.

For the VSB's formal announcement of the replacement of the elected trustees with an appointed official, see:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/district-news/official-trustee-appointed>

For DPAC's response see:

<http://vancouverdpac.org/blog/dpacstatementoct172016>

Dianne Turner has been invited to address the first DPAC executive meeting in November (Thursday November 10). I will attend and report back at our November PAC meeting. DPAC executive meetings are open to any parent with a child in the Vancouver public system to attend as a non-voting observer. **[Post-meeting update** – The DPAC executive has advised that Ms. Turner will not be at the November 10 meeting but will attend a future meeting. I will let everyone know once a firm date is announced.]

DPAC's citywide workshop two weeks ago was well attended, with sessions offered on tools for effective advocacy for public policy change, and a primer for PAC chairs and treasurers on how to run a PAC. Each executive member has taken on the role of liaison with a number of Vancouver schools; our liaison is Shaun Kalley, DPAC Secretary.

The current DPAC chair, Morgane Oger, is seeking nomination as a candidate for the NDP in the provincial election this coming May. If successful, she will step down as chair and DPAC's vice-chair, Nathan Wilkes, will take her place.

Always worth a look for updates on larger scale parent advocacy efforts is the Parent Advocacy Network site:

<http://www.panvancouver.ca/news>

PAN has presented a brief on education funding to the provincial all-party Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (this is the group of MLA's that conducts public consultations in advance of preparation of the provincial government; it has for a couple of years running made recommendations, not taken up, that the province amend the funding formula for school districts and increase the amount of funding provided). In addition there is an effort along with other parent advocacy groups in the province to address the slow rate of progress on seismic upgrades by seeing what federal support might be available through their responsibilities for infrastructure and public safety.

For a well researched and convincingly argued background paper on the structural underfunding of public education in BC, a major root of much of the current upheaval, I encourage those interested to read the following paper by Alex Hemingway, Public Finance Policy Analyst at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives:

<http://www.policynote.ca/education-crisis/>

I continue to connect with parents re interest in forming our own Public Education Support Committee at Hudson and hope to meet with those who would like to be involved in November and bring proposed terms of reference for the group back to the executive and the general PAC meeting.