

Delta DPAC Meeting Summary – Monday, Oct. 5th 7 pm

Presented/Provided to: Pebble Hill PAC Exec

District Presentation by Doug Sheppard, Superintendent – High Level about Health & Safety and Delivery of K – 12 programs currently

- June hybrid model of online and in-classroom was determined not sustainable for staff.
- Goal was always to re-open in September, key for so many reasons – children’s social learning, mental health, families needing to get back to work, etc.
 - o Researched and modelled after Australian New South Wales area which opened before Canada and doing very well still with controlling virus and not massive school outbreaks.
 - o Doug also emphasized that moving to Stage 3 or 4 is still under the Ministry’s discretion and school districts follow their directions.
 - o Reminded parents that covid-19 positive cases in school-aged children is still only 7 in 1000
 - o 6 out of 10 children now are able to do the “spit” test versus the “brain-tickler” as he called it which is much better
 - o So, children are still less the 10% of confirmed cases
- In Delta, we saw a 94% return to the classroom which in comparison to other districts was higher. For example, in Surrey – over 11,000 students chose to learn at home or online learning (if offered).
- Interesting to note, Doug shared; that districts such as West Vancouver and Richmond did not even have a “Home-Based Learning” option already set up for the K-7 grades – whereas Delta has had its Home Quest program available for a number of years already and is an existing infrastructure. These other districts really had to scramble to “start from scratch” to offer this to any families.
- Doug also pointed out that Metro Vancouver, let alone, the province does not have the teacher resources to even have contemplated the hybrid model so many parents were hoping to see.
- In regards to Delta and what has been established, given all our schools are approx.. 1,500 students or less, the direction to each school, especially the high schools; was to create as many cohorts as possible. So this is why most of our children are not in groups in the 50 – 60 range as was the Ministry guidelines.
- **Question & Answer Period:**
 - o **Parents wondering about the confirmed case and what is the practice of notification with Fraser Health?**
 - Good thing is, Delta has only had ONE confirmed case and relatively early on in schools opening and the process is ever-changing. If a student tests positive, they are interviewed immediately by a Contact Tracer who then reaches out to the District. Then next steps are determined on notifications, etc.
 - o **Why does it seem different schools enforcing the Ministry or Districts guidelines?**
 - All Delta’s schools are meeting the District’s guidelines though it is at the discretion of each Principal how they want to enforce. For example, some elementary schools may let 2 Grade 6 classes (under the 60 cohort size) socialize during recess lunch whereas another may not and only allow the “classroom” to socialize at all times.
 - Doug has visited a many schools already and has been very impressed with how clean they all are. Janitorial staff has been increased and doing great job.

- He emphasized that “all parents comfort levels are different” and simply reminded that each school is meeting the necessary guidelines.
- He also “thanked” the parents for erring on the side of caution when it came to keeping kids home with cold-symptoms, “stay home for the day, then monitor” before sending back. Reminded that a fever is a different story and urged to call 811 if needed.
- More Outdoor Education is now happening all over the place which the District is very happy to see and helps stop the spread being outdoors, etc.
- **How do PACs fundraise for the coming year with so much change? – ie, hot lunch, parent socials, etc.**
 - Reminder that the better we do as a community, the closer we get back to normal and that this is new for most everyone – teachers who have taught 30 plus years have never seen this happen. And to be PATIENT – we’re only 3 weeks into the school year.
- **Has there been a reduction in EAs or support staff as seems that way?**
 - No, we did not make a reduction in Education Assistants. Reminded parents that EAs are placed based on “student need” vs per student ratio or school size, etc. So the placements in each school are constantly changing each year and/or ongoing as needs arises.

Conclusion of Doug’s Presentation.

DPAC Official Meeting:

- **3rd Monday of every month – any parent is welcome not just the DPAC School Liaison currently via Zoom**
- Next Meeting AGM, November 16th at 7 pm where new Executive positions will be voted in.
- Currently looking for parents interested for the following committee (DO NOT HAVE TO BE PART OF YOUR SCHOOL PAC EXEC)
 - **Emergency Preparedness Committee** – usually meets quarterly and will be implementing things discussed/developed from the last Committee
- **Zoom Licenses:**
 - Reminder to each school that the District has offered each PAC one free license to conduct their meetings and such. If you’re school has not requested one, please email deltadpac@deltasd.bc.ca with Zoom License Request in the subject line.
- **Reminder to apply for your school’s Gaming Grant, there is 3 years to spend it this year and it’s only applicable to spend on non-curriculum based learning. Ideas are:**
 - Emergency kit supply management – new water, etc.
 - Inclusive playground equipment
 - Pop-up tents to facilitate outdoor learning
 - Free reading in your school library – add more books
 - Movie License