



# Langley District Parent Advisory Council

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Tuesday, September 21, 2010

We, the Executive of the Langley District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) want to thank the members of the media present today.

The Langley DPAC Executive wish to release a copy of an Executive Motion that we hope to be able to vote on at our first general meeting to be held on September 29th. We need to get this motion out to the parents of the Langley school district as quickly as possible, so school PACs have a chance to debate its merits prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held at Langley Secondary School, 21405-56 Avenue at 7:00 pm.

The Langley DPAC Executive Motion, to be voted on at the DPAC general meeting on September 29, 2010 is as follows:

*Langley DPAC fully endorses the Auditor General's report and is eager to see all aspects of the report implemented as soon as possible. We are very concerned about the division on the Board of Education and the impact it has on students.*

*Given the sudden resignation of long-time trustee Joan Bech, and the continued dysfunction surrounding it, we have no confidence that the current board is committed to fully implementing the Auditor General's recommendations. We, therefore, request that the Minister of Education immediately remove the entire Langley Board of Education and appoint an Official Trustee to serve until the next regular municipal elections.*

*Rationale:*

- *the cost of a by-election, estimated at \$50,000-\$75,000*
- *continued dysfunction could lead to further losses*
- *salary savings for the remainder of the term should cover the cost of the Official Trustee*

As parents, we place our trust in a representative board to make decisions for the benefit of our children's education. With the recent release of the Auditor General's Report, with which the Langley District Parent Advisory Council Executive fully agrees, the extent of the interpersonal problems within the board and the general dysfunction have become very clear.

Now with the resignation of Board Chair, Joan Bech, DPAC Executive has lost all trust in the ability of the board to continue the task of executing the recommendations of the AG.

Furthermore, the DPAC Executive does not feel that the \$75,000 expenditure required to elect an interim replacement of Ms. Bech can possibly be justified at a time when teachers are being laid off, schools are closing and resources are being cut. In addition to being an unwarranted expense, we are further of view that such an election is a needless distraction from the significant challenges currently faced by the District.

As parents we believe that it is necessary, in the interests of our children, to end the dysfunction that has come to characterize our School district. We are asking that an Official Trustee be appointed until the upcoming 2011 regularly scheduled election, at which time current board members as well as the public at large would be eligible for election to the Board.

Under Division 3 of the School Act (Official Trustee - Appointment of Official Trustee):

*172 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint an official trustee to any school district to conduct the affairs of the school district if, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council:*

- the board is in serious financial jeopardy, or*
- there is substantial non-performance of the duties of the board, or*
- there is a risk to student achievement in the district and it is in the public interest to do so...*

*(2) On the appointment of an official trustee to conduct the affairs of a school district, the trustees of the school district cease to hold office.*

*(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may remove an official trustee and order that elections be held in the school district or may appoint trustees to hold office in the school district until the next general local election.*

*Powers of official trustee*

*173 (1) An official trustee appointed under section 172*

- (a) has the powers and duties conferred by this Act on a board, and*
- (b) must be remunerated out of the funds of the board of the school district in which the official trustee is appointed or otherwise as the Lieutenant Governor in Council determines.*

We believe in addition to restoring the confidence of parents in the Langley School District and improving the educational opportunities available to our children, the proposed appointment of an Official Trustee also makes good financial sense. The cost of the by-election to obtain an interim replacement for Chair Bech is in the order of \$50,000 to \$75,000, but comparatively a complete Municipal election (at which time the whole board could be elected) would cost approximately \$90,000. Add to this the Board member salary savings for the remainder of the term and there would be a substantial saving, even after taking into account the cost of the Official Trustee.

It is time to put aside mismanagement and divisiveness and put the focus back on providing our children with the quality education they deserve and need to succeed.



Megan Dykeman-Porohowski  
President  
Langley District Parent Advisory Council

For more information please visit [www.langleydpac.ca](http://www.langleydpac.ca). Questions or comments please email [President@langleydpac.ca](mailto:President@langleydpac.ca)