

***Our Vision:*** *To improve public education for all students by including and supporting parents*

### **Board Uses Members' Only Site for Greater Transparency**

What goes on at Board meetings? What happened at meetings with other education partners or external committees? This information is now available on the Board Reports page (found under the Representation section of the web site). Keep in mind that Minutes, which are also available (see the About Us section) are updated only following their approval at a subsequent Board meeting. Board reports appear on the web site following the meeting as they do not require approval. See the following link for the information on the December meeting of the Board of Directors. (You will need your members only login and password.)

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/representation/reports.aspx>

### **DPAC Fees Enquiry**

An e-mail was sent this week to all BCCPAC members, concerning a letter sent to the office of the Minister of Education, Shirley Bond. The letter asked for clarification regarding whether DPACs could charge fees and prevent PACs who don't pay these fees from being members of the DPAC. The School Act seems to imply a "right" of membership but is silent on the fee issue. A question regarding this was directed to the President when he visited a PAC in School District #62, Sooke. The letter and the attachments sent with it explain the situation. To read these see the new Board Reports page at the above hyperlink. On January 20, President Ron Broda met with Minister Bond. A report on this meeting can also be found on the Board Reports page.

### **Learning Roundtable Meeting Reviews Class Size Report**

A report on the Learning Roundtable Meeting that took place January 27 and is now available on the members' only site [Learning Roundtable page](#). The report refers to the class size report recently released by the government.

[News release](#)

[Class size report](#)

### **Governance Audit Input Session in Chilliwack**

The time and location of this GA Input Session has been set. It is Saturday, February 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Falls Resort, 8341 Nixon Road, Chilliwack, V4Z 1L3. [www.thefalls.contact-location.php](http://www.thefalls.contact-location.php). Phone: 1-800-862-3168. Lunch will be served. Please send in a [GA Input Session registration](#) form so we can know the numbers requiring lunch.

### **Getting Down to the Wire for Resolutions**

Don't procrastinate. Members are reminded that the deadline for resolutions that affect the BCCPAC Constitution & Bylaws, or which advocate for change to the BC public education system, must reach the office by January 31 at 11:59 p.m. The sooner you send your resolution in the greater the possibility that the AGM Resolutions Acceptance Committee can review it and approve it in time for the AGM. For the required forms and more information see the [Resolutions](#) web page.

### **Governance Audit Member Information Sessions**

An invitation was sent to all members by Ron Broda, President of BCCPAC, to attend the Governance Audit Member Input Sessions. These sessions are your opportunity to have a say in the purposes that are the basis of the

BCCPAC Constitution. For more information on when a session comes to your area see [Governance Audit Member Information Sessions](#) and fill in the registration form to attend.

More information of the [Governance Audit Implementation Committee](#)

### **Max Wyman to Address Spring Conference**

The Annual General Meeting and Spring Conference will take place April 30 – May 2 at the Radisson President Hotel & Suites Vancouver Airport, Richmond BC. Max Wyman, who is a member of the Order of Canada, will talk about *Why Arts Education Matters*. Wyman has authored several books on the importance of culture, and is deeply involved in issues around the integration of the arts, culture and creative activity into education. He will be a plenary speaker on Friday morning. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Settlement Workers in Schools Program Expanded**

With a joint investment of \$8.6 million from the BC and federal government, the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Program has been able to expand. The program places settlement workers directly in schools to assist students and their families, from other nations, to adjust to Canada. SWIS workers are able to interact directly with students and their families, but they also foster cross-cultural understanding with teachers, school counselors and others who interact with the new students. Last year there were 10 school districts with the program; now there are 20. The new school districts include: Central Okanagan, Chilliwack, Langley, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, Mission, Nanaimo/Ladysmith, Peace River North and Prince George. See [news release](#) and article “Helping Refugee Students Adjust to School,” in [Our Voice](#).

### **Sharing the Dream Webcast #2**

On Friday, February 20, 2009 the second in the Sharing the Dream webcast series will connect students, from around the world, in a discussion on global citizenship and Olympic and Paralympic values. The presenter is Michael Furdyk, co-founder of the youth social action website TakingITGlobal, who will talk about the role youth can take in improving their communities.

To take place in the discussion go to <http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/>

To learn more about TakingItGlobal go to <http://www.tigweb.org>.

### **BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association Publishes Standards**

The BCVPA has published standards for principals and vice-principals that can be downloaded from its web site. According to the BCVPA the standards, “describe effective, observable leadership actions which can be used for self-assessment, self-reflection and as the basis for personal professional growth planning.”

Read the [Standards](#).

*NewsBytes is a regular e-mail communication sent to BCCPAC members to highlight items of interest. Others may also subscribe to NewsBytes. Contact BCCPAC at 604-687-4433, e-mail [info@bccpac.bc.ca](mailto:info@bccpac.bc.ca). Feel free to share this communication with others.*