MOE MEETING ON BCCT SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

Present:
George Abbott, Minister, MOE
Ken Dawson, MOE
Claire Avison, MOE
Sherri Mahoruk, Liason, MOE
Lindsay Coburg, MOE
Ann Whiteaker, President, BCCPAC
John Puddifoot, BCCPAC
Cathy Jewett, BCCPAC
Tracey Topping, BCCPAC Staff

MOE – Our meeting today is to for clarification, in the end we may agree to disagree. Regarding the issue in the letter from BCCPAC, allowing Council members to consult with their organisations. We agree in the case of the Discipline Council, but feel that the Standards and Currency Council should be able to consult their organisations. Discipline is different. There will be stricter lines around that dialogue.
Ann – Can you give us an idea of the structure of the Discipline Council?
MOE – Legislation is being drafted so this is not clear.
Ann – As it (discipline) exists now, it can become a negotiation for the least amount of discipline action. How do we know the proposed discipline body will follow through?
Claire – The structure will be panels of three. There will be approximately 3 panels. The Commissioner (appointed with a judicial background) will set the Chair of each panel. No panel will have a BCTF majority. There will be no PISC (Preliminary Investigative Sub Committee) as there is now. The Commissioner will provide guidance and have the ability to appoint adjudicators; proceedings will be open to the public. The hearing is to decide whether the defendant will keep their certification, the only appeal will be to a court of law.
We will not short circuit the adjudication by allowing the defendant to surrender their certificate. The matter will be seen through to a conclusion and appear on the registry (on-line). Panel decisions will be by consensus.
Ann – I have with me 4 cases that have come into the BCCPAC offices in a 24 hour period this week that are related to BCCT. This demonstrates that from a school level to BCCT that the system is not dealing with the issues.
Claire – The Commissioner will decide at what level BCCT will intervene. The right decision at the right level. Timely, consistent and with administrative justice. BCCPAC will still hear from parents, but we are still looking for the best possible process of adjudicable administration.
MOE – Build a process as we did in Healthcare – more transparency and a clear process.
Regarding BCCPAC's comment (in the letter) about the Council's Independence, the 3 Ministerial Appointments will be from the BCTF. 5 regions will have an actively working classroom teacher elected. They must hold a current teaching certificate, live in the region and be a practising teacher. These recommendations came from FISA (Independent Schools Association).

Group of 15 – will default to the full body of BCCT body of standards. Change will be via by-laws which go to Order of Council – which will have the ability to veto by-laws.
Cathy – Regarding the 3 Ministerial Appointments. I would like to suggest that the Representative for children and Youth is given one of these appointments. Children in Care represent the most vulnerable and least successful students in education.
MOE – There will be laypeople, the organisations can recommend non-members. We expect about 25% of the council will be lay people.
Ken – We expect the organisations to give us a pool of names. MOE makes the final decision.
MOE – We're going to build a board that works. We're going to create a process that works.
John – Just a reminder that not all members of the college are teachers. i.e. principals
MOE – My hope is that ¾ of the council will hold teaching certificates.
Claire – The issue isn't with the teachers, but with the union – it is their duty to protect the union.
Ann – The majority on BCCT (BCTF) was able to effect by-laws.
MOE – can't guarantee that one person will create a dynamic
Transparency – the Commissioner will ensure that everything that can be made public, will be made public.
Claire – all matters before the Discipline Committee will be tracked. The process will be open to the public. If the case is not brought forward a rationale will be published. Hearings will be open.
MOE – The website will have the Discipline Hearing results. We are contemplating that the Commissioner will have an educational role with education partner groups (BCPVPA, BCSSA, BCTF, etc.) regarding the complaint process.
Ann – Very key to train principals in this area.
MOE – Agreed.
Ken – Challenged with principal turnover, 800 new principals in 4 years.
Claire – They need to address competency through teacher evaluations.
Ann – Standards and Currency – how will this improve?
MOE – 3 areas:
Collective bargaining – standards, currency and growth
Standards of conduct – New council
Remediation – Class size and Composition (negotiated directly w/ MOE, not part of Collective Bargaining)
We will be looking at hiring around SN training and ensure that SN training occurs annually. Create a model where teachers, Principals and Vice-Principals work together to allocate funds.
Ann – The 3 Ministerial Appointments give BCTF the clear majority. We would like to release this information to our members.
MOE – Proceed with care we may lose the half you like. We must still acknowledge that this is a teachers' organisation. At the "House Ready" draft stage we will invite BCCPAC to read and comment on the proposed legislation.