



SURREY DISTRICT (36) PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

EVENT REPORT | MEDIA RELEASE

(Surrey DPAC'S FORUM 2019)

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, Surrey District Parent Advisory Council organized "Surrey DPAC Forum 2019" on the topics of Drugs/Gangs/Violence in Surrey (Lower Mainland), at the Resource & Education Centre in Surrey, BC.

Surrey DPAC's Vice-president/chair, Jyotika Jasuja was the Lead Coordinator and Managing Director of DPAC'S Forum 2019. She was DPAC'S Spokesperson at the event and in charge of conducting the program.

Several other DPAC Directors also contributed towards the success of the event: President Dean McGee, Secretary Amanda Grimson, Treasurer Anissa Rimer Ly, Director Robert Ran and Director Jagwinder Mahal. Everyone's support was crucial and they assisted for a smooth-run event, in their respective fields of expertise.

Jasuja started the program with a welcome speech, territorial acknowledgment, and introductions, and she also shared about DPAC's mandate, intent, and concept of the Forum.

Jasuja expressed gratitude for all the support from SD 36 for DPAC activities and appreciated the presence of SD 36 Trustee Bob Holmes at the Forum.

Trustee Holmes was glad to be at the event and while addressing the gathering, he praised the DPAC board for their efforts and hard work throughout the year and acknowledged all the workload sustained through the week by the actively engaged and committed Board members, with two consecutive events, DPAC'S AGM & the Forum. He also asked parents to attend DPAC meetings.

Jasuja stated that Surrey District Parent Advisory Council functions at a district level and aims to inspire other parents, create awareness about issues that affect our school community, and empower the community by sharing information about available resources that equip DPAC membership at large with tools to be involved in their children's education and welfare.

Jasuja advised the attendees that DPAC is the parent voice and she also emphasized that DPAC is non-partisan and free from political influences.

She added, "The Forum has been organized as DPAC constantly tries to understand the needs of parents, students, and the communities in which they belong, while taking into consideration matters that contain the values of their growth and taking note of challenges that people face. Surrey DPAC recognizes the need for addressing the issues of Drugs/Gangs/Violence in the City of Surrey!"

"DPAC'S Forum is a small effort, just like a drop in the ocean, in comparison to the concerns community members have, on the alarming topics of drugs/gangs/violence that sadly also impacts our school community so negatively and this is causing immense distress and anxiety amongst parents", said Jasuja,

and she urged the crowd to take more responsibility and create a ripple effect of DPAC'S efforts and initiative by sharing information gathered at the event to help someone.

"Parents want a safe environment for our kids in the schools and DPAC supports that!"

The event was packed with a lot of useful information over three hours, and yet the time seemed to be not enough because sadly, the issues around drugs/gangs/violence are far-reaching.

DPAC distributed stickers with the slogan "Let's join hands to say NO to DRUGS! NO to GANGS!! NO to VIOLENCE!!!" to everyone, and Jasuja asked the attendees to stick these close to their heart and encouraged everyone to spread the message along to their friends and families.

There were exclusive presentations by renowned speakers Michael Sanchez (RCMP's "Shattering the image"), Dr. Keiron McConnell (National Gang Crime Research Center Staff and "Safer Schools"), and Nancy Smith (Safe Schools, SD 36). The total time for all speakers was two hours and included time for questions from the audience.

Real life stories and experiences were shared by a panel of victims and their families, and a meaningful skit showcased youth vulnerability to peer pressure and drug abuse if their emotional needs are not met at home. The group also shared their personal experiences related to the topic and their enthusiasm for helping the community.

Valuable educational materials and resources for parents and students were also made available by the RCMP and other organizations.

The response of the community was very good and participants received acknowledgement for their contributions at the Forum and for their work with their respective organizations and groups.

While thanking the attendees for their valuable presence, Jasuja appealed, "It shouldn't just end here. DPAC hopes to have inspired you enough to inspire someone else by passing along the message and spreading the wave. Each one of you can share information with your contacts to help people."

Over all, DPAC'S Forum 2019 was a warm, informative, and interactive session, and was the concluding event for the 2018-2019 DPAC Board of Directors' activities.

Jasuja concluded on a positive note with an inspiring message to the community. "People must rise above to eliminate differences that exist in a diverse community and come together supportively to embrace basic human values, and everyone together must raise their voices for a safer environment for all, which is a true representation of happier communities! DPAC will continue working in the best interests of parents and the school community!"

SURREY DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
invites you to the

SURREY DPAC FORUM - 2019

DRUGS/GANGS/VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF SURREY

- **No to Drugs! No to Gangs! No to Violence!**
- **Interactive Presentations**
- **Resourceful Information**
- **Role Play & Real Life Stories**
- **Light Refreshments & Door Prizes**

Join us on **MAY 23RD**, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
SURREY School Board REC-304
14123 92 Ave Surrey, BC V3V 0C7

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR ALL
(Parents, Teachers, Youth, Students)**

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