

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

February 16, 2023

6:00pm-8:00pm (PST)

Video Conferencing via Zoom

Minutes

1) Call to Order, 6:02PM,

We acknowledge, respect, and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District #8.

2) Attendees

Natalia Nazaroff - DPAC Chair/MSS&Elev8 DPAC Rep/DPAC Gov&Policy Rep/Advocacy Coordinator;
Tamara Ziemer - DPAC Vice-Chair/LVR parent/DPAC EdCom Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC
Secretary/CBESS&LVR parent/DPAC EdCom Rep; Lorien Quattrocchi - Hume PAC Chair; Colleen Bayly -
DPAC Rep for Creston HL and Erickson Elem/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep; Tyler Rice - Redfish Treasurer/DPAC
Op&Fin Com Rep; Eden Dupont - parent at LVR&MSSS/DPAC Gov&Policy Rep; Chris Goggins - PAC Chair
Redfish; Christopher Raabis - Wildflower Nelson DPAC Rep; Kim Morris - BK DPAC Rep; Trish Smillie -
Superintendent of School/CEO; Ben Eaton - Director of Instruction, Innovative Learning; Naomi Ross -
District Principal Early Years & Elementary; Lenora Trenamen - Trustee North/East Shores & Board Chair;
Laura-Lee Arsenault - CUPE 748 Area Rep Creston; Sarah - Redfish parent; Vanessa - ARES PAC; Lisa
O'Conner - South Nelson/Homelinks Nelson; Cathy McMillan - Dyslexia BC - Founding Director; Leslie
Zarubin - Creston Homelinks; Jessie - WE Graham

3) Welcome and Statement from Chair

Good Evening, Hi My name is Natalia Nazaroff and I am your DPAC Chair. This year our DPAC has come across many challenges and I feel it is time that we addressed them again.

All parent partner positions in our district are unpaid positions. We are all parent volunteers. Each and everyone of us here, the Chair and DPAC executive, DPAC reps, PAC executives, Advocacy Coordinator, Parent Advocates, and Committee reps. We are busy parents, with busy messy lives, and we are working professionals and stay at home parents. We come from different ethnic backgrounds, socio economic statuses, and we have different lived experiences.

We come to these meetings and volunteer our time in order to make our children's school experience the best it can be. I think this is a common goal of all of our volunteers. When we come to a DPAC meeting we need to remember the purpose of these meetings.

These meetings are not meant to vent personal or individual frustrations but to bring forward issues of interest from your PAC to the DPAC. Many PAC issues that concern only your individual school can be sent to the DPAC by email and addressed outside of our meetings. We are your PAC's liaison with the District.

From BCCPAC - DPACs advise the board of education on any matter relating to education in their school district. DPACs advocate for parental involvement in the education system and give input into the development of education policy. As an official stakeholder, the DPAC is offered seat(s) on district committees such as policy, finance or budget etc.

What Does DPAC Do? DPACs support and encourage PACs and parents in accessing the school system at all levels by providing regular forums for the exchange of ideas and information to ensure that public education serves the best interests of all students.

The business of the DPAC shall be unbiased in respect of race, colour, religion, politics, family status, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental ability. The DPAC is not a forum for the discussion of individual school personnel, parents, or other individual members of the school community.

The Role Of An Elected DPAC Representative - The roles, duties and responsibilities of elected DPAC representatives vary but generally, DPAC representatives: 1) Act as a liaison between the PAC and DPAC by attending DPAC meetings, 2) Communicate and obtain information to and from PAC, and 3) Bring forward issues that may be common to more than one school

4) Adoption of Agenda

Motioned - Taryn Stokes; Seconded - Tamara, Opposed- nil

5) Approval of Minutes

Motioned - Natalia Seconded - Taryn; Opposed- nil

6) Superintendent's Report - plus guests Naomi Ross and Ben Eaton, Literacy

- Officially near 100 days in the elementary school, semester change happened for secondary students
- February brings pink shirt days,
- February report - celebrating Black History Month, participating in anti-racism, AbEd family winter festival, donation from fire fighters for food equity for Nelson schools,
- Principal transfers on Feb 1, LVR, South Nelson
- All Kindergarten students speech and language assessments
- Engagement and information sessions - French Immersion, 3 Year Grad Program
- Community engagement sessions - compiling all views with the online information and will present back to the board for review
- Question - will there be commentary about the press release about unpaid school fees? This is a usual process to look at this in the board of education. District is meeting all legislative requirements, there was a note in the report that hardship funds cover this for families that are unable to pay.
 - District Principal Naomi Ross and Ben Eaton - Literacy Report

- Director of Instruction for the school district, Ben Eaton
- District Literacy goal - continuous learning, strong start, community partners CBAL,
- Literacy report outlines a number of action items that are being worked on this year
 - District Literacy Coordinator (Ms McKeev, former Redfish school teacher), coordinating and analyzing district literacy results, will be piloting a middle years literacy assessment
 - Virtual SD8 resource hub for teachers
 - Literacy experts to support primary team, have implemented early years literacy profile (ELP), K-3 teachers using as an assessment teaching, some feedback from teachers, like having this tool available district wide
 - Twice a year, February and June - look at each school primary literacy data with principal, to help where additional supports or resources are needed
 - Grades 4-7, Ms Jeannine Stine (also from SD8), literacy focus group to design and pilot an assessment tool, hope to implement in 2023-2024 school year,
 - Transition meetings in the spring for all students transitioning from elementary to intermediate, int to middle, will ensure are considering each students unique needs,
 - Assessment question - why just mid year and not earlier, it is not an FSA, teachers are assessing their students all the time.
 - Balanced literacy instruction - looks at 5 pillars, phonics, phonemic awareness, reading fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension
 - Can we bring more parent volunteers in to help with the gaps, more bodies working with our children?
 - Used to be a program for parents to learn to help with reading in schools, offered 15 years ago, CBAL had a “just read with me” program, it would be great to have one of those resources for parent education,

7) Treasurer’s Report

- Unable to attend, sends regrets. We have money we need to spend on parent education.
- DPACs only have one year to spend gaming grant money or it is taken away - motion to hire Susan Wilson for advocacy program, set aside \$400 do a parent advocate training Level 1, seconded by Colleen, motion has passed
- Need to schedule advocate training Level 1 how to become one of the parent volunteers, another level to help other parents advocate
- Background on what DPAC can spend the money on (maybe \$2000), BCCPAC, conference, could have Dyslexia BC presentations again

DPAC Financial Report 2022-23

OPERATING STATEMENT		
GENERAL ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance - October 1, 2022	12,574.53	
Total Revenue	0.00	
Total Expenses	989.50	
Closing Balance	11,585.03	
GAMING ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance - October 1, 2022	2266.03	
Total Expenses	157.50	
Total Revenue	0.00	
Closing Balance	2,108.53	
TOTAL (31-Dec-2022)	13,693.56	

EXPENSES		
Bank Fees	14.50	7.50
BCCPAC Memberships (13 processed at December 31st)	975.00	150.00
	989.50	157.50

Prepared for DPAC Meeting January 19, 2023, reporting period October 1 to December 31, 2022

8) Correspondence

- CBAL is offering a workshop series on gender identities with ANKORS, separate workshops for both youth and parents, Natalia will send out that link tonight

9) Discussion Items

a) Resolution Proposal for BCCPAC AGM regarding early testing for dyslexia in all children in BC

- Committee met to work on a resolution for dyslexia funding from the ministry. Cathy McMillan (Dyslexia BC) and Lisa O'Connor.
- How does SD8 assess students - two assessments done each year but are related to balanced literacy not specific to dyslexia. PAR is a great screener, Coquitlam advocated for the data storage to be in Canada so it meets FOI requirements. Superintendent question to confirm understanding. 2001 severe dyslexia was removed from the funding model.
- Need to vote to take these resolutions to BCCPAC.
- First motion passed, see attachments for details on the resolutions
- Second resolution passed as well, send in to BCCPAC and see what they say

b) Strategic planning sessions

- Natalia attended 4 - virtual, Kaslo, Nelson, Valley
- Kaslo - small community - 3 people including her, outside of the board
- LVR - bigger turnout
- MSSS - smaller turnout - time of the meetings affected how many meetings could attend. Bigger group at 4-6 because of the time. Mike, facilitator, was amazing, brought a different perspective. He brought the numbers out in a different way, they made more sense. Because the groups were small, same people at the table at the most of them, conversations were similar. Went really well - was great.

- Colleen and Vanessa at the meeting - agree facilitator did a fantastic job. Between 25-30 people, felt like a really good turnout, a lot of passion involved, no sense of disgruntled, positive engagement.
- None at Salmo
- Crawford Bay - 9 parents and another relative, plus various trustees and district staff. Facilitator was phenomenal and very diplomatic. Discussion about critical thinking and the educated citizen but different perspectives on what critical thinking means. Covid baggage still in the community, masks was the second thing brought up, distrust of government, kids don't need to be taught diversity and us vs them thinking. Appreciated being at a table with a former teacher because the need for teacher supports came into focus realizing they are on the front line, we are expecting teachers to reach out to our children so they need support (prof ed, mental health) so they can be at their best.
- Redfish parent - was not able to attend, quite a few comments from various community members. Struggling with EA coverage - staff is struggling too. He found a lot of comments about EA coverage in the ideas, it stuck out to him because it is a Redfish issue. Also recycling also came up.
- Natalia - showed the pie chart about finances, so much (86%) of the pie is labor, only 14% is to pay for diesel, heat, books, supplies, insurance. If we give more money to staffing we will shortchange kids in the infrastructure.
- Input from Chair Trenamen - Processes for parents to engage the board - revenue comes from student enrollment. Parents can advise the board, but staff needs to determine the best way to implement.

c) New permission form for field trips

- Email request to add it to the agenda. Children are getting less field trips because the field trip slips are too complicated. The parent part of the forms are not hard. It is not our place to speak about the teacher perspective.
- Comment from South Nelson - had to do 4 forms for what seemed like the same thing.

d) Addictions - Awareness, Prevention and Support - Javier Gonzalez and Scott Rothermel Feb 23, 6-7 pm PST (7-8 pm MST)

e) Ministry Consultation on Human Flourishing through BCCPAC

- a study for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Education Development
- 32 countries involved and have chosen 8 jurisdictions for this phase of the work. BC is one of them.
- We are identified as one of the few high performing systems for tomorrow. BC Communities are consistently achieving highly, regardless of socio-economic indicators.
- Natalia attended and we will get notes that she will share with the parents of the DPAC. What are your hopes for your children, what do you see in your community/society that will help them, what will hinder them, how will education support human flourishing?
- They will also be asking 15 students, 15 employers, and 15 teachers in the province in addition to the 15 parents.
- Some caution extended from a parent reading the backgrounder about AI and the funder.

10) School Reports

- Elevate/Desk - AGM did not have quorum, will try again. Need to spend gaming grant money. Our district is one of the district online schools - can accept students from anywhere in the province.
- MSSS - grade 10 students have started trade sampler,
- Homelinks - student council organizing activities, valentine fundraiser, Creston and Nelson are considered one PAC but can have separate PAC meetings although only one is funded. Both chapters would like clarification on the 2 chapters and 1 school. Natalia can attend on how to make it work and the background because she has been through the details with the ministry.
- Erickson - completed arctic winter games, kids got to train and compete in events, 100 days - option to dress up as 100 year olds, intermediate activity days,
- BK - wrapped up downhill skiing for older kids, primary kids doing winter activities, swimming starting up soon for the whole school, cake bingo for the school with a fantastic turnout (200 people)
- South Nelson - new principal, stuffy olympics
- ARES - hot lunch doing great, breakfast program, always looking for more options for healthier food but needs to be balanced with budget, working on a musical that will come out soon, garbage is more visible as snow is melting - question how to motivate clean up
- WEG - fundraising for buses for field trips, after school sports and arts initiative - has helped for after school care but that funding is being lost - funding was reallocated to other schools, facilitator needs to sign a 29 page contract which is daunting, suggest to speak to the principal and there is access for funding for student bussing through the student affordability fund, another school PAC also reached out about this, some schools do not use up all their bussing allocation, recommend to reach out to Superintendent Smillie. Not sure about after school programs and how it is funded within the school district.
- LVR - course selection, atlas, new principal, student council, ATLAS is going ahead with AST training adjusting to the WH20 accessible terrain
- Redfish - dirty bathrooms, getting ready for a play, school basketball

11) Committee Updates

- O&F meeting - Colleen - SD is an organization, has a dual focus on service delivery and cost control. Onus is on the school district to operate within the budget but provide all the needed services. Student headcount is slightly up, which means more funding. EAs in every class are not a financial possibility. Prelim budget will begin soon for next year (public engagement surveys).
- Board had a report come to them about recycling, read this report, there was one concept about pack in-pack out and other options to consider.

12) Adjourned at 8:00 pm PST, next DPAC meeting March 16th 2023 at 6:00 pm Pacific Time