

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

January 18, 2024

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

Video Conferencing via Zoom

Minutes

1) Call to Order, 6:03PM

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) Welcome & Introductions & A Word from the Chair

DPAC reps to introduce themselves

Natalia Nazaroff - DPAC Chair/MSSS&Elev8 DPAC Rep/DPAC Gov&Policy Rep/Advocacy Coordinator;
Colleen Bayly - DPAC Rep for Creston HL and Erickson Elem/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC Secretary/LVR DPAC Rep/DPAC EdCom Rep; Candace Pongratz - Blewett DPAC Rep; Caroline Cassar - DPAC rep Salmo Secondary; Nicole Rhynold - DPAC Rep JVH; Tammy Strauss - BK DPAC rep; Trish Smillie - Superintendent of School/CEO; Ben Eaton - Director of Instruction, Innovative Learning; Ken Wiens - District Principal Online Learning - Elev8 DESK and Homelinks; Mark Bonikowsky - Principa, Redfish Elementary; Cheri-Ann MacKinlay - CLES DPAC Rep; Julie Bremner - Trustee Nelson/Bealby Point & Vice Board Chair; Lenora Trenamen - Trustee North/East Shores; Lisa O'Conner - HL Nelson DPAC Rep; Kris Smith - parent at LV/TF; Mathilde Armour Piccirilli - Creston Wildflower DPAC rep; Lauren Rethoret - Wildflower DPAC Rep; Jaeden Woodland - DPAC Rep Jewett; Tyler Rice - Redfish Parent, F&O Rep; Breanne Gaudreau - Parent; Jacqui - Nelson; Ajla Morrow - BK Parent; Tyler Dobie - JV Humphries; Heather Beach - guest, Family Support Institute

Chair opened the statement for questions/comments. Jewett Rep disagreed with the format change. Chair said that it has become a side conversation and a distraction. What is the alternative avenue to share during the meeting? Raising your hand and share to the group

3) Adoption of Agenda

Motioned - Lisa; Seconded - Mathilde; All in Favour

4) Approval of Minutes

Motioned - Candace W; Seconded - Tammy; All in Favour

5) Family Support Institute of BC Guest Speaker - Heather Beach

- Guest speaker is based out of Vancouver but organization is province wide
- Peer to peer supports families that live with disabilities - any age and diagnosed or not
- Has been around for 30 years and there is no wait list
- Over 200 volunteers across the province are matched with those requesting support

- Often resource parents are multi-lingual and are vetted with background checks (15 in the Kootenays)
- Have a virtual information hub, online learning and support groups
- All support and services are free.
- Contact via phone 604-540-8374, 1-800-441-5403, fsi@fsi.com
- Resources
 - <http://www.findsupportbc.com>
 - <http://www.mybookletbc.com>
 - <http://www.supportworkercentral.com>
- Happy to do a more in-depth presentation any time to schools or parents

6) Superintendent's Report - with Guest Director Ben Eaton & District Principal Ken Wiens

- February is coming up - looking forward to recognizing pink shirt day and for school communities to identify special connections between us all.
- Black Excellence Day recognized on January 15. Staff had a professional day with a talk about anti-racism. A collaborative day of learning.
- Winter activities and outdoor learning, trade sampler in Salmo, Wildflower info meetings to prepare for next year.
- 3 parent engagement nights in January - 2 French Immersion. Also a K-3 literacy session is coming up. Scholarship information is up on the district site. Kindergarten registration is also open.
- Continuous Online Learning Report with Director Ben Eaton and District Principal Ken Wiens
 - 3 year agreement with MOECC as a POLS
 - Can offer online learning to anyone in the province
 - Elev8-DESK - September enrollment is 127FTE, most 10-12 students are cross-enrolled, increase of 45FTE since previous year, is lower enrollment than COVID years
 - Students in K-9 are full-time
 - Elev8-Homelinks - provincially limited to 49% of the time compared to a traditional school.
 - Creston & Nelson campus
 - K-9 students are full-time
 - September enrollment of 154FTE
 - Some 10-12 students are full-time, others cross-enrolled
 - Priorities for 2024
 - Ensure all course offerings are robust, relevant and beneficial to students
 - Expand course choices to make SD8 online programs more diverse and attractive. There are 35 Grade 10-12 course offerings - core classes and is looking at options
 - Provide a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for all
 - Develop a clear vision for each program (DESK vs Homelinks)
 - Increase awareness provincially and online presence

7) Treasurer's Report

- Report not available
- In process of doing signing authority changeovers
- Received grant from district and is deposited. Helps DPAC to offer courses and training.
- Left previous balance screen-shot in the minutes

DPAC Financial Report 2023-24		
OPERATING STATEMENT		
GENERAL ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance - October 1, 2023	10,446.77	
Total Revenue		
Total Expenses	752.50	
Closing Balance	9,694.27	
GAMING ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance - October 1, 2023	2929.23	
Total Revenue		
Total Expenses	152.50	
Closing Balance	2,776.73	
TOTAL	12,471.00	
EXPENSES		
BCCPAC Memberships	750.00	150.00
Parent Education		
DPAC Conference		
Admin	2.50	2.50
	752.50	152.50

8) Correspondence

- Harm reduction and recovery expert webinar if anyone is interested
- Webinar February 8, 2024 at 6:30PST
- Link shared in the chat.

9) New Business

a) Zoom license renewal

- Automatically renewed but can be canceled.
- Have used DPAC zoom account to help PACs hold meetings by zoom.
- Many schools have used this and it is also used for parent education nights.
- Chair feels that it is valuable to us and motions that DPAC purchases a zoom license for 2024 to continue offering these services to the PACs at a cost of \$240.69. Vote on motion passes.
- Comment made that zoom is not necessarily the most secure platform but is likely not a concern for this application.

b) Advocacy training

- Susan Wilson - available anytime and partnering with Castlegar and other districts
- Not available on Thursdays, Castlegar is not available on Mondays
- Advocacy 101 has been done as a 90 minute session and Level 1 has been done on a Saturday. Is Saturday better or worse? No firm conclusion. Weekday may be the best.
- Is there the option to record and have it be done on own time? Yes, there are previous copies and the instructor is open to this.

c) Mischa Oaks seminar \$2500 for 1-1.5 hours

- Is a parent based education on how to use SOGI related terminology and inclusivity.
- Independent contractor doing diversity education for schools and businesses across the province to create awareness
- He is considered the foremost expert in the province but was previously a teacher
- Comment that this may be better in the fall.
- Natalia will make a motion that the SD8 DPAC do further research by reaching out to our DPAC representatives to take to their schools to see if we are interested in organizing this session for spring or next fall or not at all. 8 in favour. 4 opposed. Motion is carried.
- DPAC will send something out to the PACs and ask for a response from the PACs.

d) BCCPAC town hall on resolution writing, call for resolutions, call for nominations for executive positions, call for nominations for awards

- Well attended by many PACs and DPACs across the province.
- Used an immediate online voting tool some newer members thought it was very useful but also others thought there was nothing new.
- More information is on the BCCPAC website - call for resolutions for the BCCPAC AGM
- Award descriptions are also on the BCCPAC website - to recognize parent participation in PACs or DPACs. Our trainer for advocacy has been recognized as a Lifetime Member.

e) Report from BCCPAC Leadership Summit

- Attended by Natalia and Colleen in November
- Shared during meeting (was emailed to DPAC route list on January 26)
- Highlights - MOECC Associate Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction - there is a new mandate to have an accessibility committee for school districts and should have parents as member, Safe Schools, Circles and Triangles from MOECC Superintendent and Associate Superintendent of Indigenous Education. Objective was to experience what indigenous life used to be like to help explain why the MOECC has prioritized reconciliation education. We all have histories that influence us and our experiences are not the same.
- Openings on BCCPAC Committees - on website if interested

10) School Reports

- Blewett - bake sale of healthy snacks, early mulch sale, building a portable gaga ball court, indoor lunch hour clubs
- South Nelson - successful Santa's workshop in December raised money for food cupboard, movie nights, feeding futures money is being used to supply hot lunches for vulnerable students from Save-On Foods but it does single out those students, winter activities, new hot lunch day mac&cheese from uphill market,
- Wildflower Creston- raise funds for playground expansion, PAC newsletter started going out every two weeks that students participate in, snowshoe day, open houses for the public, outdoor winter spirit gathering

- Wildflower Nelson - new principal started, ski lessons, school planning day, trout eggs hatching, hot lunch starting up for the year, also some issues how the food distribution may be identifying
- Jewett - bottle drive, full set of cross-country skis donated, CAT operation recycle containers possibility, back-up generator for the school, question about the exam bank (practice exams) - if anyone has experience with that
- If it seems like there is stigmatizing happening with the food distribution please talk to your principal.
- Add this to the next month agenda - find a way to influence - lots of food wastage
- LVR - how schools are using it - Open parachute - wondering how other schools are using it, school plans, numeracy opportunities,
- BK - winter activities, school breakfast program started in the fall working well, not all parents will ask for help, bingo night, team jerseys for the students,
- JVH - food program just on Wednesdays prepared by foods class, ski day, Christmas food bank drive raised \$2800, grad
- Erickson - ran some new fundraisers - jerky, focus on building school community, February is read-a-thon month,
- Homelinks - winter activities for younger students, less activities for older students as skiing doesn't necessarily appeal to everyone, D&D club for grades 8/9,
- MSSS - principal did an in-depth presentation on Holocaust Awareness, grad
- DESK - having an AGM on January 31, looking for all DESK parents to come out
- CL - low participation in PAC, pizza lunches, ski trips subsidized by PAC, dance, field trips and classroom fundraisers
- Salmo - AbEd making ribbon skirts, basketball tournament, yearbook, 3 fundraisers for grads - great group of parents with 20 grads this year, 3 ski days, dance

Motion to extend meeting by another 30 minutes - seconded by Jaeden, Motion carried

11) Comments from the Public

- Jerky fundraiser - don't do it during hunting season
- Next meeting touch base on recycling
- Numeracy assessments
- Atlas program question for LVR - nothing recently - know that those parents have been working separately with the school

12) DPAC reps in-camera discussion for appointment of Committee of the Whole Representatives

- Proposed resolution: That it is the opinion of the Council that the public interest requires that council convene an in-camera meeting, and that persons, other than members of Council be excluded from this Meeting. Motioned by Natalia, seconded by Colleen, Motion carries
- Call for Committee Representatives - have two positions on each committee
 - Education - 2 nominations for 2 positions. Positions filled by acclamation. Taryn Stokes & Rosalia Rivera from Nelson
 - Policy & Governance - 2 nominations for 2 positions. Positions filled by acclamation. Natalia Nazaroff and Tyler Dobie from Kaslo.

- Finance & Operations - 3 nominations for 2 positions. Candidate bios shared. Motion carries to direct message votes to non-voting DPAC rep in attendance. Representatives are Colleen Bayly and Ajla Morrow.
- Motion to accept Colleen Bayly and Natalia Nazaroff and Jaeden Woodland as alternate representatives for any committee if the rep cannot attend. Seconded by Lauren, All in favor.

13) Adjourn at 8:56PM

Next DPAC meeting February 15 2024, at 6:00 pm PST/ 7:00 pm MST

Considering adding an additional meeting for C&Bs. Executive should make some recommendations and then council reviews whether to accept. Need to meet the notice period.