

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

January 19, 2023

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

Video Conferencing via Zoom

Minutes

1) Call to Order, 6:01PM,

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 and Introductions

Please identify who you are representing in the chat, reminder of code of conduct - we would see each other if we were in person - if you can turn your camera on we ask that you do, if you cannot identify yourself in our chat you will be removed from the meeting, as per the code of conduct - will not discuss individual (students/teachers/staff), open discussion is encouraged with respectful conduct, if we have people not following the code of conduct they can be removed

Natalia Nazaroff - DPAC Chair/MSSS&Elev8 DPAC Rep/DPAC Gov&Policy Rep/Advocacy Coordinator;
Michelle Sylvest - DPAC Treasurer/Hume DPAC Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC Secretary/CBESS&LVR parent/DPAC EdCom Rep; Colleen Bayly - DPAC Rep for Creston HL and Erickson Elem/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep; Tyler Rice - Redfish Treasurer/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep; Chris Goggins - PAC Chair Redfish; Jane DiGiacomo - Wildflower Nelson PAC; Kim Morris - BK DPAC Rep; Trish Smillie - Superintendent of School/CEO; Gail Higginbottom - District Principal Aboriginal Education; Chris Kerr - Director of Operations; Susan Chew - Trustee Salmo/Taghum/Blewett; Laura-Lee Arsenault - CUPE 748 Area Rep Creston; Vanessa - ARES PAC; Kristina Leidums - Wildflower Creston DPAC Rep; Helen Marshall - South Nelson parent; Pascale Boyer - Blewett, Trafalgar and LVR parent

3) Adoption of Agenda

Motioned - Natalia Nazaroff; Seconded - Taryn Opposed- nil

4) Approval of Minutes

Motioned - Natalia Seconded - Taryn; Opposed- nil

5) Superintendent's Report - plus guest Gail Higginbottom District Principal of Aboriginal Education and Director of Operations Chris Kerr

- Strategic plan ends in 2023. Working now on the plan for 2024-2029. Can find this on the district website - orange button on the bottom. Can get information on the plan for how the

strategic plan is being developed. There are four sections and can add comments/questions or take the survey. There is also an 11 minute presentation that was viewed during the meeting that is accessible on the strategic plan website. Reviews the school district outcomes for FSAs, grad assessments and graduation rates as well as satisfaction surveys.

- Slide show of department actions presented by Gail Higginbottom, District Principal for Aboriginal Education
 - Facilitating the BC Tripartite Education Agreement which is specific to students living on the lands of Lower Kootenay Band
 - Continuing to build aboriginal awareness and learning opportunities - Pow wow, virtual opportunities, blanket exercise
 - Complete District Academic Reviews and Primary Success meeting with all schools to ensure individualized supports
 - Co-lead the district PD Day on April 17. This year will be Chief Cadmus Delorme as the keynote speaker
 - Support schools to develop school specific plans for supplemental supports
 - Highlight Aboriginal initiatives district wide such as Orange Shirt Day, National Indigenous Peoples Day
 - Supporting development of the new Indigenous Grad requirement for next year - excellent courses in socials and language arts coming up
 - Support the ongoing work of the anti-racism and cultural safety and administrative procedures development in the district
 - Question - is the Indigenous Grad requirement a full class? Yes, every course in grade 10-12 is 4 credits.
- Director of Operations, Chris Kerr to discuss recycling
 - Commercial recycling programs are not affiliated with RecycleBC.
 - Custodial staff do not have the capacity in their workload. Need commitment from staff and students as contaminated loads go straight to landfill and is costly. Adding co-mingle to the recycle program would add costs.
 - Best to deal with waste at the source. Simplest and best way would be a pack-in-pack-out approach.
 - Question - is there no recycling at all? No, there is cardboard recycling at all sites.
 - In 2019 - when we had recycling, how much was paid out for contaminated loads? Don't have access to this information.
 - Custodial can't show up at a commercial RDCK recycling facility with a big cube van. Even if it says it is an RDCK commercial site.
 - Worries that a school based solution is not sustainable because it depends on current people in place. Other districts that have recycling are in a municipality that supports commercial recycling. School based recycling if it depends on custodial staff would increase costs as it would add to their existing workload. Plastic containers must be clean - any food waste sends it straight to landfill.
 - How can we help? He doesn't have the answer to all those questions.

- Is the resource issue in terms of custodial? Is it not enough people or financial or both. Custodial will be operating at a comfortable level soon. So the issue would be to increase hours which would increase salaries that is not in the budget. He would need people to know that commercial recycling is very different from residential recycling - cameras on all the trucks.
- With pack-in/pack-out would there be any savings? If there is not sure how the cost savings would be passed on. This would result in more household waste or recycling that needs to be covered by the RDCK. The director's experience in Calgary is that there would be savings.
- If before 2020 custodians did the recycling, why don't they have time now? His loose understanding is that it wasn't effective and we were paying the penalties. He wasn't here at that point in time.
- Why not contact SD20 to see how their recycling works? He has this written down to look at.
- School district wants to recycle but there are challenges for commercial locations.
- Why not just add paper recycling to the current cardboard recycling?
- How can we help? Reach out to municipalities and the provincial government. It is pretty surprising for him coming from Alberta how difficult recycling is although we are in a rural municipality.

6) Treasurer's Report

- Have processed some payments for training providers and for BCCPAC memberships.

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

7) Correspondence

- Concerns about recycling in schools (addressed at the last DPAC meeting). Covered above.
- Additional correspondence is for additions to the February agenda.
- DPAC gets a lot of correspondence but tries to deal with them internally rather than bringing them to the DPAC when they are not DPAC issues.

8) Discussion Items

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

- Cathy reached out to a number of districts in the province. Wondering if we (SD8 DPAC) would like to sponsor a motion at the BCCPAC conference. A Vancouver school district and Whistler school district are also interested in supporting this resolution.
- Our DPAC reps would need to vote on whether we would like to support this.
- Believe that early screenings in SD8 are not specific for dyslexia. With new early education initiatives is this (early screening for dyslexia) being done anyways? Students are monitored in their early years (K-3) but there are two parts - would need an achievement and a cognitive assessment. The issue right now is that it is on the teacher (an assessment) rather than a specialized professional. Different teachers have different training for dyslexia - this would ensure all students start off on a level playing field. Achievement assessment is assessed in the classroom. Generally speaking it might take some time because of the developmental range. For most students this should catch them to get targeted support for literacy, but those formalized assessments happen through the work of a school based team.
- Could this resolution expand beyond dyslexia - so additional support can be identified earlier (like EA resources)? The reason why it is dyslexia specific is because it came from Dyslexia BC. Resolutions need to be very specific and cannot be broad.
- Plus dyslexia is not funded by the ministry for extra support. It is considered as a visual/perception disability.
- Natalia has asked anyone interested in forming a slice group to discuss a potential resolution to email her. Timeline is tight because resolutions need to be submitted by February 28.

b) Advocacy 101 Seminar and possible Advocate training seminar

- Had 75 people registered but not as many were able to attend. Had an accident on the road that impacted traffic, a zoom issue and it was a PD day.
- It was recorded so it will be sent to everyone that registered.

c) SD 8 Public Engagement in Strategic Plan <https://engage.sd8.bc.ca/sd8-strategic-plan> (addressed with Superintendent's Report in Item #5)

d) Kindergarten registration now open as well as requests for transfers

- Open until the last Friday in March.
- If there was no room in your child's catchment school to return after a transfer now is the time to request to transfer back.

9) Committee Reports

- Governance and Policy Policies out for field testing
 - Policy 620: Budget Development, Monitoring and Reporting
 - Policy 621: Accumulated Operating Surplus
 - Can add your thoughts on these two policies on the website. Not creating policies, just responding to the wording. Open for 4 weeks after the board meeting for comment.
- Education - December 13 and January 10 - December reviewed terms of reference for the committee, Superintendent reviewed the plan for public engagement to develop the district strategic plan (discussed previously), brief overview of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning presented by Director Eaton - goals to meet or exceed expectations in numeracy and literacy, increase graduation rates for all learners, achieve parity with ind/all learners, support students with diverse needs. In January Director Eaton discussed the Student Voice Council (students from across the district via zoom, geared for grades 8 and up) and the upcoming Student Symposium on February 22. Theme of symposium is diversity and inclusion and will also have strategic planning.
- Question about district participation rate for FSAs because students are advised not to participate. Wonder what they are and if this is significant. At what point is the data no longer significant? In general SD8 is about 80% participation rate. Will take to committee in May.

10) School Reports

- Hume - winter activities starting in February with snowshoeing, cross country skiing and alpine skiing. Also have a book exchange later this month. Trying out some new hot lunch options.
- Elevate/Desk - PAC meeting AGM next Wednesday, January 25, have gaming grant money to spend.
- Homelinks - have incorporated Nelson and Creston, have come up with some extracurricular ideas for the gaming grant including blacksmithing.
- Erickson - reading month.
- Redfish - more or less the same, winter activities week 2, fundraising endeavors - bottle drive was successful but wet, curious on protocols for CUPE staff shortages - had two weeks without a secretary at the school and the principal had to fill in, is there a precedent to bring in a short term temp? Can't fill in a CUPE position without a non-CUPE person.
- BK - winter activities, hot lunch up and running, pie bingo (prizes are pies or cakes)
- ARES - hot lunch program going well, ideas/concerns raised about the health of the food choices, issue of costs but needing to balance health, try to have local food, working on a musical production.
- Wildflower Creston - info session for parents for next fall, planning for a year end trip, researching to what areas can be used in the winter for outdoor education
- LVR - course selection coming up in early February, presentations to the grade 9 feeder schools, new principal, semester change, recycling, Atlas program changes with outdoor education now done inside Whitewater terrain

11) Adjourned at 8:00 pm PST, next meeting February 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm PST 7:00 pm MST, strategic planning meetings also coming up for all school families