

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

September 14, 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) Welcome & Introductions

Natalia Nazaroff - DPAC Chair/MSSS&Elev8 DPAC Rep/DPAC Gov&Policy Rep/Advocacy Coordinator;
Tamara Ritchie - DPAC Vice-Chair/LVR parent/DPAC EdCom Rep; Michelle Sylvest - DPAC Treasurer/Hume DPAC Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC Secretary/CBESS&LVR parent/DPAC EdCom Rep; Lorien Quattrocchi - Hume& TF Parent; Colleen Bayly - DPAC Rep for Creston HL and Erickson Elem/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep; Chris Goggins - PAC Chair Redfish; Crystal Stankevich - KRSS PAC Chair; Gelina Berg - ARES DPAC Rep; Trish Smillie - Superintendent of School/CEO; Deanna Holitzki - Director of Instruction - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Dawn Lang - Trustee North Rural/Kaslo & Board Vice Chair; Julie Bremner - Trustee Nelson/Bealby Point; Melisa Beyers - Nelson Wildflower; George; Rosalia Rivera - Wildflower Nelson PAC Secretary; Jennier Phoenix - Parent at JVH; Lisa O'Conner - South Nelson DPAC Rep/Homelinks Nelson; Lynn Hango; Melisa Beyers - Nelson Wildflower; Jessie Coonen - WE Graham PAC Rep; Candace Pongratz - Blewett DPAC Rep; Mathilde Armor Piccirilli - Wildflower; Lauren Rethoret - Wildflower DPAC Rep; Kristi Dutton; Jaeden Woodland - Parent/PAC Jewett Elementary; Paul Dowell - Wildflower

3) Adoption of Agenda

Motioned - Colleen; Seconded - Lisa

4) Approval of Minutes

Motioned - Natalia; Seconded - Colleen; Opposed- nil

Code of Conduct - will not discuss individuals, refrain from partisan action, open discussion is encourage with respect for all point of views, work to ensure the well-being of students is paramount

5) Superintendent's Report - Guest Deanna Holitzki - Food Equity

- Return to school - great to have everyone learning again
- Note - Ministry reporting policy is in place, also have new performance standards to support the reporting policy.
- Parent Engagement Night on Ministry reporting last week - will have 2 sessions a month. Are virtual and details are on the school district calendar.
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is on a Saturday so will be observed in the school on Monday.
 - Feeding Futures Funding - new funding in place as of April 1.

- Presentation by Deanna Holitzki, Director of Instruction
- SD8 has received approximately \$644k this year from the Ministry for this program to expand or create local food programs in school primarily for vulnerable students
- School food programs may continue to include breakfast, lunch and snack programs.
- Districts must follow the guiding documents which include the Canada Food Guide, and Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools (includes any food that is provided or prepared).
- Must have Food Safe Certification (at least the operator and one other person on site).
- The School Meal and School Nutrition Program Handbook was created to support programs.
- Where possible use BC grown foods to help support local farmers, the local economy and optimize the freshness of food.
- Other partnerships include the BC Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program (this is a universal program for ALL students)
- Also part of a pilot project for some of the rural schools to get more fruits & vegetables in schools.
- Interior Health has also assigned a nutritionist to work with each school district.
- PACs can help by continuing to volunteer and support programs at the school and continue to advocate for universal food program funding through the DPAC and BCCPAC.
- PAC groups can continue with food fundraisers - caveat means they must follow the guidelines. Food should be in the “choose most” category and cannot have a mark-up exceeding 20%.
- PAC groups need to complete an application form prior to starting food service, ensure the kitchen operator and one other person have FoodSafe and that the record checks are completed.
- SD8 has hired a Feeding Futures/School Food Advisor and has scanned schools regarding the programs and spaces.
- Questions - how do we get rolling and where do we find the information? The Advisor is getting into contact with schools through the Principals. Links were on the presentation which will be sent to Natalia. Although they are called GUIDELINES they are being treated as REQUIRED. Concern with rural schools and the new guidelines being restrictive - will be able to use support staff for some of the shopping and the BC Agriculture program is significantly expanded for the pilot project schools.
- Guidelines are being updated this fall (the ones from 2008) but the updated Canada Food Guide includes the “Choose Most” foods.
- Hot lunch program at South Nelson was put on hold this week because of the menu options. Advisor is working with the Principal at South Nelson this week.
- For BC Agriculture in the Classroom it is a requirement that everyone has FoodSafe, but this will primarily be applicable for the district staff.

6) Treasurer's Report

- Healthy balance - \$13,000, great time to start looking at funding \$11,585.03 general; \$2108.53 gaming, there is some money owing
- Applied for gaming grant
- Wants to hear ideas to develop the budget for the next meeting.

7) Correspondence

- Quite a bit about the food programs

8) Discussion Items

a) Call AGM for October 19 th 5:30 pm PST

- All positions are always open. Need to be re-elected each year. Will also be appointing district committee representatives. Send an email to sd8dpac@gmail.com. Committees are Education, Policy and Governance and Finance.

b) BCCPAC memberships due. Please register your school PAC and email DPAC for reimbursement

- DPAC wants to continue to pay for school memberships to ensure all schools are represented by BCCPAC.
- Email DPAC your receipt to get reimbursed.

c) Collection of the list of all PAC chairs for this school year

- Wildflower is ONE school (same as homelinks) so it is ONE registration. Can have subPACs though.

d) DPAC Policies Manual

- Brought up the SD8 DPAC Policy Manual
- <https://dpacsd8.weebly.com/dpac-constitution--bylaws-policies-and-procedures.html>
- Shared Vision and Mission statement.
- Reviewed Perceived Bias and Conflict of Interest clauses.
- The Superintendent and Trustees are welcome at any and all meetings as per the School Act. Other partners may also attend as a guest.

e) Say Dyslexia at the BC Legislature event

- Worked together with Dyslexia BC on a BCCPAC resolution regarding structured literacy.
- October 3 event at the Legislature - can get information on this event on the website
- <https://dyslexiabc.ca/say-dyslexia-at-the-leg>

f) Ideas for what topics we would like to see presented at DPAC this year

- Please email to the DPAC!
- Food Safe

9) Committee Reports

- Finance
 - Independent auditor came and spoke about the internal audit report. The audit went very smoothly and finished two weeks ahead of schedule.

- District has a surplus. Some of the funding is accessible but there are ministry constraints on the money. Can be used for anticipated unusual expenses as identified by the board and operations spanning multiple school years.
- Education Partners
 - Just discussion about terms of reference, had to defer the interesting education part because terms of reference took too long. School Planning Day is happening September 22. Did not have time to talk about the enhancing student learning report.

10) School Reports

- LVR - start of year, working through schedules, schedule change this year, start of year assemblies, PAC meeting next week
- Salmo - lots of chaos at the school with being short staffed and underfunded, community is NOT happy that Terry Fox and Truth and Reconciliation are once again being scheduled at the same time rather than being given the individual attention and honours they both deserve,
- TF - archery, extra activities, TF - work in progress as the building, went to Redfish to see the salmon spawning
- Blewett - scrambling for new hot lunch options, first halloween party meeting on Monday,
- Desk - no meeting yet,
- MSSS - a large number of new teaching staff this year (8 new), 2 new student trustees, discussion of FSAs to spread out this year, lots of excitement for the new year, kids went to Pines Camp - good for team building,
- CBESS - middle school classroom from Grades 6-8, super excited for the Terry Fox run, photo day upcoming, accepting applications for a lunch-room person, Indigenous sports day tomorrow, family open house and fall fair on October 16, PAC meeting next week, new staff and students,
- South Nelson - first meeting last night, hot lunch is on hold until it is approved, might only be able to have 4 days a week because of vendor issues, teachers about a new math program (Dreambox), hoping to plan some movie nights and Santa's workshops, on the 3rd principal in a year, at full capacity so any new students are being sent to Rosemount or Blewett as Hume is also at full-capacity
- Homelinks - PAC meeting next week, full-time teacher now rather than 4 days/week
- Wildflower Creston - PAC on next Monday, Kindergartners are on half days (Mathilde)
- ARES - PAC meeting,
- Wildflower Nelson - principal saga until the new year, no PAC meeting yet, (Lauren), I forgot to mention we have a new PAC chair! Martine Diamond.
- Redfish - Chris Goggins - family potluck event, new principal, first PAC meeting in person yesterday, veteran teachers returning and planning similar fundraisers,

All executive positions do become available at the AGM and need new committee reps and executives!!

Adjourned at 7:47 pm PST, DPAC AGM **October 19th at 5:30pm**. Next regular DPAC meeting at 6 pm following the AGM

To be added to the SD8 DPAC email list please email sd8dpac@gmail.com