

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Nelson School Board office, 570 Johnstone Rd., Nelson

1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:08

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.

Attendance

Parents:

Ester Zdebiak, Mt Sentinel
Rena Vandembos, Mt Sentinel
Cate Baio, Wildflower, DPAC Secretary
Martha Clark, LVR
Sheri Walsh, LVR (Chair)
Lori Thompson, Winlaw, DPAC Vice-chair

Education Partners:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent
Bill Maslechko, Trustee Nelson
Nina Latham, CUPE
Ron Planiden, CUPE (via phone until 6:30)

Regrets

Raeanne Gow, Redfish, DPAC Treasurer
Sharon Bloodworth, Canyon Lister

Lenora Trenaman, Trustee
Curtis Bendig, Trustee
Doug Kunzelman, CVTA

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda amended to move Discussion Item 8b) Bussing, forward to accommodate Mr. Planiden on the phone and approved by consensus.

3. Approval of November 26 minutes

November 26 minutes approved by consensus

4. Presentation:

Monique Lalonde: The F.O.R.C.E Society for Kids' Mental Health – Resources for Kootenay families

- organized by a woman on the coast who had a son who needed support along with a paediatrician; now have a presence throughout the province and several partners
- brought parents and youth to table together with Interior Health
- support parents, provide resources, advocate for youth
- Nelson has a parent in residence (Monique) and a youth in residence (Tyler Exner, her son)
- have once a month educational presentations and would like to add support groups
- meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month
- January's session will be about sexting & cyber bullying in relation to mental health, at LVR
- adults and youth self-refer themselves for assistance from the parent and youth in residence
- will meet with parents one-on-one or with parents and children
- youth in residence is meeting with students at LVR to try to bridge connection between students and professionals
- have presented in LVR about anxiety, Mt. Sentinel on anxiety, substance use and gaming
- presentations are available on website for parents, professionals and youth (<http://www.forcesociety.com/>)

- hope is to have parent in residence at LVR (maybe bi-weekly), however current contract allows only very restricted hours
- based on statistics, about 5 children in every classroom are likely to be facing mental health issues such as anxiety, ADHD, depression, aggression

Q: are there parents and youth who are not serviced because of your restricted hours?

- many people don't know about us, once they do, they would be
- current contract ends on March 31 and hope it will be renewed

Q: What can DPAC do to help?

- spread the word

5. District Reports

- Jan 4th is an additional day off because Good Friday occurs within spring break
- Lenora Trenaman was re-elected Chair, Heather Suttie was re-elected Vice-chair of the Board of Education
- surplus funds allocated:
 - ~\$600,000 salaries
 - ~\$100,000 resources
- environmental day at JVH, multi-school, very successful
- increasing number and amount of scholarships for ab ed students
- increasing ab ed content in curriculum (aboriginal world views)
- Syrian Refugee families- don't know how many families will arrive in the district. District trying to find out as much info as possible so that resources can be allocated. Student liaison has been recruited
- have PAC's invite administration to discuss new curriculum. Parent info night encouraged! Contact Director Lorri Fehr to arrange; K-9 being implemented; more info in spring for 10-12
- proof will be in assessments (if it shows skills and competencies, it has been successful)
- info from budget stakeholders committee is on website
- have added "contact and concerns" contact email to website, email goes to Jeff and he will send to appropriate district staff
- This year \$165,238 budgeted for resources – consider options to reduce this
- \$57,000 budgeted for photocopying, can we go on a photocopying "diet"?
- Phone over \$170,000...can we move to more internet use?
- Professional development funds are provided to the teachers union (\$65,000) and CUPE (\$16,000). Jeff wants to thank the board for \$ for staff development. What has been the return on these investments (student achievement?)
- Thank you to DPAC!

6. School Reports

- Mt.Sentinel:
 - planning to hold valley PAC meeting to coordinate fundraising, consider establishing bursaries for students, etc.
 - want to bring music program back; a choir is starting
- Wildflower:
 - honey, coffee, christmas tree fundraiser was a success
 - outdoor mural dedicated
 - presenting to board in January regarding creation of Kindergarten class
- LVR:
 - change in admin: Tim Mushumanski moving to Rosemont as acting principal and Tamara Malloff moving into VP position
 - Mike Joyce's students won \$2500 in RDCK mural contest
 - other art class created skateboard decks
 - 24 hour write held in library

- have an after school art therapy group, but should change name to attract more students, especially boys
- concern about sexting (connecting with city police to come in for information sharing)
- Physics students went to BCIT, engineering day at UBC
- Winlaw:
 - lots of enthusiasm, energy, ingenuity, of teachers in the school
 - fundraising for Syrian family coming to New Denver; held movie/games night
 - trying to fill in sizes for cross country skis for W.E. Graham and Winlaw
 - encouraging multi age lifelong learning, such as
 - sewing, building desks for outdoor classrooms, IT, baking, pottery, skiing
 - PAC purchased popcorn popper
 - working on developing playspace education/playground
 - have hockey at lunch time

Side topic:

- sex ed:
 - parent night out topic?
 - concern for ensuring curriculum is the same in all schools
 - Jeff: curriculum is being reviewed and will most likely be part of that
 - could be funding from CBAL for parent education
 - **Lori T will follow up parent ed. inquiry to Lori**

7. Correspondence - Nil

a) Business arising from correspondence - Nil

8. Discussion Items

a.) Updates on previous motions & items in minutes

- DPAC Chair has several letters to write!

b.) Bussing

- Ron Planiden, bus driver, expressed deep concern that student safety is being compromised on his east shore route because bus drivers are no longer allowed to drop students off at "courtesy stops" between bus stops, even if they are requested to do so in writing by a parent or guardian. Bus drivers are now only allowed to drop students off at currently authorized bus stops. He provided a few examples of situations that he felt compromised student safety. He requested that the district reinstate the ability of bus drivers to use courtesy stops upon parent or guardian written request when it is safe to do so.
- Jeff Jones advised Mr. Planiden of the process for appealing the decision to disallow the use of courtesy stops
- DPAC has not received any concerns from parents to date about courtesy stops, however LVR PAC has heard concerns about the bus from Harrop/Procter and the north shore arriving late to LVR, as well as Trafalgar and Wildflower
- Jeff Jones: new weight regulations on the Harrop ferry are causing a significant challenge to the bus schedule
- **Martha Clark will speak with the LVR principal about following up with Operations Director Larry Brown**

c.) DPAC-PAC-parent communication

- looking for ways to improve communication for promoting events, disseminating information, sending out questions and receiving responses in addition to the website and facebook page
- have tried sending info to PAC chairs and requesting that it be sent to their parent lists, but do not know if that is being done; school secretaries often will forward DPAC newsletters to their parent lists

- could try mail chimp
 - talk to parents about items at any events where parents are gathered
- d.) Facilities plan update
- February
- e.) Parent education plans
- will be approaching schools and PACs about parent advocacy training in new year
- f.) BCCPAC
- 21 KL PACs joined BCCPAC
- g.) Future agenda items:
- Teacher regulation branch
 - BC Ed Plan and new curriculum
 - Parent input into district goal and student expectation monitoring reports

9. Treasurer's Report

- not available

10. District Committee Reports and Meetings

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a.) Finance & Operations | (Jan 12 – SBO, Nelson) |
| b.) Policy & Governance | (Jan 26 – SBO, Nelson) |
| c.) Budget Stakeholder Engagement | (Dec 8 – SBO, Nelson) |
| d.) Education | (Dec 8 – SBO, Nelson) |
| e.) Healthy Lifestyles | status unknown |

Meeting adjourned 8:30.

DPAC Meetings (6pm Pacific Time)

January 28
February 25

May 26
April 21
June 16 – Parent Celebration