

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Nelson School Board office, 570 Johnstone Rd., Nelson
AND

Creston Education Centre, 617-11th Ave., Creston

Attendance

Nelson

Parents

Ester Zdebiak, DPAC treasurer; Mt. Sentinel
Kendra Mann, DPAC past chair; Rosemont, Trafalgar
Cate Baio, Wildflower

Education Partners

Jeff Jones, Superintendent
Lenora Trenaman, Trustee, Chair of the Board of Education

Creston

Parents

Deborah Short, Homelinks
Sheri Walsh, DPAC Chair, LVR

Education Partners

Heather Suttie, Trustee, Vice-chair of the Board of Education

Parent Volunteer Award winners were announced and thanked as follows:

Jewett Elementary

Cari Lamoureux
Christopher Petersen

Homelinks Creston

Barbara Koehoorn

Winlaw Elementary

Jo Buckland

Salmo Secondary

Rhonda Hutton
Sharron Critchlow
Anita Horton
Cathy Paton

Mt Sentinel

Alison Burns

- 1. Welcome/Call to Order 6:00**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
 - approved by consensus

3. Approval of May 28 minutes

- postponed until September

4. District Reports –

a) Superintendent Jeff Jones

- 8 grad ceremonies throughout district this June; important time to congratulate students and thank our communities and parents who have supported students; education is a gift that our communities have given our students, support students to have safe, enjoyable and memorable grad celebrations
- trustees met with parents in Yahk, only 3 students enrolled, had conversation about how to support those students, no plans to close school, future of school will be considered in the fall after enrollment is confirmed
- Creston celebration of retiring staff, as well as former trustee Hambler-Pruden
- continuing to work on development of administrative regulations for newly approved policies, e.g., sexual orientation/gender identity regulation committee has met twice, committee includes community members such as from ANKORS; will be working on more regulations as more policies are approved by the board
- thank you to DPAC and all parents, school district relies on parents to help us understand what is needed for our students, allocate resources, parents help to bring together our district; I express my sincere gratitude for their involvement

Questions:

Deborah Short – What is happening with Pathways and the alternate school at PCSS next year?

Jeff Jones – school is working to re-align how use resources to meet needs of students, students can access Homelinks, DESK and student services at PCSS; programs are being merged and resources combined

Deborah Short - where will the teachers be?

Jeff Jones – I don't know what decisions schools have made; the district allocates resources to schools and the schools decide how to use those resources

b) Board of Education Chair Lenora Trenaman

- Regardless of the abolishment of School Planning Councils in Bill 11, SD8 has policy regarding SPC (#224) and therefore SPCs can continue to function in this district; this is an example of why policies are not redundant if they replicate what is in provincial legislation because, we should be practicing, implementing whatever our policy states

5. School Reports

Trafalgar – Silverwood trip

Rosemont - swimming in Trail

Wildflower Nelson – last day today, sports day Monday, Tuesday – expo on different countries, level of investigation very high, Wed – class provided a luncheon for school, June 11 - all school BBQ at Lakeside; it is a challenge to build community within school, but there is great community within each class

Mt Sentinel – lip dub, long time custodian Gerry Schwan retiring, Cats cookout next week, graduating student Nicholas Paun won award at National science fair (see story in Nelson Star), did mock car accident with gr 10-12s and Crescent

Valley Fire dept – wrecked cars, demonstrate what can happen if drink or text and drive,

Homelinks Creston – provincial exams next week, lots of studying, balancing with rest of life, had grad last weekend at W Creston Hall, beautiful ceremony, catered by D'mitri's – 6 grads, 2 speakers; week prior – went to Silverwood; students can take Independent Directed Studies courses which has been incredibly valuable

LVR – grad, physics trip to Silverwood (calculate G forces, etc.), grade 10 student Lily Miller sent a letter to Premier Christy Clark complaining about inadequate technology at the school and the premier responded; girls' group had their wrap up event at Lakeside Park

6. Correspondence

Nil

7. Discussion Items

a) DPAC plans for 2015-2016 (brainstorm)

- survey PACs for their priorities
- Jeff Jones: district could provide staff to help DPAC share information with PACs from each family of schools about new curriculum, strategic planning framework, etc.
- parent conference (BCCPAC is supporting regional conferences) bring in well known speaker – will bring awareness; conferences good, difficult and expensive to get to Nelson and Creston, distance
- PCSS will have new seats – comfortable place to hold events
- could hold a half day event on each side of the pass
- could hook onto student symposia connected to each Committee of the Whole (COW – Finance & Operations, Policy & Governance, Education); dependent on how each COW designs its student symposium, e.g., Education – bring students together to discuss topics related to educational practice, Policy, Finance, etc. There is \$37k in budget for student symposia as well as to implement suggestions from last year's student symposia, including increased career counselling. Students' perspective would be included with that of speakers, parents, teachers, etc. Could be related to any of the student expectations, or any education topic
- alternatively, could create parent events associated with each COW, then convene students
- Jeff Jones: education around parent engagement in school communities, e.g., SPC – what is parent engagement in a school community? set up an online session – district will help; parents are finding other ways to connect and interact with their children's schools instead of attending meetings
- if parents not showing up for PAC meetings – what are other ways to engage parents – re-configure PACs, do something else, find other ways
- grad boutique – need support to access to gently used, clean grad dresses, how to implement? Castlegar –Trail SD20 has been doing this, get dry cleaners to assist
- Lenora Trenaman – it has been a challenge to get parents to the table over the years, parents need to be recognized at every level, at the district level – hard enough for PACs to get parents engaged, and even more difficult to get them engaged at district level
- parents don't know about policies which affect how schools operate, isn't just parents that are responsible, not just district, it is everyone's responsibility to

inform, need messaging to support feedback before policy adopted, ideally every school would provide input into a policy, same with regulations, community can impact policy and regulations – increase engagement and recognition at every level, elevate importance of education, encourage dialogue, conversation

b) Facilities Plan Update

- end of September target for 1st draft
- go out to public in October for comment

c) District Communication Protocol, Parent & District Roles & Responsibilities
(from January)

- Jeff Jones: teacher, principal are first point of contact – if that's intimidating, could have an online enquiry – e.g., enquiry@sd8.bc.ca; Superintendent would respond
- parent reluctance could be because of past experience, didn't get answer they want, or not getting answers, or intimidated because of own school; could distribute more pamphlets with the communication protocol
<http://www.sd8.bc.ca/Publ/Dist/SD8CommunicationProtocolParents.pdf>
- parents appeal staff decisions to superintendent
- for transportation issues – call numbers posted on SD8 website
http://www.sd8.bc.ca/?page_id=349
- Jeff Jones: regarding role of PAC funds – because of staff and other resource limitations, non-emergency/high priority requested repairs, modifications cannot be accommodated immediately; if parents are willing to wait, requested repairs will happen, but some parents have been unwilling to wait their turn; the district should not be told to purchase basic school resources, if PACs don't want to buy items, then they need to wait their turn

d) BCCPAC regional conferences

- Kendra Mann: instead of holding a big conference on the coast, DPACs will be able to apply for funding to run a local parent education event – half-day or full day, with surrounding districts, get BCCPAC name out as well, co-host or invite other districts, first come first served for funds, could involve more parents for less money
- SD8 DPAC should contact DPACs from neighbouring districts (10, 20, 5) to gauge interest and ability

8. Treasurer's Report

\$ 2,009.76 regular
\$ 226.21 gaming

9. District Committee Reports and Meetings – all in the fall!

- a.) Education
- b.) Finance & Operations
- c.) Policy & Governance
- d.) Budget Stakeholder Engagement
- e.) Healthy Lifestyles

~~~~~  
**Have a great summer!**