

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 26, 2015**  
Nelson School Board office, 570 Johnstone Rd., Nelson

**Action Items are in Bold.**

**1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:05**

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.

**In attendance:**

**Parents:** Sheri Walsh (LVR), Greg Smith (BK), Sharon Bloodworth (via phone CanyonLister), Lori Thompson (Winlaw), Cate Baio (Wildflower), Ester Zdebiak (Mt. Sentinel), Raeanne Gow (via online, Redfish)

**Education Partners:**

Deanna Holitzki, SD8 Director of Human Resources  
Nina Latham, CUPE

**Regrets:** Martha Clark (LVR), Rena Vandebos (Mt. Sentinel), Lenora Trenaman (Board of Education), Paul Boscariol (Nelson & District Teachers' Association)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- motion made by Greg to approve, approved by consensus

**3. Approval of October 22 minutes**

- motion made by Lori Thompson to approve, approved by consensus

**4. District Reports- Deanna Holitzki, Director of Human Resources**

- closing in on end of hiring period for this year
- reconciling teacher, administration and CUPE staffing in relation to enrollment
- want to ensure that clerical staff do not lose hours if enrollment has decreased, and to increase hours in schools that have increased enrollment
- looking forward to next year
- student transfer period is between 1st Friday and last Friday in March (March 4 to March 25, 2016); might extend to March 29 due to Good Friday
- kindergarten enrollment begins in early February
- PACs and DPAC can help district plan for new year by getting these dates to parents and to encourage new families in their area to connect with their local school
- Deanna went to Trafalgar and experienced Mrs. Machado's salad contest (part of the lifelong learning program)

**5. School Reports**

- Sharon (Canyon Lister)
  - New principal Bruce Cookson - lots of energy and ideas
  - Working on website
- Ester (Mt. Sentinel)
  - sr. boys/girls volleyball this weekend
  - Green team made presentation to board (were on front page of Nelson Star)
  - PAC meeting December 7th
  - **technology concerns- request to discuss at a bigger forum**
- Raeanne (Redfish)

- fundraising (Purdy's, poinsettias)
- parent teacher interviews; some did student led interviews
- working with new competencies and established rubric
- book fair
- science world did presentation
- spirit bear presentation
- Christmas concert this year (do every other year)
- Greg (BK)
  - PAC purchased Inside Out movie licence for one day (~\$435);
  - shown to help children to see and learn to express emotions
  - friendship bench being built (whoever needs a friend sits on the bench)
  - Christmas concert during day
  - Fall Fair - rented out tables
  - active PAC
- Cate (Wildflower)
  - Krista's class had a booth at co-op
  - fundraisers
  - PAC made plea to parents to participate in PAC, didn't generate response
    - Sheri- maybe let it go? perhaps by losing PAC, parents would see the importance of the PAC, no gaming grant
    - Lori- point out losses if no PAC, e.g., no hot lunch until roles are filled
      - BCCPAC has list serve, perhaps we need one?
      - Learn Now BC offers Collaborate for online meetings
    - Greg- reward base missing? explore what is working at some schools
      - every month BK PAC rotates meeting day (in evening)
    - Sharon – because of lack of support, went to school assembly and made plea to students, now have full PAC
    - **Action Item: Sheri will look into a DPAC list serve chat group**
- Lori (Winlaw)
  - outdoor ed program raised money for outdoor classroom, approval was granted, will start soon
  - want kids at recess not just doing, but also creating and doing
    - kids building with wood, etc.
    - PAC has been told to purchase playground equip from well known companies and will submit proposal to Bruce
  - playing hockey at lunch
  - still doing multi-age programming
  - doing applied math (i.e, baking)
  - defining parent volunteer responsibilities with principal, such as
    - student discipline
    - first aid
    - how volunteers will be utilized
- Sheri (LVR)
  - parent teacher interviews tonight (Nov 26, 2015)
  - Dramafest
    - Dracula placed first but not going to provincials
  - sports teams active
  - moving remembrance day ceremony
  - open student council meeting
    - students could come and share ideas

- growth plan goal is resilience
  - lunchtime sessions on mindfulness, mental health, anxiety

## 6. Correspondence - Nil

a) Business arising from correspondence - Nil

## 7. Discussion Items

a.) Updates on previous motions & items in minutes

- Missrepresentation & The Mask You Live In films have been purchased; DPAC will reimburse \$700, waiting on gaming branch to determine if can pay with gaming funds
- DPAC made motion at finance committee and now out of catchment bus fees have been cancelled
- DPAC wrote letter to board urging them to fill Health Promoting Schools Coordinator contract; RFP has now been advertised, closes Dec 4
- as per Oct meeting, DPAC will offer to board to write joint letter to increase penalties for driving infractions in school zones
  - Greg - schools in areas with higher speed driving can get a speed board set up (shows how fast you are driving)
  - **Greg will speak to RCMP regarding this**
- as per Sept meeting, DPAC will request board to post status of board resolutions
- parent education (on agenda tonight)

b.) BCCPAC

- membership applications are due, Ester provided update – several PACs have registered, more needed, she's on it
- Sheri- spoke with Kendra Mann about Nov 7 DPAC Chair "summit"
  - wide range of DPAC involvement in different districts (from pre-dinner agenda discussion to no involvement with district whatsoever)
  - SD8 is in the middle
  - DPAC funding: we are fortunate here with our funding which Susan Wilson garnered
  - BCCPAC resolutions need to be submitted by January 31, 2016

c.) DPAC travel & childcare subsidies & honoraria

- Sheri asked other DPACs about their subsidies and Kendra about BCCPAC, e.g., BCCPAC \$0.50/km, Sooke only pays mileage for extraordinary events, but uses government rate, honoraria must be approved in advance, annual review
- question - how often do we review? It has been at least 5 years.

**Motion: Resolved that DPAC travel subsidies for parents be \$0.45/km to a maximum of \$80 for a minimum of 40km round trip from home for DPAC sponsored parent education events, DPAC meetings, board committee meetings, district related meetings, and other travel as pre-approved by DPAC.**

Moved: Cate

Second: Ester

Carried

d.) Budget surplus allocation (made priority at 7:40pm)

- \$740,000 surplus needs to be allocated asap.
- items should be one time expenditures because surplus is not ongoing, sustainable funding

- DPAC must submit their proposal by Monday Nov 30th at noon and defend it on Tuesday Dec 1 online at 3:30pm PST
- will circulate options to parents before board meeting on Dec 8th
- Lori – what do parents feel is most important?
  - IT support
- Greg - support the funding of teachers, clerical, etc. vs technology
- Deanna - infrastructure needed
  - wireless access points, routers, etc.
- Ester- suggest Danny Leeming meet with family of schools regarding what schools need
- Sheri- in addition to teachers, IT infrastructure, maintenance, hire someone to facilitate assessments of students
  - Deanna- discussions are ongoing with Union.
- Deanna (as a parent)- support grants for schools for student led global sustainability initiatives/events
- **Sheri will send out a note to parents to solicit suggestions**
- Next budget meeting on Dec 8th. There will be questions to answer on the budget theme which will be circulated.
- Budget “Talking Tables” with all stakeholders will be evening of Thurs Feb 4th
- **Lori will contact Creston PAC’s**

**Remaining items postponed to Dec 17 meeting.**

**Adjourned: 8:15**

**Next meeting:**

**December 17 – Christmas Party (6pm Pacific Time)**