

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 24, 2016
Nelson School Board Office, 570 Johnstone Rd., Nelson

1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:00

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:

Kendra Mann, Rosemont
Cate Baio, Wildflower, DPAC Secretary
Trish Dehnel, LVR
Stacey Throop, Brent Kennedy
Raeanne Gow (by telephone), Redfish, DPAC Treasurer
Sharon Bloodworth (by telephone), Canyon-Lister
Sheri Walsh, LVR, DPAC Chair

Education Partners:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent
Sandy Prentice, International Program Administrator
Bill Maslechko, Trustee, Nelson
Paul Boscarior, President, NDTA
Nina Latham, CUPE

Regrets:

Rena Vandenbos, Mt. Sentinel, DPAC Vice-Chair
Lenora Trenaman, Trustee, Board Chair

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda adopted by consensus with the item order fluid determined by when presenter attends and quorum is present to complete business.

3. Approval of October 27, 2016 Minutes

Minutes approved by consensus

4. Correspondence

a.) Business Arising from Correspondence

Motion: Be it resolved that DPAC submit a pro-forma to the board regarding development of a policy around school fee transparency/accounting.

Moved by: Kendra Seconded: Stacey Carried

5. Discussion Items

a) **BCCPAC** – DPAC Summit report

- Raeanne Gow attended; her complete report will be attached to the minutes, ~ 40 parents attended
- four topics presented & discussed with Ministry of Education Staff:

- Using evidence to enhance student learning
- Learning modernization project
- Mental Health, also Codes of Conduct
- Anxiety
- suggestions for future DPAC meeting/parent ed topics – anxiety and mental health, codes of conduct, changes to curriculum
- Supt Jones suggested Director Ben Eaton could give DPAC a presentation about SD8 mental health and anxiety services
- Kendra (who also attended Summit as part of the BCCPAC Board) – was also discussion but no answers about funding associated with Supreme Court Decision on BCTF class size and composition case
- Rural Education Working Group has been established (Kendra & SD8 S-T Kim Morris are members, Kendra will be submitting a report); online discussion open to public until January 9

BCCPAC membership update – 14 PACs have renewed their membership so far; deadline is December 15

b) Parent Advocacy Update

i) Parent Advocacy Training Contract

Motion: Be it resolved that DPAC approve the Parent Advocacy Training Contract for Services with Susan Wilson.

Moved by: Kendra Seconded: Cate Carried

ii) Parent Advocate Code of Conduct

Motion: Be it resolved that DPAC approve the Parent Advocate Code of Conduct.

Moved by: Cate Seconded: Kendra Carried

Motion: Be it resolved that DPAC approve the invoice of \$100 for preparation of the Parent Advocate Code of Conduct

Moved by: Kendra Seconded: Stacey Carried

(Remainder of Discussion Items moved until District and School Reports)

6. Treasurer's Report

Regular Account - \$2,900.01

Gaming Account - \$2.50

- Current year's gaming grant and SD8 contribution have not yet been received. Raeanne is following up. Supt Jones will follow up on the SD8 contribution.
- Raeanne following up with BMO regarding change to signing authorities and will discuss service fees as well.
- Will attach bank statements to future Treasurer Reports.

7. Presentation: BAA Intercultural Certificate Program & Course

Sandy Prentice, International Program Administrator

- international program began as a revenue generator, but that has changed now – we live in a global world and we want SD8 students to learn to be part of the global culture
- there is a continuum of interculturalization - from denial to acceptance
- considered how to engage students meaningfully, so came up with certificate program, but also need to rub up against other cultures

- certificate program (grades 10-12) – three modules:
 - language & cross-cultural communication
 - intercultural and leadership course work, including new intercultural course, socials & other courses offered in high school
 - service learning & intercultural experience & engagement – by travel or hosting international student in home or participation in service clubs
- new intercultural course expectation of student development of intercultural competencies such as:
 - understanding self and culture
 - affiliation and belonging
 - understanding other
 - negotiating intercultural space
 - reflect, prepare and act
 - each student will complete the interculturization survey at the beginning to determine their place on the continuum, establish learning goals and re-assess and end to see how far they have moved along continuum toward acceptance
- course delivery will be combination of face-to-face and online (Moodle) with one face to face session/month
- offered provincially through DESK
- 3 students will receive scholarships along with certificate
- now a provincial program, recognized by some post-secondaries with more expected
- PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) will now include a test on intercultural skill sets

8. District Reports

Supt Jones:

New Curriculum

- draft 10-12 continues this year, with full implementation 2018-2019; delayed due to concerns about timeline that was too rushed
- new assessments in hopper, new numeracy assessment to be trialed spring 2017, literacy trialed 2018, new FSA being trialed until Nov 25 but not in SD8 (see DPAC website for more info: (<http://dpacsd8.weebly.com/>))
- parent input about report cards until Feb 28 at (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress/en/home/>), Director Lorri Fehr putting together questions and will hold sessions for parents

Staffing Changes

- Tim Mushumanski appointed to Rosemont as principal
- Principal Ed Nielson taking 1 yr leave from WE Graham (teaching overseas)
- ab ed District Principal position posted closes Nov 29, interviewing Jan, start date as soon as possible after that
- parents have volunteered for ab ed advisory council
- in Sept there were 245.7 FTE teachers compared to 235.3 last year; adding 10-20 TTOC, vacancies are being filled; TTOC availability in more remote schools can be spotty; hiring more EAs as well; hoping additional staffing will meet needs

Facilities Plan

- funding for elevator for Central approved,
- capital plan for other priorities (Salmo, Blewett) submitted, awaiting response;

- 2 public meetings in Kaslo re Jewett and district is applying for \$50k from RDCK to support Jewett

Student Events/Info

- 15 students + 3 staff going to India; only India exchange in province
- mini-RYLA – (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) SD 8 partnered with Rotary Club, is about leadership development for youth, fantastic weekend , held at Crawford Bay
- student symposium Nov 30 hosted by Budget Stakeholder Engagement Committee so will be about budget priorities, seeing real progression in incorporating student voice 3 or 4 events/yr, moving around district , this one in Slocan Valley
- Kootenay Contraption Contest Nov. 21-Dec. 9
- student enrollment as of today is 5,330 (individual students or “head count”, usual differs from FTE as not all students take a full course load)

Paul Boscarol, NDTA:

- recent Supreme Court Decision restoring 2002 contract language,
- should be some influx of teaching positions, expecting more specialty teachers, and non-enrolling teachers such as teacher-librarians, should see a reduction of numbers in specialty classes such as shop

Q: What is your understanding of the ruling?

A: Language is returned immediately, BCTF and government to begin discussion as to how to proceed once both have had time to review written decision

Q: Do you know what impact this decision will have on the Learning Improvement and Education Funds?

A: LIF and EF may not exist in their current forms. Government could use those funds to reinstate teaching positions

9. School Reports

Redfish – successful lightbulb fundraiser using low energy use bulbs donated by Fortis

Canyon Lister– Principal still on leave, Patsy-Anne doing well, have new teacher, re-organized classes which are smaller, and kids are adjusting well; held cookie dough fundraiser and made \$900, 26 more tubs to sell

LVR – 7 of 10 blocks have been filled, concentrating on courses needed for graduation, others are still full with waitlists, Pygmalion being presented this weekend, student council wanted to survey students to gather information about how many kids were not able to get the courses they needed to graduate, but principal asked them to wait

Supt Jones:

- this is a provincial issue, a turning point, a consequence of having choice, this generation of students demands choice, students must make a choice between required and elective courses which sometimes run alongside each other, may have to move to models outside the 8 block timetable and be more flexible or expand the hours of when courses are available; other institutions face the same problem, these are some of the challenges of a traditional timetable

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) hosted crepe night, AFKO and others groups there from French community, planning winter carnival, bringing in French film

BK – have fundraised for extra-curricular bussing (for skiing, bowling, skating, etc), but now with additional student transportation funding can use funds elsewhere, education about water because drinking water is poor and are fundraising for a filtration system; preparing for Christmas play

Wildflower – huge fundraiser for a family with a child with leukemia: “Wishes for Annabelle”, selling food cards; having lots of parent nights, lots of community mentorship for middle school students, themes, e.g., black & white film photography with Fred Rosenberg, felting, building Rube Goldberg machine, apple festival; done lots of fundraising for playground equipment for kindies, also looking to bring in bigger cultural events; teachers working together to develop program for kids on dyslexic spectrum

Rosemont – thrilled that Tim Mushumanski is remaining as principal (had petitioned district), Georama fundraising wrapping up, apple and coffee fundraisers ongoing, dance performers came and taught kids to do a dance – kids loved it; doing Rocks to Rings again (curling), school wide skating, Christmas concert

DESK – trying to get a PAC going, sent a letter out to DESK parents today, there’s money in the DESK PAC account

10. Discussion Items

c.) DPAC Update

- new parents on district committees: Clare Kelly has joined finance and BSEC, Raeanne Gow on all committees (!!), would be great to have parents from outside Nelson and Slocan Valley on committees
- planning “level two” parent advocacy training for December for parents who attended first courses last spring

d.) Parent Education Update

- Cate is talking with Gabriel Keczan (art therapist and facilitator) about getting screenings of The Mask You Live in and MissRepresentation to parents at schools with facilitation, brought proposed mailout to PACs tonight
- Cate will ask Jason of Nelson Civic Theatre if they plan to screen “Screenagers”
- BCTF provides parent education presentations free of charge (<http://bctf.ca/parentpresentations/>)

e.) School Staff Replacement

- hiring more TTOCs and EAs as mentioned in District Report
- harder to fill positions in more remote schools
- when don’t have EAs, can call teachers; one way we are trying to fill vacancies
- flu season is causing illness and absences
- some TTOCs work in SD20 and SD8

f.) DPAC Meeting Schedule

- December 8 meeting and party cancelled

11. District Committee Reports and Meetings

1. Finance & Operations – report in January
2. Policy & Governance - DPAC submitting pro-forma on parent fee transparency
3. Education – Rena will join this committee in January
4. Budget Stakeholder - just starting, will be soliciting parent input

12. Additional – Parent Education

Sharon – a mental health advocate/educator is coming to school to Creston schools to discuss anxiety, mental health, substance use, etc.; other schools should consider this

Meeting adjourned: 8:15

November 2016 BCCPAC DPAC Chair Summit Report

Raeanne Gow

Discussion led by Ministry of Education Staff and BCCPAC Executive

Four Topics:

1. Using Evidence to enhance student learning (at various levels – Provincial, District, School)
 - a. Presentation by Keith Godin (Assistant Deputy Minister). This same presentation was recently given to Board of Education Chairs and Superintendents.
 - b. Ministry of Ed. Looking to collect and disseminate information in a friendly way to parents, a useful way to districts, and an analytical way to the ministry.
 - c. What they would like from parents
 - i. **What types of evidence could be collected (think BIG data)?** Examples are MDI, EDI, Satisfaction Survey (currently in use)
 - ii. How are districts and schools using evidence to enhance learning? Example: a district on Vancouver Island used Post Secondary enrollment stats and research by a team of teachers to make a case to create Local Economy Trade programs to help their students stay in their community and get jobs.
2. Learning Modernization Project – big portion is the new curriculum
 - a. Jill Kot presented. Informal survey of Gr. 10 -12 curriculum implementation schedule. Most say slow down, some say get on with it and work out the kinks on the way, so students don't miss out on the opportunity to experience the new curriculum.
 - b. What they would like from parents
 - i. **Fill out reporting survey. Google: My Kids Progress – what matters most to you when learning about your kid's progress?**
 - ii. **DPAC's most concerned with HOW to convey new information to parents about the new reporting and curriculum – in a digestible way.**
3. Mental Health
 - a. Jane Thornthwaite MLA presented – Select Standing Committee for Children and Youth Mental Health created a report with recommendations to all Provincial services including Education.
<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/committees/40thparliament-4thsession-cay/reports>
 - b. Big thoughts of discussion:
 - i. Friends Program
 1. What ages? When in school career (SD8)?
 2. Parent/Caregiver training
 3. Common language
 - ii. District Wide Code of Conduct & does the code of conduct apply to adults or ONLY students?
 - iii. Some DPACs have an Inclusive Education Representative
 - iv. Parent Support & Training – some parents have experienced trauma.
4. Anxiety
 - a. Ocean van Samang presented – fabulous presenter!
 - b. Early intervention is the best, don't let your child stay home because of anxiety – it creates a bad habit that is difficult to break
 - c. Anxiety CAN be managed in the classroom
 - d. Teachers need to be trained in “trauma informed classrooms” and recognizing and dealing with anxiety
 - e. BCCPAC should be sending her slide presentation because it is valuable in recognizing anxiety and separating it from “behaviour problems”
 - f. Deep breathing (belly breathing): this is the easiest and most effective technique to teach to your child. Practice every day to create “muscle memory”. Lead by example.
 - g. **Question to ask SD8 or school: What kind of training does staff have on anxiety, or trauma informed classrooms? – presentation from Ben Eaton?**
 - h. Screen time – only as a reward or privilege, stop 1-2 hours before bedtime, DO NOT let your child have their phone with them at NIGHT! Common Sense Media has good resources on how to talk to your children about screen time <https://www.common Sense Media.org/screen-time>

Deputy Minister – Dave Byng Q&A

- Look for the Rural Education Task Force <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/>
- He mentioned a Funding Formula Update - ??
- The Ministry of Education is looking to Finland for ideas on how to best tackle recruitment for people to become Teachers – creating a respect for the profession in order to attract top passionate candidates.

BCCPAC info

- Updating the Leadership Manual as a living online document
- BCCPAC is creating their own Reporting Survey for feedback to send to the Ministry. Please send questions you think would be useful for the survey by mid-December to Kendra.
- Encourage School PACs to become BCCPAC members by reminding them that Students can access \$500 scholarship rewards.

My thoughts:

- Invite Director of Independent Learning Services to a DPAC meeting to discuss what are SD8's strengths and weaknesses when it comes to Mental Health and Anxiety. See how we can support or advocate. **Presentation**
- Examine **Code of Conducts** to see if adults are included. Is it important to have a Code of Conduct that applies to the whole District? Some districts do and some don't.
- Should we encourage a Curriculum Evening? One district had a great presentation by their Superintendent that explained: This is what was, and this is what is. Also Mission SD75 has a good Curriculum Connections Link Videos on the Know-Do-Understand <https://sd75curriculum.com/starting-guide/kdu-model/> Why Change? Information <https://sd75curriculum.com/starting-guide/why-change/>
I did find links to some YouTube videos via the SD8 Website, and Director Fehr's SD8 Learns, but I don't think it is easily accessible – I went looking for it. Maybe we could post these through the DPAC website and Facebook?
- A recommended guest speaker was Vanessa la Pointe for many topics <http://www.drvanessalapointe.com/speaking/>
- Some parents in my school would like to view Screenagers as they couldn't get to it in Nelson. I am wondering if DPAC would be interested in supporting more screening and facilitation of this film? Similar to what we hope for Miss Representation and The Mask You Live In.