

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 27, 2016
Nelson School Board Office, 570 Johnstone Rd., Nelson

1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:45

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

Raeanne Gow, Redfish, DPAC Treasurer
Stacey Throop, Brent Kennedy
Cate Baio, Wildflower, DPAC Secretary
Sheri Walsh, LVR, DPAC Chair
Rena Vandembos, Mt Sentinel
Kendra Mann, Rosemont (by telephone)

Education Partners

Kathy Speirs, District Principal

Regrets:

Lenora Trenaman, Trustee, Board Chair

2. Adoption of Agenda

- agenda adopted by consensus

3. Approval of September 22, 2016 Minutes

- approved by consensus

4. Presentation/Discussion: Aboriginal Education

Kathy Speirs, District Principal

- 867 self-identified aboriginal students in SD8
- entire budget has been allocated
- ab ed open house Tues Nov 1, TMS 5-8; will have another one in Creston in the spring
- have had two meetings with Yaqan Nukiy School in Creston
- 42 staff have attended Ab Ed Pro D, some are learning Ktunaxa
- secondary schools working to develop a First Nations Independent Directed Study and BAC (board approved course)
- Erickson students are learning some Ktunaxa
- regional FNESC conference Dec 1-2
- ab ed team meeting Dec 2
- Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee & Elders Council is looking for two parents. This committee reviews resources, discusses the enhancement agreement, supports ab ed staff. Meet 4 to 5 times per year, generally from 12-3pm, beginning with lunch. Meetings usually alternate between Nelson & Creston (or Salmo). One Creston

parent is interested and there are two or three of potentially interested parents on the west side of the district. Interested parents should contact Kathy.

Question: Is the Ab Ed open house intended for Ab Ed students only?

Answer: No

Question: How was information about the ab ed open house distributed? Parents present have not received notice from their schools.

Answer: Information was sent to schools for distribution. Kathy will follow up.

Question: How is First Nations' content being acquired to bring into the curriculum?

Answer: Content is purchased from First Nations.

5. District Reports

- district application for school transportation funds for \$419,000 was approved.
- to be used for:
 - 3 additional bus routes (Creston, North Shore-Proctor-Nelson, Salmo areas)
 - school-based transportation requirements, reducing costs to school budgets and parent transportation fees
 - increased training for bus drivers, similar to Drive Smart program

6. School Reports

LVR

- grad is ramping up
- girls rugby and cross-country teams won provincial championship
- several classes with over 30 students and some students still don't have courses they require to graduate in their timetable
- an LGBTQ allies group is forming
- ANKORS (Jamie MacBeth) presented to PAC about fentanyl and using Naloxone, (there is an opportunity for a parent to attend a Nov 8 interagency meeting about Fentanyl in Nelson)

Brent Kennedy

- hot lunches in full steam
- cross-country kids did well
- 1st fundraiser on Nov 4, movie (Transylvania 2) and BBQ

Redfish

- fundraising for outdoor classroom space at spawning channel
- Fortis donated boxes of low energy light bulbs to sell as a fundraiser (maybe others should check this out?)
- discussing renovating the kitchen space
- afterschool programming now includes art on Friday, hoping to have dance again, Redfish Rockets is an after school program with a paid facilitator
- trying to get Skype or Collaborate for PAC meetings to increase attendance

Mt. Sentinel

- evacuated again, due to fire - learned that when power is cut off, can't use phones or access phone numbers to call parents, also learned that there is no room for busses to get right to the school when emergency vehicles are present

- enrollment is up to 306, with 60 kids self-identified as of aboriginal ancestry
- number of kids on teams, participating in sports and clubs has increased, music club is going to start
- discussing smoking on school grounds
- PAC is using shopandshare.ca to raise funds for student bursaries – PAC signs up and a % of online purchases from businesses such as Amazon.ca go to your organization

Wildflower

- older kids performed Thriller, some younger kids did not want to participate so another option was available
- fundraising – working on developing a website for grocery gift card sales like Waldorf has, raising money for a family with a child recently diagnosed with leukemia, Christmas fundraiser will be coffee, chocolate truffles, honey
- have an events calendar on the Wildflower website
- trying to gather equipment for gym, playground for kindergarten class
- developing mentorship/life-long learning groups
- elevator to be installed

7. Correspondence

Motion: Resolved that DPAC write a letter to the Board of Education in support of the KLTF letter requesting changes to current district hiring committee procedures to allow committee members to view applicant resumes with appropriate privacy measures taken.

Moved: Raeanne

Second: Stacey

Carried

8. Discussion Items

a.) **DPAC Update** – deleted from agenda due to time constraints

b.) **FIPPA Workshop**

- focus was on employee rights and privacy and not student information
- a lot of discussion around consent and disclosure
- regarding student information, building trust with parents is the biggest piece, especially with MyEdBC
- families want to be informed about how the district handles privacy
- MyEdBC data is stored in Canada, in Kelowna and an unidentified location in Manitoba
- school records have to be kept for 55 years!

c.) **Parent Education Plans**

- still working on logistics around screenings of MissRepresentation and The Mask You Live In
- suggestion – have individual PACs show the films at their schools and DPAC could fund the facilitator
- Kathy is aware of an art therapist who developed a proposal to show these films to kids with facilitation, she will forward his contact information to Sheri
- **Cate will contact Naomi Ross and find out where the films are located**

d.) BCCPAC

i) Membership

- 7 PACs have renewed their memberships so far

ii) DPAC Summit

- Nov 18 and 19 – meeting with Ministry of Education staff on Friday, Saturday morning will be a DPAC chair/ reps meeting
- Sheri has asked about distance participation
- Raeanne is interested in attending and will confirm
- objectives – a mutually agreed upon statement that parents want properly funded education, where children are getting what they need without the need for PAC funding what schools used to provide

e.) Parent Advocacy Update

- Susan Wilson is creating an advocate code of conduct and confidentiality agreement
- she will also develop a “level 2” training course
- fee is still under negotiation
- have established an sd8 advocate email address, are developing an advocate availability schedule
- will have a meeting, likely teleconference, with as many advocates as possible to find out how they want their services to be provided to parents

9. Treasurer’s Report

Regular Account - \$2,902.51

Gaming Account - \$5.00

10. District Committee Reports and Meetings

- a.) Finance & Operations – Clare and Raeanne will be the reps
- b.) Policy & Governance – Sheri and Raeanne will be the reps
- c.) Education – Rena and Raeanne will be the reps
- d.) Budget Stakeholder - Clare and Raeanne will be the reps

Adjourned 8:30

Addendum:

The following motion was approved via email on October 31:

Be it resolved that DPAC provide up to \$750 for a representative to attend the DPAC Summit on Nov 18 and 19 in Richmond.

Moved: Cate

Second: Stacey

Carried