

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2017
Nelson School Board Office, 570 Johnstone Rd., Nelson

1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:01pm

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:

Rena Vandebos, Mt. Sentinel, DPAC Vice-Chair
Sheri Walsh, LVR, DPAC Chair
Cate Baio, Wildflower, DPAC Secretary
Raeanne Gow, Redfish, DPAC Treasurer
Kendra Mann, Rosemont
Iris Steffler, Hume
Patricia Routien, Hume
Stacey Throop, Brent Kennedy
Martha Wilson, LVR
Alison Cutts, Wildflower
Nichola Lytle, Blewett
Sharon Bloodworth (by telephone), Canyon-Lister

Education Partners:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent
Bill Maslechko, Trustee, Nelson

Regrets:

Lenora Trenaman, Trustee, Board Chair
Paul Boscariol, President, NDTA

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted by consensus.

3. Approval of November 24, 2016 Minutes

Approved by consensus

4. Presentation: The PAC App

Nichola Lytle, Pink Dog Designs

- mobile and desktop friendly app in development, hoping to be ready for fall 2017
- seeking input from parents
- includes many tools in one spot that are useful for PACs, including newsletter, policy, photo gallery, meeting minutes, event banner, calendar, forms, volunteers, donations, shop, projects, feature post, sponsor ads
- Canadian servers
- cost \$35/mo
- several suggestions: a lower cost "PAC app lite" if want only a few features, add survey capability, enable linkages to other PACs, eg., in same family of schools

- contact Nichola with more questions, to request a presentation or provide feedback: nichola@pinkdogdesigns.com, <http://pinkdogdesigns.com/>

5. District Reports

Superintendent Jones

Superintendent Search:

- Supt Jones is retiring October 31
- hiring process has begun
- with input from stakeholders, job posting has been drafted and should be finalized and posted this week, with a closing date of Feb. 24
- a short survey asking respondents to prioritize strengths, knowledge and experience will be distributed widely to be used during candidate selection phase
- longlisting of qualified applicants scheduled for March 3, interviews and presentations scheduled for April 5 & 6 with format to be determined
- at the Board request, Jeff is facilitating the process, but is not engaging in the process or advising the board, e.g., set up stakeholder meeting, then left
- there will be an overlapping transition period during which time Jeff can provide orientation to the new superintendent, depending on the needs of the selected candidate

District Principal of Aboriginal Education

- position was posted twice
- longlisting of qualified applicants completed last week with stakeholder participation
- interviews scheduled for Feb. 9, parent reps will participate
- start date will be mutually agreed upon

Interim Measures/Additional teacher hiring due to Supreme Court ruling

- Supreme Court ruled in November that government must restore the language regarding class size and composition that it stripped out of the BCTF contract in 2002
- because so many things have changed since then, it is very complex and the BCTF and BC government negotiations are underway
- have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, government has allocated \$50M provincially for districts to hire additional teaching staff until June 30
- SD8 received \$503k, allocation to schools negotiated with KLTF
- every school received a minimum of 0.2 FTE, and then a per pupil ratio above that
- school principals and teachers met to determine within school allocation
- district topped up allocation by 0.8 FTE to round up some positions to make them easier to staff and more attractive to applicants
- 18 jobs were posted, equivalent to 11 FTE
- postings closing this week, hoping to have staff in schools by February 1
- as some of these positions will likely go to current TTOCs, will likely need to hire more
- district does not know how additional teacher positions for the fall will be funded, making planning challenging, are making two or three plans until the new language and funding are clarified

Facilities Plan

- facilities plan follow up meetings in each family of schools between March and June; schedule will be posted on DPAC website

Finance & Budget

- SD8 received additional \$643.5k from the operating grant recalculation due to higher enrollment than projected on September 30, no decisions have been made yet regarding allocation of these funds
- \$113k from 2015-2016 surplus was allocated to as a contingency for additional teacher staff which has not yet been utilized, will be used to address pressure points

6. School Reports

- by consensus moved to end of agenda, if time permits

7. Correspondence

Board of Education response to DPAC letter to the board regarding change to PVP hiring process

- the process suggested by DPAC and the KLTF was tried during the longlisting of the Aboriginal Education District Principal applicants

8. Discussion Items

a.) DPAC Update

- Clare Kelly and Sharon Bloodworth provided parent input to the Board regarding the posting for the Superintendent position
- Joanne Lih & Lori Barkley represented parents at the Aboriginal Education District Principal applicant longlisting
- DPAC chair has been invited to participate on the parent panel at the BCTF Advocacy Works! conference in Vancouver on Feb 18

b.) Parent Education Update

The Mask You Live In film – Cate:

- Cate has sent information to every PAC regarding opportunity to screen film with facilitator Gabriel Keczan with DPAC funding support for Gabriel's fee
- has received interest, may be advantageous to do family of schools screenings – reduce cost, increase audience at each screening

Motion: DPAC will provide up to \$1,000 toward facilitation fees for PAC screenings of "The Mask You Live In"

Moved: Rena

Second: Raeanne

Carried

- Cate to follow up

David Hatfield offer and support request from LVR – Martha Wilson

- works with boys and men exploring healthy masculinity
- has previously worked with LVR, TMS, SSS
- LVR PAC (evening parent presentation, Tuesday, April 4) and school (staff and students) is bringing him to Nelson
- would also like to offer his wealth to parents in other parts of the district and he is willing to travel to Creston
- fee for parent presentation is \$400, will be additional travel and accommodation costs for rest of week while he works at LVR and other schools estimated at \$1476
- will be looking for additional funds from other organizations

Motion: That DPAC provide up to \$800 for fees for parent education presentations in Nelson and Creston by David Hatfield.

Moved: Stacey**Second: Kendra****Carried***Parent Advocacy Primer – Sheri*

- in lieu of Susan Wilson providing additional parent advocate training to a very small group of volunteers, decided it would be more beneficial to offer much larger groups of parents in Nelson and Creston an overview of parent advocacy
- already part of Susan's contract, no additional costs other than mileage to Creston
- dates and locations to be determined
- maybe add to future DPAC meeting?
- Sheri to follow up

Substance Use – Sheri

- have offer from ANKORS to present at a DPAC meeting or as part of a larger parent education event along with others
- concerns expressed about marijuana edibles available from local dispensaries
- maybe add to a future DPAC meeting?
- Sheri to follow up

BCCASE (BC Council of Administrators of Special Education)

- Director of Independent Learning Ben Eaton has offered to fund the registration fee for a parent to attend conference in Vancouver in mid-April
- discuss at February DPAC meeting

c.) BCCPAC

- change in leadership – President John Bird has resigned due to health issues, another Director has resigned; have had to shuffle executive positions and now have vacancies
- nominations for interim directors (serve until May AGM) open until Feb 3
- nominations for five board positions (President, 1st Vice-President, Treasurer, 2 Directors) close Feb 28
- resolution deadline is also Feb 28 – does DPAC want to submit any this year?
- If so, need ideas and people to prepare them. DPAC would need to approve resolutions at the Feb 23 meeting and finalize and submit them quickly. Asking BCCPAC to advocate for AEDs in schools is one that has been suggested (has been done in SD20)
- submit resolution ideas to DPAC (sd8dpac@gmail.com) ASAP
- spring conference is May 5, AGM is May 6-7, in Surrey
- conference registration fee is \$350 and for each parent who has attended before and paid, the registration fee for a new parent accompanying them is free
- AGM fee is \$75
- BCCPAC will also cover travel costs for 3 parents from SD8
- **at Feb 23 meeting DPAC will need to determine available funds and how to who will attend**

d.) Parent Advocacy Update

- in December, Susan Wilson delivered more advanced training for four advocates who completed initial training last year

- determined that it would be more beneficial to a greater number of parents if Susan delivered two evening presentations to larger groups of parents on parent advocacy basics including such things as the SD8 communication protocol, policies, resources
- trained volunteer parent advocate contact information was sent to school admin and PACs
- requests for assistance continue to come in from parents and PACs
- **DPAC will request that schools keep a small supply of printed communication protocol brochures available**
- communication protocol brochure available on the DPAC website on the Parent Advocacy page, and the SD8 website under “Our District”

e.) Joint public education advocacy radio advertising campaign

- ads encourage people to advocate for public education – call the premier’s office
- ad copy distributed to meeting attendees – please suggest changes

Motion: That DPAC spend up to \$300 on a joint radio advertising campaign on Juice FM with the NDTA advocating for public education.

Moved: Kendra

Second: Stacey

Carried

- this amount will allow for ads to run 5 times/day, 8am-8pm, M-F, 175 ads, 35 days, started this week
- would be great to have parents read ads, starting Monday – let Sheri know if interested
- discussion regarding students reading ads – Superintendent advised against this, there is an MOU stating that students will not be used for political purposes
- note that DPAC approved spending up to \$150 for radio advertising in August and September, but the cost was much lower than anticipated and the other partners paid

f.) Interim Measures – additional teaching positions

- addressed in the Superintendent’s District Report (5)

g.) Language education in SD8 schools

- what language instruction is available for students?
- Superintendent advised that policy 410 requires core French instruction in grades 5-8 and that is done
- PCSS has French, Mt Sentinel has French through grade 8, LVR no longer offers French and Spanish is now offered as a supported online course, unsure about the other secondary schools
- parents expressed concern about lack of language instruction, especially French, noted that a second language is a requirement for the new global intercultural certificate
- Superintendent believes that too many course choices are offered to students so that insufficient students select language courses to enable them to be staffed
- suggestions include combining students from several schools within a reasonable geographic area, e.g., Mt. Sentinel, LVR, Salmo, and bringing them together once/week for face to face course work; having one high school with several campuses (has been negative response to this suggestion due to complications)

around logistics and staff seniority); ensuring language courses are on secondary school course selection forms and encourage students to select them

- unknown whether additional funding for teaching staff resulting from the Supreme Court decision will enable classes to run with fewer students
- lack of French language instruction would be a good issue to raise at the Rural Education Strategy meeting in Trail

h.) Curriculum Information Meetings

- open houses scheduled in February beginning next week
- schedule is on the DPAC website and facebook page

i.) Rural Education Conversation

- hoping some parents have responded
- Kendra Mann and Kim Morris are on provincial committees
- BCSTA (School Trustees Association) has submitted a response which SD8 board has supported
- PACs can submit responses until Jan. 31, individuals at any time
- regional meeting is in Trail on Friday Feb 24, 6-8pm at the SD20 office at 2001-3rd Ave. – please attend
- more info at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/>

9. Treasurer's Report

- Chequing Account \$5,095.33
- Gaming Account \$ 700.50
- after resolutions at this meeting, chequing balance is \$2,995

10. District Committee Meeting Reports

a.) Finance & Operations – will update at next meeting

b.) Policy & Governance

- DPAC submitted pro-formas for revisions to policies 430 and 205 requiring transparency for student fees
- Draft Policy 603, Budget Development, Approval and Monitoring – comment open until Feb 10

c.) Education – update at next meeting

d.) Budget Stakeholder

- using zero-based budget methodology this year, takes spending down to what is legally required, e.g., transportation is not legally required.
- leaves \$21 million for stakeholders to allocate to highest priority items based on values
- parents should expect budget consultation questions and resources from Raeanne and Clare
- deadline will be February 28

e.) Healthy schools/healthy lifestyles

- mental health is big concern of students – how is this being addressed in schools?
- ANKORS and IH presentation at December meeting – focused on Fentanyl, Naloxone kits now in secondary schools

Adjourned 9:30!