

## Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council

Draft Minutes

Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018

6:00-8:30PM

Nelson School Board Office, 570 Johnstone Road, Nelson BC  
Videoconferencing to Creston Education Centre, Creston , BC

Parents: Rena Vandebos (DPAC vice-chair, Mt Sentinel PAC), Natalia Nazaroff (BKE, Desk), Lorien Quattrocchi (DPAC Chair, Hume PAC), Nikki Merritt (DPAC treasurer, Winlaw), Sonja Thomas (WEG and parent advocate coordinator), Naama Avramson (WEG and DPAC finance committee rep), Tina Rubak (LVR)  
School District: Deanna Holitski (HR head for SD8), Danny Leeming (teacher at MSSS, invited speaker)

Welcome and Call to Order 6:08pm

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.

1. Introductions
2. Adoption of Agenda  
Sonja moves, Naama seconds
3. Approval of April 25th, 2018 minutes (attached).
  - Need to change to minutes in title
  - Rena – moves
  - Natalia - seconds
4. District Reports presented by Deanna Holitski, Director of Human Resources for SD8
  - Superintendents report circulated
  - May/June busy month – lots of field trips, activities, events
  - Creston
    - swim to survive (Adam Robertson)
    - Workshop at PCSS – focus on youth, performance festival
  - Crawford Bay – mentorship program going. Community involvement in school. Helps students network in community
  - Salmo – busy with emergency planning related to evacuation alert. Ran a PD event to help prepare
  - Kaslo – Jewett working with local farmer regarding sustainability, farm to table
  - BKE – hosted great international table top games day
  - Mt Sentinel Academy – two students accepted into Studio 58 theatre program at Langara
  - Winlaw – spring fling fundraiser just occurred. Very successful
  - Nelson – new musical at Hume (Susical the Musical – Lisa Baccus)
  - Ice cream social at Hume tomorrow night
  - LVR – Grace Dehnel won entrance scholarship to TRU (30,000)

Tuesday – school district approved budget (provided letter)

- Highlights – increased teachers. 30 new teachers last year, 8 new this year. More support for students with diverse learning needs
- Focus Learning Excel – PD opportunities for staff, \$800,000 (see document)
- TOC hiring – 150 have applied. Will hire 60 or 70. In competitive environment this year.

- CUPE staffing – desperately trying to hire EAs, particularly rural schools. Trying to do lots of advertising, connecting with Selkirk and College of the Rockies
  - Try to provide a more desirable job in terms of hours
- Naama enquired about hiring process. At WEG, it was too late last year.
  - Timetable not finalized at schools so difficult to staff, and people moved to more central schools
- Lorien – questions from parents regarding change in calendar. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> in particular. Discussed how next year the calendar committee will start up again and a parent rep will be on it.
- Rena – read out Christine’s response to the questions from parents about PVP moves, how it was communicated, why so many right now (will attach to minutes)? Also, can parents have a say?
  - Deanna- should be communicated between principal and parents directly
    - In terms of parent involvement in ‘characteristics’ in a principal. When we hire, we make sure to hire people with those qualities. Hearing from PACs is important in the process. For future transfers, opportunity for DPAC to communicate with schools to see if they can put together a list of characteristics
    - Sonja – says principals could have more connection with the particular community they are coming into so they understand unique needs of outlying schools
    - Aspiring leaders program is meant to develop more leaders from all over the district.
    - Natalia – suggested there could be a step-by-step process by which the principals communicate with their community.
    - Nikki – How does the movement of principals affect hiring, planning for the upcoming year.

5. Presentation /Discussion – Danny Leeming, Innovative Learning Through Technology  
Cigarettes and Smartphones:

- Using the analogy of smoking and cigarettes (addiction)
- TED talk – hidden goal of competing for our attention. Tristan Harris – founder of ‘time well spent’. Designed around brain science, neuropsychology research. Economic incentive.
- Zuckerberg lost 3.3 billion in one day after facebook changes news feed
- What does this look like in action?
  - News headlines now designed differently – leader lines with no context
  - Facebook likes designed to act like a ‘Skinner Box’ – drip out small rewards randomly. Videos run automatically. Always want something new to show you.
- YouTube – shown to radicalize you as the videos in your side bar designed to trigger you to respond (anger/fear etc)
  - Not designed that way but now research is showing this
- Snapchat – streaks have turned friendship into competitive game. Kids won’t go on field trips because they are afraid of losing streaks.
- Wild west right now – no kids advertising rules, no guidelines, no standards
- If you are not paying for a product, you are the product (advertising)
- What can we do:
  - Lead by example
  - Teach our students how to manage
  - Turn off all notifications except from people (facebook, twitter, snapchat)
  - Go greyscale (colour theme on your phone) – turn off colour (accessibility). Really reduces time on the phone
  - Home screen to tools only (get rid of the junk food on the main page)
  - Apps to track time
    - Forest app excellent. Block extensions. Grow tree while you are off your apps. You have to watch your tree die.
    - Can follow battery app. Log how much time in each of their apps.

- Thrive – blocks you out of apps for time periods
- No Distractions
- Freedom – desktop reward (windows, Mac)
- Distraction Free YouTube (chrome plug in)
- InboxWhenReady (manage email)
- Unglue – service for parents (internet balanced)
- Calm.com – meditation
- Move It (google extension) – timer to make you get up from your computer
- Discuss with your kids – list of apps that make you happy vs those that make you happy.
- Bonus Mode: App called “If this, then that”. Can program your phone with blocks. E.g., when pull out of driveway, turns off wifi. Automatically mute your phone at bedtime. Set up rules. Silence phone during calendar block time periods.
- Lorien’s question – is there an optimal age to set them up? DL – depends on the kid. Definitely not for younger children. Personally preference – not below grade 3 or 4. Better to provide them with chromebooks etc
- Sonja – is there a way to get devices for students with learning difficulties. DL - Universal design for learning applications are better than specific proprietary, expensive apps. EA’s at Selkirk trained in these. SD20 – hired an EA with a specialty in this app
- Lorien – Resources related to internet safety? Interested in providing parent education on safety. DL says he can do this. Training in digital detective.

## 6. School Reports

- WEG – got large provincial grant for playground (\$90,000)
  - Paid position for lunch program (Lucerne helped them out). Basic equipment for salad spinner etc. Created two micro-positions (paid). Keeping a tally (availability for LINKS funding from district for general needs). Hot lunch coordinator paid also. 10 week pilot.
- BKE – swimming lessons. Grade six graduation, final fun day being organized. Budget summary has shared budget.
- Mt Sentinel –UBC
- LVR – Ab Ed program presentation at last PAC meeting. Very interesting.

## 7. Correspondence

- Packages related to approved playgrounds. DPAC will manage that.

## 8. Discussion Items:

- a. Parent Advocacy update. Sonja Thomas (parent advocacy coordinator) will provide details. Schedule training in September or October?
  - Sonja is district advocacy chair – collects all the emails and queries from parents
    - Advocacy – speaking up in support of yourself or others in case of an issue or problem
    - You or your child can self-advocate
    - Individual who cannot effectively speak up for themselves can be supported by an advocate to resolve an issue.
    - Advocacy is child-centred. Not about parents or teachers winning/losing. About successful resolution. Meant to improve chances of positive resolutions.
    - Conflict resolution brochure from DPAC website. Some things from the brochure:
      - Write an email – important. Write down that you had a conversation. Written record is very important.
      - Set up a meeting
      - At any step, parents can ask for help from an advocate

- Problem solving guide a good resource also. School codes of conduct are available. District policies and policies. Communication protocols.
- Email [sd8advocate@gmail.com](mailto:sd8advocate@gmail.com)
- Four district advocates – Susan Wilson does the training. Works for the ministry. Ideally we will sign a contract with her for the fall training.
- They sign an oath of confidentiality
- Need more parents trained – difficulty in being advocate in your own school
- Need ranges with season (before Christmas, after Easter)
- This year – five calls that resulted in advocacy. Lots are just asking for resources.

\*Email an advocate link is broken

\* Rena will contact Susan to set up parent education and training for September meeting and before

#### AGM

- b. Nominations for DPAC secretary
- c. Video Conferencing from more sites (Slocan Valley?)
  - Web conferencing options for non-profits
  - Also some paid options – Zoom etc
  - \*\*Nikki is going to research this
- d. Ways to increase parent involvement in DPAC
  - Advertising with school principals
  - BCCCPAC – hints on the website
  - \*Rena to send the terms of reference DPAC
- e. Date for social in June
  - Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>, at Lorien's at 5:30
  - \*Rena to send out a general message

#### 9. Treasurer's Report

- Gaming – \$571.85
- General \$4369.87 – regular account

#### 10. District Committee Reports

- a. Finance
- b. Education
- c. Policy
- d. Healthy Schools
- e. BCCCPAC – Natalia gave us a report (will attach and email to attendants) – especially bc school act has opened.

11. DPAC Meeting & Presentation Schedule: June – Lorien's house.

12. Adjourn at 9:10 – next meeting September 26, 2018 at 6pm