

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 25, 2017
Nelson School Board Office, 570 Johnstone Rd., Nelson
Videoconferencing to Creston Education Centre, Creston

1. Welcome/Call to Order at 7:20

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: Sheri Walsh (LVR), Martha Wilson (LVR), Cate Baio (WF), Tina Rubak (LVR), Ester Zdebiak (MSSS), Sharon Bloodworth (CL/PCSS), Raeanne Gow (Redfish) Ben Eaton (Director of Independent Learning), Michelle Bennett (CUPE)

Regrets: Rena Vandenbos (MSSS)

2. **Adoption of Agenda-** Approved by consensus

3. **Approval of April 27, 2017 Minutes-** Approved by consensus

4. **District Reports**

- a. Friday June 2nd long listing of Superintendent applicants. Interviews June 21 & 22.
- b. Pow Wow May 19th in Creston was terrific
- c. VITRA training two weeks ago, Mental Wellness training tomorrow (May 26th)
- d. 2017-2018 budget expected to be approved on Tuesday

5. **School Reports**

- a. CL- Pow Wow was awesome, gets better and better. Jeff Jones was presented with Grass Dancer Shirt and good-bye gift. Getting ready for year end. Grade 7's from community come together to spend the whole day together. Class trips coming up. Planning Day on Monday. Still no visible principal.
- b. MSSS- Screening of the Mask You Live In. Good attendance (about 20). Parent evening for parents of children coming into MSSS. Grade 6's were at the school today.
- c. Redfish- Having Plant Investigators Day tomorrow (outdoor education), Nature Investigators Day coming up. Grade 4 and 5's have huge track meet. Swim Lessons starting. Moved time of PAC meetings to evening!
- d. LVR- Grad talent show at Capitol Theatre next week. Quidditch match today. Mother's Day Brunch. Fundraiser. Cafeteria program threatened with cancellation due to sustainability – cafeteria profits pay teacher's salary.
- e. WF- Fundraiser, Seedlings class advocated for bees being allowed in Nelson, Class camping trips, Four Nations, Working on recruiting parent volunteers (coffee/muffins on the first day of school, sign up sheet at year end BBQ), Working on ceremony for Seedlings/WF classes.

6. **Correspondence-** none

7. **Discussion Items**

- a. **Special Education Funding Advocacy-** Ben Eaton- Funding process: Funding model changed in 2003. When a student is identified based on assessments, funding is generated to the district and the district decides how to best allocate the funds. SD8 developed INADS process (Individual Needs Assessment for Designated Students) used for past 6 years: red binders of information compiled for each student documenting their assessments and needs, schools receive allocation and decide how they will use the funds. 95% of funds are used for educational assistants. Recently, Inclusive Education Branch of Ministry of Education listening to learn how to best respond to the needs of districts. Ben recommends looking at needs based funding model (Saskatchewan uses this). Until we move from categorical to needs based model, things will be tricky.

Funding? Money comes for students identified with learning disability, just not targeted toward specific student. An idea would be to receive funding according to the % of students in your school who have specific needs combined with rural education considering distance to schools.

Assessments? Summit Psychology has done several assessments under contract, District psychologist Deanna Rumohr has been on leave getting her PhD but returning soon. Todd Kettner now at Selkirk College and is 0.2 until end of June. A district psychologist position has been posted. Role of school psychologist has changed. Struggle to create balance between providing service and testing/assessing students.

How do you advocate? What for? Recommend best place to start is to have a conversation with the Ministry through BCCPAC. Recruit and include provincial parent advocacy groups such as parents of children with autism. Then advocate for needs based system instead of diagnosis-based.

Is all special education funding equal? Currently receive dollars per diagnosis, e.g., receive same funding for a student identified as autistic no matter where they are on the spectrum. That is one reason why district does needs assessment (INADS).

Students who aren't identified but show symptoms of greater needs- Students who are connected to clinician, child and youth mental health worker show big strides. However they do not receive provincial funding

How do we reduce wait times? We fill both positions for School Psychologist for next year. We also have different referral pathways for schools to use so that they understand what they are requesting.

Sheri: Could suggest BCCPAC take on advocacy based on existing resolutions.

Raeanne: perhaps at a DPAC summit at the fall is appropriate place to start

Ben has offered to come to another meeting and do a different presentation about how kids are supported in schools, IEPs, etc.

b. Parent Education Update

- i. The Mask You Live In/MissRepresentation - feedback for Gabriel Keczan. Discussion about film facilitation- MSSS about 20 people. Gabriel did minimal active facilitation. Sheri received feedback that BK PAC was disappointed. Great learning regarding coming to a clear agreement with future facilitators as to expectations and agreements. Tina will follow up with Gabriel, provide feedback and discuss proposal for the films in the fall.
- ii. David Hatfield follow up – Martha W investigating bringing him back to this area in the fall
- iii. Substance Use follow up- presentation on Fentanyl crisis tentatively June 7th for parents. Sean Dooley, works with outreach and is coming into speak with Pat Dooley. Nate Holt will come in from NPD. Topic: what to look for, behaviour, environmental cues. Tina will keep us updated to this event.

- c. **BCCPAC-** Raeanne attended. AGM and conference was great. KL DPAC's poverty reduction plan resolution passed as submitted. AED motion was amended passed as well. Board elections all candidates were elected (no one running against them). By-election for 3 empty positions beginning soon.

- d. **2017-2018 DPAC executive & district committee rep recruitment-** perhaps recruit parents from Creston. Consider co-chair position. Suggested to hold DPAC meeting in Creston sometime.

- a. **District survey regarding strategic planning beginning with revising district goals-** Due June 9th.

General discussion about whether it would be better to delay this survey and goal revision until a new superintendent is hired. A new superintendent will bring a unique leadership style and skill set to the district, it might be better for that individual to have a hand in the development of future district goals and strategies, rather than inheriting a vision that may or may not compliment his/her abilities or vision.

Consensus that goal revision will be a lengthy process and it is ultimately the board whose vision will be reflected and DPAC should encourage parents to participate before June 9.

- e. Martha Wilson will attend Parent Advocacy 101 parent presentation with Susan Wilson in Creston

8. Treasurer's Report-

Regular Account balance = \$3,671.56 (however many expense cheques yet to be written; projecting ~\$400 balance by September)
Gaming Account balance = #111.10

9. District Committee Reports:

- a. Budget Stakeholder- Tuesday, May 30 – intend to recommend 2nd and 3rd reading
- b. Finance- no update
- c. Education- Tuesday, May 30 – student participation; working groups have completed their work
- d. Policy- draft policy 213 (maintenance of order) being field tested – submit comments by June 1
- e. Healthy Schools – Tuesday, June 6

10. DPAC Meeting & Presentation Schedule

Thursday, June 15th– Party! (Parent Appreciation Awards)

(Post-script – June meeting later cancelled, but parent appreciation awards will be distributed)

Adjourned 8:45.