

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT  
Thursday December 15, 2011  
Nelson Board office, Video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

**Attendance:**

*Nelson:*

Jenny Henri, DPAC Chair, Mt. Sentinel rep  
Kendra Mann, DPAC Vice-Chair, Rosemont rep  
Susan Wilson, DPAC Treasurer  
Sheri Walsh, DPAC Secretary  
Robin Woodbridge, LVR rep  
Terri Snyder, Redfish rep  
Trish Dehnel, Canadian Parents for French (CPF) rep, Trafalgar  
Ester Zdebiak, Brent Kennedy (BK) rep  
Lori Camelleri, LVR  
Jen MacMillan, Brent Kennedy

*Creston:*

Tyson Soroke, Homelinks  
Tiffany Gorham, Canyon/Lister rep  
Vern Gorham, Canyon/Lister  
Laura Wigen, PCSS rep

**Staff and Education Partners:**

*Nelson:*

Jeff Jones, Superintendent  
Lorri Fehr, District Principal, Innovative Learning Services  
Barb Lindsay, Trustee

*Creston:*

Becky Blair, CVTA  
Rebecca Huscroft, Trustee, Homelinks

**1) Welcome/Call to Order:** at 5:56

**2) Approval of Agenda**

Student transportation added to discussion items. Agenda approved, by consensus

**3) Acceptance of November 24 minutes**

November 24 draft minutes approved by consensus.

**4) District Reports**

**Jeff Jones, Superintendent**

- **Destination Imagination:** Schools from throughout the District are building Destination Imagination teams for participation in a variety of tournaments throughout the region.
- **Crawford Bay Family of Schools:** Columbia Basin Trust has recently announced that the Crawford Bay community's expression of interest in their *Community-Directed Youth Funds* has been accepted. These funds will increase local activities, opportunities and/or services for youth. The Community-Directed youth Fund will commit \$100,000 to the community over a four-year period to enhance local opportunities and/or services targeted at youth ages 12 to 19.
- **Nelson Family of Schools:** Congratulations to the Recreation Leadership Class at LVR, who raised nearly \$2000 to purchase Christmas gifts for Nelson families who are experiencing financial challenges this holiday season. The class facilitated an event that included a pancake

breakfast, crafts for kids, a bake sale and a visit from Santa. All funds raised will be donated to the Nelson Transition House. Many thanks to families, staff and community members who supported this outstanding student-run event.

- **Playground Funding:** The province has released \$3.8 million for new playground construction at schools without playgrounds and reimbursement of playgrounds constructed in 2010/11. Trafalgar will receive \$50K for a new playground, ARES, Blewett and Jewett Elementary PACs are receiving reimbursement of \$9k, \$40k and \$8k respectively. School playground condition is ranked in the spring by the operations staff; contact Larry Brown if parents have concerns about the condition of playgrounds.

## 5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** PAC held two fundraisers (poinsettia and Mom's Pantry sales), and achieved lower returns than in previous years. The Quest program held a fundraiser at The Capitol. Students and staff are gearing up for winter activities, exams. All of the bands performed one evening last week. Fun activities are planned for tomorrow.
- **Rosemont:** PAC sponsored Christmas lunch hour recently held including pizza and goodies, games and crafts. Two Christmas concerts with the theme of Christmas today and yesterday; baking sold as a fundraiser. Tomorrow's plans including movies and skating.
- **Redfish:** Held several successful fundraisers for the new playground. A Christmas assembly was held.
- **Trafalgar:** Held annual magazine fundraiser. Raised \$3,000, which is less than in previous years. First term ended Dec. 2. Brazilian exchange students are there for three weeks. Winter activities include two ski days for each grade, and an indoor track meet for the entire school with fun activities such as bubble races. Grad 7s running "Monday Madness" afternoons. Students are bringing in donations to the food banks for Christmas hampers. Trafalgar French Advisory Committee (FAC) met Nov 8 to discuss the grade 6 French Immersion (FI) registration process and develop an entry policy for Grade 7 FI. Minutes have not yet been distributed and a second meeting not yet organized. The Grade 6 FI registration begins soon.
- **LVR:** Last week was a big week for tests. There's a big dance tonight. Preparing an art and media event against bullying, "Love is Louder". Tonight's ski film at The Capitol "Rest in Powder" features some LV students. Held some fundraisers, including teachers, to assist with community and international needs; also Amnesty International letter writing. The library Advisory Group is working to improve the library, students are involved.
- **Homelinks Creston:** Went to Ft Steele for a day. Teachers called parents to discuss their children's progress.
- **Canyon/Lister:** Recent PAC event involved 5 or 6 parents, lots of kids and the principal.
- **PCSS:** PAC meeting last night. Discussing supervision of provincial exams. Talent show and hockey game with local RCMP tomorrow.
- **BK:** Kathy Speirs is the acting principal; Laura Moll is scheduled to return mid-January. Building a village of boxes. Christmas concert yesterday was awesome. Held a Purdy's chocolate fundraiser which was not that successful. PAC held a Family Fun Night last week including dinner and Santa – not a fundraiser. \*Suggestion\* - that DPAC consider coordinating fundraisers among schools so that they do not compete and awareness is raised. One avenue is via bi-weekly DPAC Community Reminders.
- **CPF:** CPF is an autonomous non-profit parent led volunteer organization supporting French language learning opportunities for Canadian youth. We believe in a bilingual Canada; our advocacy to the provincial government resulted in French remaining an official language in BC. Our motto is "Proud of Two Languages/Nos deux langues, notre fierté". We welcome and encourage new members; to join see [http://www.cpf.ca/cpf\\_secure/eng/membership.php](http://www.cpf.ca/cpf_secure/eng/membership.php). The last CPF meeting was held Nov 22 at the new AFKO office on Ward St. AFKO membership is a great supplement to FI education.

Two Nelson parents attended the BC and Yukon Branch AGM Nov 4-6. It was an excellent conference with many inspiring sessions, all available on line at <http://www.cpf.bc.ca/site3/index.php/events/agm/post-agm>. Of particular interest: Presentation #3: Keys to French: 2000 French Words You Already Know presented by Monique MacKinnon. More of her material is found at <http://www.wayfarer-canada.org/LUMAS/KeysIndex.htm>. Copies of her booklet are available for purchase from Nelson CPF, but are free for members.

Upcoming events for CPF Nelson: 4<sup>th</sup> annual Carnaval d'hiver Friday Feb 10, 7 to 9pm – outdoor fun for all at Trafalgar. It's a true community event with involvement from all of the Nelson Family of Schools, Francophone school students and AFKO. Come for winter fun en français! There's lots of maple syrup for all. Volunteers needed...

French Summer Mountain Camp – a teen French immersion 5 day summer camp in Glacier National Park at the AO Wheeler cabin in early August. All students with French speaking ability from the area and beyond are welcome. Students will camp, hike, learn wilderness first aid and have a “magnifique” camping experience with bilingual guides.

The CPF Branch will be touring the province this winter/spring, to provide chapter support; Nelson is on the tour. We would like to organize a presentation/discussion with the CPF Branch, the Board, schools and FAC and work towards our common goal of supporting French language learning in our schools.

The next meeting CPF meeting is Jan 24 at 7 pm – venue to be advised

## 6) Correspondence

NDTA response to DPAC letter re BCTF strike

### Business arising from Correspondence

- Tom Newell, NDTA President, is unable to attend tonight and January DPAC meetings. The DPAC letter was very strong, resulting in a negative reaction from the NDTA. No response has been received from any other letter recipients, however there have been several letters in local newspapers, raising the public profile of the labour dispute. DPAC would like to set up a meeting with the Kootenay Lake Teachers Association ASAP. Bob Wright, trustee BCPSEA rep will be invited. DPAC will solicit input from PACs so it can better represent the district parent community. There is a need to work together to encourage a solution.

## 7) Discussion Items

### a) District Technology Survey: Lorri Fehr, Principal, Innovative Learning Services

The district needs to determine how to move forward with utilization of technologies. Lorri, with Tamara Malloff (Mt. Sentinel teacher) has drafted a survey for parents regarding current technology uses, safety, concerns and internet access and would like parent assistance to finalize it. Kendra, Jenny, Tyson to assist. Winlaw PAC has expressed interest and will contact Lorri. The survey is to be distributed in January.

“In Celebration of Learning” is a new district periodic publication highlighting and promoting events and innovative practices in different schools. Look for it!

### b) BCCPAC

BCCPAC regional conferences have not been well attended; are considering a director “roadshow” instead. Website is being revamped and will provide more opportunities for user interaction. AGM will be held in the lower mainland in April or May. Several DPACs have distributed letters regarding the BCTF labour dispute.

### c) Barry MacDonald presentation

Barry is no longer available to be here for planned dates in April. The conference will be re-scheduled. Stay tuned.

**d) Family of Schools' meetings**

**Slocan Valley:** On November 28, the PACS and administrators from each of the four schools in the valley met. They heard from the DPAC and the Superintendent. The intent of the meeting was to bring school community representatives together to better understand the intent and potential of the Family of Schools as a means of creating efficiencies and better supporting student learning needs. The next step will be for the broader community to come together to engage in important conversations about the needs of today's learners – and how public schools can provide effective, relevant learning opportunities for them. Thank you to DPAC for organizing this meeting.

**Nelson:** Family of Schools' meeting to be held in January. DPAC secretary to notify all.

**e) BCTF Strike Update**

*Schools:*

**Canyon/Lister:** the principal is under a great deal of stress and is frustrated by the inability to work as a team with teachers.

**Mt. Sentinel:** difficulty contacting principal because of his increased workload

**PCSS:** discussing marking of January's provincial exams, which, as per the LRB ruling is to be negotiated locally.

**Homelinks:** principal is overburdened

**All:** inconsistency between teacher-parent communications, within and between schools; legislated blank report cards were a waste of money and administrator time

**CVTA:** teachers are committed to communicating with parents; please contact individual teachers to determine best method – phone, home or work email, in person, etc.

**Superintendent:** administrators want to maintain a positive relationship with teachers. Meanwhile, teachers are teaching and children are safe.

**f) Teleconferencing DPAC meetings**

Good idea; Lorri and Doug Van Sickle as well as DPAC will investigate and report back at next meeting. Several suggestions were received from Candace Regan.

**g) Transportation**

Jen MacMillan, whose son attends kindergarten at BK, presented the transportation safety issue faced by her family who live in SD20, ~1km south of the end of the SD8 bus route along Highway 3A. She would like the bus route extended to Loff Rd. The Superintendent explained the challenges to resolving this issue, has responded to Jen in writing suggesting a few options for her to explore with Larry Brown. There was a general discussion regarding school choice legislation, transportation policies, the process to change School District boundaries and transportation funding. It was suggested that DPAC write a letter to the board requesting that the District Transportation Review Committee be reactivated and that district boundary changes be explored.

**8) Committee Reports**

**a) Treasurer**

|                 |      |          |
|-----------------|------|----------|
| Gaming account  | = \$ | 16.99    |
| Regular account | = \$ | 2,652.18 |
| <u>Total</u>    | = \$ | 2,669.17 |

- expecting \$2500 gaming grant shortly

**b) Education**

- hasn't met yet this year; no teacher representation

**c) Finance**

- December 13 meeting was first one with new district Secretary-Treasurer Kim Morris.
- Because of M of Ed and SD8 enrollment calculations highlighted in a recent audit, the current operating funding is \$607k less than was budgeted. The district has appealed the audit results, however the amended budget for the reduced amount will be finalized and presented to Board at January 10 meeting.
- The province has changed the funding formula for next year and reduced funding protection for districts with dropping enrollment (includes SD8) to 98.5%, which is ~\$700k less than this year's budget, so the district is looking for further efficiencies. However, it appears future funding will be more consistent, allowing for earlier budget preparation.

**d) Policy**

- Robin attended November 28 meeting.
- Reviewed draft Policy #208 for Employee Recognition for Service.
- A heritage policy regarding archiving resources and materials of historical significance to the district will be field tested.
- To review Policy #461 (School Choice and Catchment) and #462 (Schools and Programs of Choice); the French Advisory Committee (FAC) will be reviewing proposed wording updating both policies to clarify application process for late French immersion and for Grade 7 admission into late FI.
- Next meeting Monday January 30

**e) District Lifestyles**

- next meeting January 2012; Tiffany and Sheri to attend

**f) Facilities Planning**

- next meeting January 2012; Kendra to attend.

**g) Board of Education Meeting highlights**

- the DPAC Chair attended the Dec 13 meeting.
- The Superintendent provided a presentation regarding a request to expand Wildflower School. Three scenarios will be presented for discussion at the January 10 Board meeting.

**9) Adjournment: at 8:05****Meeting Schedule:**

January 26, 2012 6:00 pm (7:00 pm Creston)

February 23, 2012 6:00 pm (7:00 pm Creston)

March 29, 2012 6:00 pm