

**Kootenay Lake DPAC Meeting
Thursday December 18, 2008
Nelson School Board Office, video conferencing to Creston Ed. Centre**

Present:

S. Wilson – WEG DPAC rep, DPAC Chair
K. Mann – DPAC Secretary
R. Marsden – Erickson DPAC Rep
R. Zimmerman – Homelinks
T. Gorham – Canyon/Lister DPAC rep
G. George – South Nelson DPAC rep
B. Price – Brent Kennedy PAC Chair

Education Partners:

Lenora Trenaman, Trustee
Verna Mayers-Mackenzie, Trustee
Tom Newell, Kootenay Lake Teachers' Federation

Regrets:

C. Heron – LVR DPAC Rep

1. **Welcome** – called to order 9:20 am
2. **Approval of agenda** – as circulated
3. **Acceptance of November 27, 2008 minutes** – by consensus
4. **Correspondence** – see attached list
5. **Discussion Items**
 - a.) Business arising from correspondence
 - None
 - b.) BCCPAC
 - Fall mail-out to PACs include information on submitting a resolution to the Annual General Meeting and a call for nominations to the Board of Directors
 - There are three awards BCCPAC administers: 1.) George Mathews honours parents whose leadership, dedication and influence demonstration to the entire education community the importance of the parent role in education. 2.) Bev Hoskers Motivational award honours parents who are newly involved in their PAC/DPAC and have taken on a leadership role. 3.) BCCPAC Educational award is open to all Grade 12 students at a BCCPAC-member school planning to pursue post-secondary studies; it honours a well-rounded student demonstrating varied interests and an understanding of the importance of parental involvement in education
 - Governance Audit Internal Committee has organized a series of sessions throughout the province to gather input from members

- All-day Saturday with lunch provided
- Cranbrook will be the central point in our area on April 18, with video conferencing to Nelson and Creston
- Morning: an overview of the governance audit recommendations; Afternoon: input on a variety of topics

c.) School District Finance Committee

- The district is facing a \$310,000 shortfall in the budget. Some areas of reduction include:
 - Reducing Salmo Elementary School TA time
 - Dan Miles, JV Humphries principal will see a reduction in his administrative time
 - The Aboriginal Education Coordinator had their time reduced by half. Director of Student Services Ben Eaton will make up the time.
- The district realized extra revenue through a miscalculation with the international program and schools were asked to loan the district some of their surpluses to help offset this shortfall.
- Trustees asked district staff to look at a 1% reduction across the board. DPAC took a 1% cut to our funding - \$3960 instead of \$4000.
- The next Finance Committee meeting will be in the New Year.

d.) Full Day and Pre Kindergarten

- A sample survey was circulated and reviewed. S. Wilson will circulate an updated draft to Survey Committee members over the holidays.

e.) All Parents Belong! Conference

- Internet safety, BCTF's presentation for Parents and an Irlen's Presentation were all suggested topics.

f.) Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

- The Ministry of Education requires all Grades 4 and 7 students to take the test. It assesses where students are in respect to literacy and numeracy and is based on the curriculum.
- The Fraser Institute takes the FSA results and ranks schools according to how well they performed. This ranking system is unfair and incomplete and does not give an accurate reflection of a school.

6. Committee Reports

a.) Treasurer – unavailable

b.) Executive – see attached

c.) Education Committee – next meeting February 12, 2009 time to follow: *WE NEED PARENTS FOR THIS COMMITTEE*

d.) Healthy Lifestyles – next meeting Monday January 19, 2009 12:30 – 3:30 pm: *WE NEED PARENTS FOR THIS COMMITTEE*

e.) Policy – Read through the revisited policies all Pac's should have a copy of the policies that were distributed. *WE NEED PARENTS FOR THIS COMMITTEE*

District Discussion - 10:30 am Nelson/ 11:30 am Creston

- Parents expressed concern about the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) that they do not take the arts into consideration.

- Parents expressed concern around how the FSA results are used by external organizations, such as the Fraser Institute. The Fraser Institute must get the results using Freedom of Information as the Ministry of Education does not freely give the institute the results. All members of the education community agree the ranking system is wrong and should somehow be banned or stopped.
- Tom Newell shared information about the recent Charter Challenge regarding teachers communicating directly with parents on education issues affecting their child. Prior to the challenge, teachers were instructed not to use students and existing school lists to circulate inaccurate union material. It has been the opinion of the Kootenay Lake DPAC that teachers should not use students to send union materials home to parents. If teachers have a concern about a student, they should contact the parent. The information in question was not created by the teacher but by their union.

Adjourned 11:25 am

Christmas Party

- Twenty-five parents, teachers, administrators, trustees, district staff and senior staff enjoyed a light lunch, door prizes and general fun.
- S. Wilson wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.