

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 24, 2011
Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

Attendance:

Jenny Henri – DPAC Chair, Mt. Sentinel DPAC Rep
Susan Wilson – DPAC Treasurer
Robin Woodbridge – Trafalgar PAC Chair
Gerry Mackinnon – LVR DPAC rep
Tiffany Gorham – Canyon/Lister DPAC Rep, PCSS Parent
Vern Gorham – Canyon/Lister and PCSS Parent

Education Partners:

Jeff Jones - Superintendent
Peter Kozak – CUPE Rep, Shop Steward

- 1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:05 pm**
- 2. Approval of Agenda by consensus, with the addition of 7 h) Bus Route Changes in Slocan Valley**
- 3. Acceptance of December minutes – deferred to next meeting**

4. District Report

Superintendent Jeff Jones shared six bus drivers in our district were nominated for the Association of Student Transportation Services of BC (ASTSBC) Bus Driver of the Year award. Of the six, Dan Babin will go to the Association for consideration. Jeff wrote a congratulatory letter to each of the six bus drivers.

There was an enrolment audit performed in our district by the Ministry of Education. The purpose is to ensure ministry reporting policies are followed. The auditor's report will help the district identify processes that need updating.

The district will start a new budgeting process in an effort to align resources to meet the needs of students. Budgeting was based on historical spending which didn't allow for inclusion of district goals. The senior leadership team is exploring budget priorities by asking questions around evaluating current funded initiatives and the contingency fund.

The district will be organized into six Family of Schools groupings – Slocan Valley, Creston Valley, Crawford Bay, Salmo, Kaslo and Nelson area. The Family of Schools will see school staffs working closer together to meet the needs of students within their K-12 trajectory. As students transition out of elementary and into middle and secondary, staff will be preparing to receive them. The district will explore a hybrid of face-to-face learning with online learning to ensure the best possible education for students.

5. School Reports

Mt. Sentinel – second semester has begun with a rise in enrolment from out of district students. The stage band is currently on a field trip to the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival. Quest for Community students returned safely – without incident – from Mexico.

LVR – the enrolment audit was challenging and there's a fear staff may be reduced. During Spring Break 15 students will be heading to Belize City to explore Mayan ruins and visit UNESCO heritage site, Lighthouse Atoll, to explore the barrier reef. The LVR Rugby team will travel to Ireland to watch rugby matches and explore the Irish culture. There's an illusionist fund raiser tonight.

Trafalgar – The landscaping project continues to be challenging. PAC purchased 90 trees to be planted in the Spring. Some parents feel the money spent on this project may be to the detriment of other worthy student initiatives. There was an internet safety presentation by SOLOS (www.safeonlineoutreach.com) with 17 parents taking part. There will be a trip to Japan during Spring Break and the Grade 8 class will be heading to Spokane staying in the historical Davenport Hotel. French Immersion students will be going to Yoho National Park and will be toured around by a Francophone park ranger. Home and school communication continues to be challenging, and the school is starting to use the web site to promote activities and post timely notices.

Canyon/Lister – The Board approved the “Next Generation Learning Program” at Canyon/Lister which will see Grade 8 and 9 students attend school at Canyon/Lister in a multi-aged, cross discipline learning centre.. The program will start in September 2011. The Read-A-Thon is underway. The Grade 7 class will be fund raising with a “duck race”

PCSS – there is a European trip being planned for students.

There was discussion around what PACs should and should not be asked to pay for, versus what the district can and does provide. It was decided to incorporate a “PAC Spending” chart with DPAC's presentation to the Finance Committee.

6. Correspondence

a. Business arising from Correspondence: Received the BCTF “Teacher” magazine and various board meeting packages

7. Discussion Items

a. BCCPAC:

- DPAC sent in two resolutions regarding Kindergarten and Early Care and Learning. Both Resolutions can be found on our web site - <http://dpacsd8.weebly.com/>
- Susan Wilson has put her name forward to run for the position of Treasurer on the Board of BCCPAC. Candidate information will be available to PACs soon.
- DPAC will send two parents to the BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM. Please contact Kendra Mann (kendradpac@gmail.com) if you're interested in attending with DPAC Chair Jenny Henri.

b. Facilities Advisory Committees, update:

- The Creston committee has completed their work and the Board approved the recommendation to commit to establish a Wildflower program and Neighbourhood of Learning centre at the Creston Education Centre.
- The Slocan Valley committee has completed their work, but there is a desire to create a new committee to explore the Board's motion to support the development of a family of schools.

c. Trafalgar Project Support:

- Jeff Jones was instructed by the Board to seek public support for the Trafalgar Project to show the Ministry of Education it is still an important project for our school district.
- DPAC will write a letter of support to the Ministry of Education and cc our two MLAs (Michelle Mungal and Katrine Conroy).
- DPAC will also encourage all SD 8 PACs to write letters of support

d. Library update:

- Jeff continues to try to meet with local libraries in our school district. He will provide an update during his District Report when there is new news.

e. Parent Education Workshop:

- There was one response suggesting a post-secondary preparedness
- The DPAC Executive felt "PAC finances" and "effective meetings" would be good topics for PACs.
- We'll continue to solicit feedback to provide a presentation to parents

f. Community Food Action Initiative

- DPAC supported the School Garden Network Project which is being organized by Louise Poole, SD Healthy School Coordinator and parent Jennie Baron. The project will support newly developed and existing school gardens.

g. Trustee Elections:

- DPAC traditionally holds all candidates forums in areas where there is a race for Board of Education Trustee, and written articles for local media outlets promoting the upcoming municipal elections.
- Jeff and Secretary/Treasurer Monica Schulte are working on a pamphlet with the role of trustee and other information for the public.
- There was discussion around the benefit of trustees having a child in the school system

h. Change in Slocan Valley Bus Route

- Peter Kosac thanked Jeff for publicly recognizing the six bus drivers up for nomination.
- Peter shared a change in a bus route in the Slocan Valley: the stop by Kootenay Savings Credit Union in South Slocan has been changed due to complaints from a local business. The bus stop will now be the Playmor Park 'N Pool
- Ridership with the Slocan Valley busses is in a constant state of flux and the district tries to accommodate the needs of all students.

- There was discussion around students walking along the highway in an unsafe manner, especially when there's a lot of snow piled up. It was suggested YRB plow deeper into the shoulder to allow for pedestrian traffic along the highway.
- The BC Transit report is out, regarding public transportation in the West Kootenays.

8. Committee Reports

a. Treasurer Regular \$3967.00 Gaming \$41.00

b. Education – The February 15 meeting talked about setting a process for consultation around potential changes to the school calendar: 4-day week and/or balance calendar. The committee will look at school districts who have adopted alternate calendars. There was discussion around including 21st Century Learning into this consultation process to explore the educational value, not just financial.

c. Finance – The district will engage in a new budgeting process to ensure school district resources meet student needs.

d. Policy – Meeting on Monday February 28, and no policies currently out for field testing.

Adjournment at 8:00 pm

Meeting Schedule:

March 31 6:00 pm

April 28 6:00 pm

May 28 6:00 pm

June 16 5:00 pm – Parent Celebration