

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2013
Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

Attendance:

Jenny Henri, DPAC Chair, Mt. Sentinel
Kendra Mann, DPAC Vice-Chair, Rosemont; Trafalgar
Susan Wilson, DPAC Treasurer
Ester Zdebiak, Brent Kennedy

Staff and Education Partners:

Sheri Walsh, Trustee (via AdobeConnect)
Jeff Jones, Superintendent (via AdobeConnect)
Andy Leathwood, Director of Innovative Learning Services
Peter Kozak, CUPE rep local 748

- 1) **Welcome**/Call to Order at 6:05 pm
- 2) **Approval of Agenda** by consensus
- 3) **Acceptance of December minutes** by consensus
- 4) **District Reports**
 - a.) Andy Leathwood:
 - Today was first "Read by 3" training for around 90 elementary school teachers and education assistants, with training continuing tomorrow. The new Early Learning website will have information available for the public.
 - Discussed the CommunityLink funding and the criteria to help struggling children. Poverty continues to be a big issue in our school district so the district has several initiatives underway to help children and families:
 - Vulnerable youth discussions with Ministry of Children and Family Development in the areas of drug and alcohol and mental health issues
 - Expansion of the art therapy program in the Slocan Valley through WE Graham Community Services Society
 - Salmo art therapy has a support group for boys with anxiety
 - Meaningful after school activities in Creston for at risk youth that don't require travel or admission fees. This is an important initiative as it provides a place for children to go between after school and when parents get home from work. An outreach worker is on site to reach these youth.

- A question was asked about why there aren't more breakfast programs? Andy shared some schools have corporate sponsorship to provide a program while others have the help of local church groups. The district is working with the Health Promoting Schools Coordinator Louise Poole to ensure food quality and nutritional value of any school meal program.

5) School Reports

- Mt. Sentinel – Exam week starting January 28; Ski day at Red Mountain on Thursday January 31; the Intermediate Class is participating in the Destination Imagination program.
- Rosemont – movie night is coming up; the second cross country ski day was a great success
- Trafalgar – second downhill ski day went well; Nelson Youth Theater will be presenting “Zombie Apocalypse”
- Brent Kennedy – downhill ski program started for the Grades 5/6 with a winter program for the remainder of the school; there won't be a Christmas dinner this year instead there will be a luau in February for the whole school.

6) Correspondence

- None

7) Discussion Items

a) BCCPAC

- Spring Conference and AGM coming up in May.

b) Family of Schools' meetings

- Still need a meeting in the Crawford Bay/Kalso area

c) Parents' Night Out – Anxiety presentation

- Several presentations coming up: February 6 at Redfish Elementary; February 18 at Trafalgar.
- It was suggested DPAC invite Todd Kettner to do a presentation on Anxiety. His presentation to school staff was very well received.

ACTION: DPAC will ask Todd if he's available to attend the February 28 DPAC meeting for an hour-long presentation for parents.

d) International Program Review

- DPAC was offered two seats on this review panel. Ester is available to attend and will post on the Community Reminders there is room for one more parent.

e) 2013/2014 School Calendar Stakeholder meeting

- The district is holding a meeting to discuss the school calendar on Tuesday February 12. Jenny and Susan are available to attend.

f) Grad Requirements dialogue

- Andy shared his work with the provincial Grad Requirements Dialogue

committee.

- The Kootenay Region's report was released as was the White Paper of recommendations. The trends are consistent throughout the province, compensies and how to better include parents and community.
- Committee work will stop during the election.

8) Committee Reports

a) DPAC Chair

- No report

b) Treasurer

- Gaming account balance - \$60.42
- Regular account balance - \$4518.55

c) Education

- Discussed the impact of poverty on learning
- Discussed a balanced calendar (year round schooling) and the potential learning losses over a two-month summer break, especially for vulnerable children.
- Discussed school start times in regards to secondary schools.
- There will be an extensive consultation period prior to any major changes to the school calendar.

d) Finance

- Presentations to the Finance Committee will take place next week. DPAC will not be making a presentation to the Finance Committee this year.

e) Policy

- Met on January 11 and discussed draft policies for school choice and program choice. Next meeting will be February 22.

f) Healthy Lifestyles

- Next meeting will be January 31.

g) Facilities and Transportation

- Met on January 23 and discussed student transportation concerns and provided an update on the mold issues at Hume school.
- A concern came up about the transportation coordinator informing parents to send their complaints to their PAC Chair.

ACTION: DPAC will write a letter to the transportation coordinator.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

February 28, 6:00 (7:00 Creston)

March 28, 6:00 – will discuss in February if this meeting is needed

April 25, 6:00

May 23, 6:00

June 20, 5:00 – *Parent Celebration*