

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2012
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
Lori Camilleri, LVR
Ester Zbediak, BK rep

Creston:

Laura Wigen, PCSS rep
Elizabeth Tarhan, Erickson rep

Staff and Education Partners:

Nelson:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent

Creston:

Rebecca Huscroft, Trustee; Homelinks

1) Welcome/Call to Order: at 6:09 pm

2) Approval of Agenda

Add Chair Report under Committee reports. Revised agenda approved, by consensus

3) Acceptance of December 15 minutes

December 15 draft minutes approved, by consensus.

4) District Reports

Jeff Jones, Superintendent

- Thank you to DPAC for hosting Nelson Family of Schools' meeting Monday evening.
- **Budget:** Met with principals on January 24 to discuss realigning budget to ensure resources support district educational priorities instead of the reverse situation. Budget working session with trustees to be held February 13. Parents can be involved via PACs and DPAC who are invited to have input. The timetable for 2012/2013 budget process is on the SD8 website: <http://www2.sd8.bc.ca/BudgetDevelop20122013/BudgetDevelop20122013.htm>.
- **Wildflower Expansion:** The Board approved the expansion of Wildflower School by one additional class in Nelson and the establishment of one class in Creston.
- **French Immersion:** There will be a limit of 60 students in the late French Immersion program. An information meeting at which the registration process will be clearly outlined is scheduled for February 1 and has been well advertised in the local papers, as well as on the SD8 website. A letter, brochure and registration form was distributed to all grade 5 students in the district, including those at private schools (also on the SD8 website at <http://www.sd8.bc.ca/programs.htm>). Changes to the registration process have incorporated learning from last year's experience and results of consultation with PACs, students in the

program and people associated with FI programs in other districts. Key changes include a clearly defined registration opening date and time (February 15 at 0900) and appointing one person (Willow Makortoff) to handle all enquiries.

- **Provincial Exams:** Principals and district staff are supervising grade 10-12 provincial exams being written this week. Students are expected to be attending school if they are not writing exams. Tomorrow is a semester turnaround day and high school students are not in school. As per the LRB ruling, during the BCTF labour dispute, management must be available to mark the exams according to their qualifications. Based on negotiations, teachers will be directed to mark exams for which no qualified management staff is available. Because of this challenging situation, marks may be delayed. Parents are urged to contact teachers directly if necessary.
- **Foundation Skills Assessments:** FSAs will be administered by administrators to all grade 4 and 7 students between now and mid-March.

5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** Grade 10-12 students writing provincial exams. The school has been very helpful accommodating special needs of injured students. Quest program students were delayed slightly in their return from Mexico due to flight problems. Café Jazz, an annual stage band fundraiser is on Feb 15 at 7pm. Theatre production of Pride and Prejudice runs Feb 17-18 at the Capitol. Grade 12 English class has an excellent newsletter available for download from the Mt. Sentinel website. Some students received their 2nd semester marks today.
- **Rosemont:** Had a sale of Valentine's goodies and candygrams. Older classes going downhill skiing, younger ones are skating and cross-country skiing.
- **DESK:** The PACs at the Central Education Centre are being restructured. The CEC PAC will be dissolved and DESK and Wildflower PACs will be established. DPAC will work with them to facilitate the dissolution and creation of new PAC constitutions and bylaws. The Homelinks PAC is based in Creston.
- **LVR:** Final debate tournament is on Feb. 4. Art Joyce led workshops for English classes. Grad transition exit presentations have been very good. Two grade 11 students came in 1st and 2nd in their category in the Kootenay Literary Competition. The Love is Louder art and media campaign for inclusion and against bullying continues and is well supported. There was a farewell assembly for Deb Smith, a long time counselor who is retiring. Solar panels have been installed and are functional.
- **Erickson:** basketball going strong. All classrooms except two now have AverVision document cameras. PAC is contributing funds to purchase these. Bought guitars. Creative dance program happening, downhill skiing program uncertain this year. Held a successful turkey lunch fundraiser and will be holding a turkey soup lunch fundraiser. Magazine fundraiser was not so successful.
- **PCSS:** No PAC meeting in January. eNews is distributed to parents by principal. Grade 8 and 9 girls went on a retreat. Lots more happening.
- **BK:** PAC is spending money rather than fundraising this year, e.g., sponsoring the Vancouver Aquarium Aquavan, bringing in musician/artist Rick Scott. Christmas dinner and fun evening was well supported and successful. Have put plans to upgrade kitchen on hold. Winlaw PAC has initiated a meeting with other Slokan Valley PACs.
- **Homelinks:** Held first meeting with new principal. Grade 6 and 7 students playing basketball. Downhill skiing popular. ArtStarts program is bringing in a raku artist.

6) Correspondence

- Board of Education January 31 meeting agenda package received.

Business arising from Correspondence

- Follow-up from December meeting:
 1. tentative date for a meeting between DPAC, KLTA and local BCPSEA rep is Feb 8.

2. Kendra will draft a letter to the Board asking to revive the transportation review committee and to look at school district boundaries in the context of transportation issues.

7) Discussion Items

a) BC's Education Plan: How to Have Your Say

- Viewed video about BCs Education Plan and how to become involved in its development. Link to video and other elements of the plan will be posted on DPAC website, is already on the SD8 website, and will continue to be promoted through Community Reminders. No deadline is specified (*update Feb 1 – discussion wrap up incorporating comments received regarding questions 1-6 are now posted and comments about those individual questions are no longer possible; questions 7-9 have been posted and are open to comments*). Everyone is encouraged to participate, including through Twitter chats and submission of questions, ideas and comments.
- PACs could pick one of several Plan topics to discuss and then submit their thoughts to the Min. of Education and copy them to DPAC so that DPAC can better represent district parents.

b) District Budget: What do Parents Want?

- A better title for this topic is – “what are parent priorities for allocation of district human and monetary resources?”
- Example – last year’s priorities were personalization of learning and related technologies as well as early learning
- Note that 86% of district budget is allocated to staff, however staff can be deployed differently to attend to priority areas
- Also looking for ways to utilize resources more efficiently, e.g., pool website development funds and develop consistent websites for each school – would be less expensive than each school developing their own website
- SPCs should meet and review school budgets and discuss priorities with principals before February 13 budget working session
- Invitations for budget submissions will be distributed on Feb 29 with presentations scheduled for March 27

c) BCCPAC

- The spring conference and AGM will be held May 25-27 at the Executive Inn in Coquitlam
- Liz Thierres is looking for nominations for the board - there are currently six board positions open – president, 1st and 2nd vice-president, plus three directors
- May 7 is Child and Youth Mental Health Day in BC and BCCPAC is collaborating with F.O.R.C.E. Society for Kid’s Mental Health

d) Family of Schools’ meetings

Nelson: On January 23, 30+ representatives of the PACs and administrators from each of the eight schools in the Nelson area met. They listened to presentations from the Superintendent and DPAC. 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.

Salmo: Family of Schools’ meeting scheduled for February 28. DPAC secretary to notify all. *[Update Feb. 1 – meeting to be rescheduled.]*

Kaslo: to be scheduled in the spring

- Follow-up meetings will be scheduled in the fall
- Developing the Family of Schools' culture is a 5 year plan, as schools learn to work together while still maintaining independence

e) BCTF Strike Update

- **MSS:** contact with the principal has improved; concern by some families about lack of report cards and the need to follow up with teachers; confusion and lack of clarity around grad events; teachers have been very helpful transitioning a student to DESK
- **Rosemont:** difficult to organize events, discuss new ideas and proposed changes – need to approach each teacher and discuss individually
- **LVR:** A report card of sorts was distributed
- **PCSS:** atmosphere of weariness and frustration in the school
- **BK:** teachers willing to work with parents

f) Teleconferencing DPAC meetings

- **DPAC info:** several options ranging in price and convenience were presented.
- **Superintendent:** can use district teleconference account and Elluminate software which is available free from LearnNow BC
- Decided to trial both district technologies at next meeting; secretary to distribute info to parent list

g) Parent Tech Survey Update:

- 240 on-line responses submitted. Additional surveys completed on paper yet to be reviewed.
- Preliminary results and themes:
 - Parent responses from all grades, including some Homelinks and Distance
 - Apparent high interest in:
 - digital literacy for students and parents
 - using tech to communicate with parents
 - conversations about what tech is about and for
- lots of thoughtful comments yet to be reviewed
- Lorri is looking forward to parent discussions and working with DPAC
- Tech committee to meet on Monday
- Lorri to be invited to February DPAC meeting to provide update

8) Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

Gaming account	= \$ 1,902.74
<u>Regular account</u>	<u>= \$ 2,477.97</u>
Total	= \$ 4,380.71

- Received gaming grant on December 18
- DPAC will subsidize up to 10 parent registrations @ \$150 to Neufeld workshop in May; secretary to send out notice in next Community Reminders with RSVPs to Kendra

b) Education

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

c) Finance

- Susan attended January 10 meeting
- Reviewed Terms of Reference

- Next meeting February 21

d) Policy

- Next meeting Monday, January 30
- 2 policies out for field testing – Heritage and District Computer Network Internet User Agreement; both posted on SD8 and DPAC website with comment entry form; comments will be accepted until March 2

e) Healthy Lifestyles

- Met January 9, Sheri attended for DPAC
- Would like to expand committee membership to include Nelson city council, NDCC
- Lots of valuable activities with schools, workshops and programs being coordinated by Louise Poole, the Health Promoting Schools Coordinator
- Several upcoming events publicized via newsletter by Louise – circulated to schools admin with request that DPAC circulate to parents – to be done by secretary
- Produced directory of community services which is being sent to all schools in SD8
- Reported on sexual health survey completed by teachers as well as plans for Feb 17 workshop
- Discussed use of healthy schools funds in schools, presence, composition and activity of healthy school committees, concerns about foods being sold in high schools not meeting the BC Nutrition Guidelines, reduction in recreational activities in Nelson without climbing wall and movie theatre
- Next meeting, April 18

f) Facilities Planning

- next meeting February 28 2012; Kendra to attend if possible

g) Chair's Report

- would like to obtain and disseminate information about resources for student mental health issues in schools
- planning to attend next board meeting January 31, 5pm
- DPAC meeting with Winlaw PAC on Monday, February 6, 4:30

9) Adjournment: at 8:10

DPAC Meeting Schedule

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

March 29, 2012 6:00 pm

April 23, 2012 6:00pm

May 17, 2012 6:00pm (note new date: 1 week earlier to avoid conflict with BCCPAC spring meeting)

Committee Meeting Schedule

Finance: Tuesday, February 21, 1pm

Education: TBA

Policy: Monday, January 30, noon

Healthy Lifestyles: Wednesday, April 18, 4pm

Facilities Planning: Tuesday, February 28, 10am