

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 21, 2012
Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

Attendance:

Nelson Parents:

Jenny Henri, DPAC Chair, Mt. Sentinel
Sheri Walsh, DPAC Secretary, Mt. Sentinel
Robin Woodbridge, LVR
Lori Camilleri, LVR
Ester Zbediak, BK
Rob Marsland, LVR
Katia Dolan, Mt. Sentinel
Cynthia St. Thomas, S Nelson, Trafalgar
Janice teBulte, Salmo Sec
Trish Dehnel, Trafalgar, LVR, CPF

Creston Parents:

Kendra Mann, DPAC Vice-Chair, Rosemont
Laura Wigen, PCSS
Tiffany Gorham, Canyon-Lister, PCSS

Staff and Education Partners:

Nelson:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent
Peter Kozak, CUPE rep
Louise Poole, Health Promoting Schools' Coordinator

Creston:

Becky Blair, KLTA

1) Welcome/Call to Order: at 5:50pm

2) Approval of Agenda

- wording of discussion item 7f) changed to "Status of BCPSEA-BCTF Mediation" on Monday and revised agenda was given limited distribution
- revised agenda accepted by consensus

3) Acceptance of May 17 minutes

- May 17 draft minutes approved by consensus.

4) District Reports

a) Jeff Jones, Superintendent

- This is a very busy time of year, with many graduation ceremonies many of which I have been fortunate to attend; the last high school graduation in SD8 will be held at Crawford Bay and JV Humphries Schools tomorrow; SDS8 graduating students and their families are being gifted with wonderful and memorable celebrations
- SD8 would like to acknowledge Mr. John Nykiforuk, who has been selected as the Association of School Transportation Services of BC "2012 School Bus Driver of the Year". Bus drivers are

the first and last district employees whom students see everyday, and they set the tone for the day. Not only does John have an impeccable, unblemished driving record, he is also being recognized for enhancing literacy among students on his route by starting a “Books on the Bus” program, that is now being emulated on other bus routes. Read more about John’s accomplishments [here](#).

- Thank you to SD8 parents who always “step up to the plate” supporting students and schools.
- Thank you to all staff; they have worked hard during this challenging year to achieve success for SD8 students.
- There have been many administrative transfers, some have already been announced; the remainder will be announced tomorrow.
- Each month the Superintendent’s update will focus on one of the Board of Education’s Student Expectations; this month’s expectation is Imagination and Creativity. Read about initiatives supporting imagination and creativity in SD8 schools in the June 19 Superintendent’s Update [here](#).

b) Peter Kozak, CUPE

- CUPE is undergoing their annual process of configuring staff for the upcoming school year, as well as awaiting the results of the district process of staff layoffs totaling 4 FTEs which was approved in the 2012-2013 preliminary budget

c) Becky Blair, KLTA

- KLTA members are deeply concerned about the uncertainty and the layoffs, but we are working with the Board; there is a teleconference tomorrow.
- Thank you to all the parents who have been helping teachers.

5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** successful grad last weekend run by parents and administrative staff; fun day Monday was enjoyed; hoping to expand the breakfast program next year and are applying for Breakfast for Learning funding
Big changes and tremendous uncertainty among students and staff about what MSSS will look like in the new school year – 6 teachers laid off, a few more transferred to other schools, while other teachers are being transferred to MSSS. Since many out of catchment and out of district students attend MSSS, implementation of bus fees for these students may reduce enrollment, potentially leading to additional teacher reductions.
- **Rosemont:** Holding fun day and volunteer tea, grade 5 graduation very soon; lots of field trips recently; new principal – Cathy Speirs
- **LVR:** ~181 grads in this year’s ceremony; after successful fundraising, the new floor for the dance program should be paid off early next year; Galen Boulanger received 100% on his Royal Conservatory music theory exam and the highest academic mark in grade 9; the drop-in medical clinic pilot project was successful and will be continued next year; teacher Heather Robertson will be undertaking a 2 year teaching program in China; since its installation, the solar panel has saved the power equivalent of 23 trees
- **BK:** grade 6 celebration to be held next week, with cake
- **South Nelson:** lots of activities and field trips occurring; fun day coming up; everything winding down
- **PCSS:** successful grad and prom were run by parents, students and administration of PCSS and the elementary school on the same weekend; last PAC meeting of the year held at the principal’s house – discussed concerns with the state of public education, and that there is more uncertainty this year than in the past; eNews is distributed to all parents frequently
- **Canyon-Lister:** many fun educational activities such as Swimming to Survive, weekly zumba

classes relating calories burned from the dancing to the calories in a can of pop or other “junk” foods, also nutrition teaching – all with CBT funding; great breakfast that is run daily by parent volunteers; grade 7s going on lots of field trips

- **WE Graham:** would like to better connect the schools within the Slocan Valley family with respect to sharing resources to create efficiencies, including specialty teachers such as music and French; they are already moving in that direction

6) Correspondence and related business

- received and responded to letters regarding bussing concerns

7) Discussion Items

a) Louise Poole, Healthy Schools Coordinator – Parents’ Night Out, Farmbag Fundraiser

- **Parents’ Night Out:** presentation of one topic per month of interest to parents, Louise will coordinate, DPAC, PACs and schools to publicize, funding will be found; first presentation is Gary Anaka (“The Magical Teenage Brain) on Oct 17 with funding from Slocan Valley FOS PACs and DPAC; please send ideas for other presentations to Louise; there are many terrific local experts that could deliver great presentations, e.g., substance abuse
- **Farmbag Fundraiser:** currently being done in Penticton district – school or PAC sells bags of local farm produce monthly from Oct – April (primarily storage crops); Velvet Kavanaugh of Endless Harvest has worked out logistics for the Nelson area (\$25 for 15-17lb bag of local organic produce delivered to the school, \$5 for the school or PAC); would require support from kids and parents; Louise will investigate interest and sources for the Creston area; it would be piloted the first year; hopefully will involve local farmers and kids will be able to tour farms, maybe become more involved; DPAC secretary will send more detailed information to mailing list shortly to gauge interest
- **Community Links Funds:** this is a meal program supporting nutrition for vulnerable kids; the money must be spent on meals that follow food guidelines for schools; program grant is doubling to \$125,000 allowing for workshops and potentially hiring someone
- **Other programs:** SD8, 10 and 20 have applied for \$100,000 for student led healthy living initiatives; RDCK has funds for grade 3 Swim to Survive programs in 10 schools; examples of current programs using: water fountains that relate to equivalent number of water bottles, building a garden quiet space, orienteering, “wake up shake up” morning exercises

b) Transportation Changes:

- there will be a \$200 annual bus transportation fee for students attending schools out of catchment; fees are being imposed to generate \$80,000 revenue
- some routes are changing to increase efficiency and stop buses from crossing catchments
- parent information meetings outlining changes to be held in S Slocan, Nelson and Creston June 26-28 outlining the changes
- fee information letters were sent to potentially affected families this week; although out of catchment bus fees were approved at the May 8 board meeting, information was not disseminated because a motion to rescind the fees was to be presented at the June 19 board meeting, (it was defeated); information was sent out and posted on the SD8 website immediately thereafter
- 500 students currently ride buses to schools out of their catchment area
- bus routes to be posted by August 15, though parents would like to see them earlier
- some questions about impact of fees on school populations, especially schools with large populations of out of catchment students
- should look at ways to rationalize city, regional and school district transit services
- many Nelson students pay to use city transit to attend schools
- an ad hoc boundary and catchment committee has been set up to consider changes, including to district boundaries; DPAC has been asked to attend meetings as a resource,

- but has no standing
- families that live beyond bus route areas are supported with \$240/mo from the district transportation budget
- DPAC Chair will write a letter to Larry Brown regarding bus safety concerns as discussed at the May DPAC meeting

c) Gordon Neufeld Workshop Reports

- From all accounts, it was an excellent workshop and very valuable to those who attended
- DPAC paid registration for 8 parents; 6 reports submitted to date, along with handouts and notes
- secretary will consolidate and post on website
- Katia Dolan read her workshop summary

d) BCCPAC

- AGM and spring conference attended by Kendra and Jenny (and Susan as BCCPAC treasurer)
- received 15 SD8 proxies allowing KL DPAC 15 votes
- new executive includes 4 new directors and a new secretary; that information and resolution results are on the BCCPAC website (new website still in beta)
- there were several good speakers and presentations, e.g., safe schools, IEPs, along with a meeting with the Minister of Education

e) Family of Schools' meetings

Kaslo & Crawford Bay: Superintendent to determine date in the fall and DPAC will organize

- good meetings were held this year of the Creston, Nelson, Salmo and Slocan Valley FOS, and there will be another round next year
- the Superintendent greatly appreciates DPACs support of these meetings

f) Status of BCPSEA-BCTF Mediation

- LRB ruling June 15 affirming teachers' right to withdraw from participation in voluntary extra-curricular activities, but requirement to participate in meetings and activities which are part of their work duties.
- BCTF legal action underway re appointment of Dr. Charles Jago as mediator as well as re legislation about class size and composition, however they are participating in mediation in good faith
- mediation is to conclude by June 22 with the mediator's report due by June 30; currently document exchange is occurring

g) DPAC Parent Survey(s)

- DPAC parent survey postponed until the fall
- district will be surveying parents as well and will be requesting DPAC support

8) Committee Reports

a) Chair

- a DPAC rep has attended every finance committee meeting; there is a lot of financial information on the SD8 website
- Chair attended the BCCPAC conference and AGM, finance, facilities and transportation, ad hoc catchment and boundary and education committees and June 19 board meetings (many parents and teachers were at the board meeting and all were allowed to speak – it was a 4 hour meeting!)
- the Chair would like to thank parents, the Board of Education, SD8 administration, CUPE

and teachers for their hard work this year

b) Treasurer

- no report available, but funds are almost all spent

c) Education

- met June 13, reviewed the application to the learning improvement fund which targets improvement to classroom learning conditions
- classroom learning conditions are very challenging because there are so many students with different needs requiring creative methods to meet these needs

d) Finance

- no change to preliminary budget passed on May 8

e) Policy

- met, but no quorum, so no business completed

f) Healthy Lifestyles

- next meeting October 18; see information from Louise Poole, above, under Discussion Items

g) Facilities Planning

- DPAC unable to attend June 11 meeting
- Board office requires extensive renovation and is considering whether to renovate or relocate; recommendations are pending; City of Nelson has offered space in the white building should the Board decide to relocate

It was noted that today is National Aboriginal Day

9) Adjournment: at 7:35pm