

Kootenay Lake DPAC Meeting

Thursday March 26, 2009

Nelson School Board Office, video conferencing to Creston Ed. Centre

Present:

S. Wilson - WEG PAC DPAC rep, DPAC Chair

J. Henri - Mt. Sentinel PAC DPAC Rep, DPAC Treasurer

R. Marsden - Erickson PAC DPAC Rep

T. Gorham - Canyon DPAC Rep

G. Pasutti - Rosemont PAC Chair

Education Partners:

K. Hergott - Nelson Area CUPE Rep

Lenora Trenaman - Trustee

1. Welcome - called to order 6:05 pm

2. Approval of agenda - as circulated

3. Acceptance of February 26, 2009 minutes - by consensus

4. Correspondence - see attached list

5. Discussion Items

a. Business arising from Correspondence

- Community Science Celebration at Selkirk College on Saturday April 4, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Kootenay Regional Science Fair Competition will be held as well as Science World will be set up with interactive displays.

b. BCCPAC

- Eight requisition forms for the extraordinary general meeting were sent to BCCPAC. We're waiting to hear if there were 10% in favour
- Saturday April 18 is the Cranbrook member input session to be held at the Prestige Inn. DPAC will offer some travel and childcare reimbursements.
- Spring Conference and AGM coming up. Any PAC can send delegates. BCCPAC offers two travel subsidies to our DPAC.

MOTION: To support four parents to attend the 2009 BCCPAC AGM and Spring Conference to an amount not exceeding \$2500.

J. Henri/G. Pasutti - carried

- The BCCPAC Resolution Meeting on Thursday April 16 starting at 7:00 pm at the Nelson Board office, video conferencing to the Creston Education Centre. The purpose of this meeting is to review the 17 resolutions put forth to BCCPAC to be voted on at the AGM. All parents are welcome to join in the discussion.

- Advocacy Project coming back on May 5 in the evening. We'll hold the session at the Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston will also be available. More details to come.
- c. School District Parent Calendar Survey
- Several PACs indicated they've filled out the survey.
 - Results will be shared at Presidents' Meeting on April 1. This is the first time DPAC has been invited to the President's Meeting, where the presidents of each partner group meet to discuss district issues.
- d. HOMEWORK: Calendar Discussion
- Rosemont PAC indicated they are in favour of a 2-week Spring Break. The issue of daycare didn't come up during discussions.
 - Many PACs haven't met yet to discuss school calendar. The Board must approve a calendar by May 31 so there is still time for PACs to discuss this at their meetings.
 - There was a lot of negative feedback to starting before Labour Day.
- e. Transportation Review Update
- There was a Transportation Review Committee meeting on March 24. It was pointed out again that student transportation is a privilege and that school districts are not obligated to provide bussing to students. Parents who choose to send their children to schools outside of their catchment area are expected to get their children to the school.
 - The committee reviewed information compiled to date. There are talks with local public transit systems (City of Nelson, RDCK) to better utilize transit.
 - The district reminded committee members that all current bus stops have been reviewed by the RCMP, Ministry of Transportation and school district transportation staff and that any changes to bus stops would also require a site inspection by the above people.
 - The committee reviewed potential approaches to finding efficiencies and equities in the district:
 - Centralized bus stop areas for safe pick-up of students
Parent concerns: students walking on highways for long distances especially with no shoulders and snow ploughs pushing snow while children are on the highway; will there be sufficient lighting for these centralized areas; will there be enough space for students to stand and wait for the bus including those parents who may drive their children to the bus stop
 - Establishing and enforcing walk limits going to schools and school bus stops: 2.5 KM for elementary and 3 KM for secondary
Parent concerns: Children walking up to 3 KM to attend school or get on a bus is a concern especially during the winter months;
 - Supervision at bus stops and parental responsibilities

Parent concerns: It was pointed out by the district that parents are responsible for their children until they reach the school; parents are supposed to supervise their children at bus stops and/or on their way to school; it's been widely understood by parents that the school was responsible for children on their way to and from school so the district will have to do some educational sessions for parents; there remains issues with supervision of students arriving at the school over an hour before school starts; the district may implement a Supervision Time for each school to clearly define when the school will take responsibility of supervising students

- School catchment areas and elimination of out-of-catchment bussing

Parent concerns: Changing catchment areas is no guarantee that families will automatically send their children there; Bus drivers may be faced with leaving out-of-catchment students at a bus stop; what about families who must rely on school bus but whose children's best educational option is not their neighbourhood school

- The committee also discussed public consultations and requested to the consultants that there be meetings in the six communities within our district.
- The next meeting is TBA but it is expected the consultant's final report will be delivered to the board around the first of May.
- There was discussion around the construction of a pedestrian overpass from the Rosemont area over the highway onto Observatory Street. Local media gave parents the perception that when the new Trafalgar K-8 school is finished all elementary schools in the Nelson area will be closed. S. Wilson assured parents that only the closure of South Nelson has been included in the long-term plan for the Trafalgar project. Any further school closures must follow a process as set out in legislation and school board policy.

6. Committee Reports

a.) Treasurer

Regular \$4,127.48

Gaming \$1,835.08

b.) Executive Report - see attached

c.) Education committee - next meeting on Thursday April 9.

d.) Finance committee - next meeting March 31.

e.) Healthy Lifestyles - next meeting TBA

f.) Policy - next meeting April 2: PACs should pay attention to the Health Promoting Schools draft policy as it deals with PAC meal programs, fund raising and fun class activities.

District Discussion 7:30

The Salmo Coffee House saw 15 people meet at the Salmo Secondary school to view the district's video and discuss how to get more community involvement in schools.

The Creston Coffee house was attended by 25 people. To promote community involvement, it was suggested at the first parent/teacher interview perhaps schools could ask parents if they have a special skill or interest they'd like to share with students.

The Nelson Coffee house had approximately 25 people attend.

There was a question about advertising for the Coffee Houses - was there any in local newspapers and/or radios?

There's a new current events web site in Creston highlighting local meetings and events - www.crestondaily.com. S. Wilson will look into posting DPAC meetings and events.

Parents asked for an update to the Yahk bus accident, and brought up a Salmo bus accident from a few months ago. S. Wilson will ask Director of Operations Larry Brown for updates.

Items to be discussed at the next DPAC meeting: Financial support for administrative duties, and possibly sharing PAC/school newsletters

Adjourned 8:00 pm