

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 17, 2012
Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

Attendance:

Nelson:

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
Janet Cook, LVR
Charlene Sperling, S Nelson

Staff and Education Partners:

Nelson:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent
Peter Kozak, CUPE rep

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

2) Approval of Agenda

- Add June 21 Parent Celebration to Discussion Items.
- Revised agenda approved by consensus

3) Acceptance of April 19 minutes

- Minor edit: delete initial "Teleconference"
- Revised April 19 draft minutes approved by consensus.

4) District Reports

a) Jeff Jones, Superintendent

- Congratulations to Hume School students, staff and volunteers for their tremendous Jump Rope for Heart fundraising efforts, raising \$143,481.96 for The Heart and Stroke Foundation over the past 22 years! This partnership has become part of the school culture.
- Congratulations to seven SD8 voice, musical theatre and speech arts students who will be representing the Kootenay Region at the 2012 Performing Arts Provincial Festival in Nanaimo May 27-31.
- Each month the Superintendent's update will focus on one of the Board of Education's Student Expectations; this month's expectation is "Resiliency".
- Reviewed updates focusing on resiliency and social and emotional well-being from schools in each Family of Schools
- Read the complete May 8 update to the Board of Education [here](#)
- The preliminary budget was approved on May 8; information about the budget is included in the first discussion item
- Very impressive scholarship presentations at LVR today.

b) Peter Kozak, CUPE

- CUPE has just completed the current collective agreement and is now beginning to negotiate the next one
- awaiting word about how the SD8 budget will impact CUPE; reduction of 4 FTEs is anticipated

5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** have started a breakfast club with financial assistance from PAC and Lions; staff has noticed an improvement in behaviour when all kids eat breakfast, are working toward having a complete breakfast program next year, an online student breakfast survey is underway, parent and staff surveys are pending; held successful Slokan Valley Family of Schools' PAC meeting May 7 in Winlaw; MSSS PAC has completed a parent survey – results at the June PAC meeting; extra-curricular sports have ended because of the BCTF job action; drama club held a performance yesterday afternoon, an evening performance was not held because of the BCTF job action; administration has asked parents to complete tasks associated with grad that teachers usually do; Summit Academy students are tree planting in the Kaslo Community Forest, and are also receiving related training such as firefighting and First Aid, Summit is a great program for many students who do not respond well to the standard academic high school program
- **Rosemont:** held a talent show last week; grade 5s are going to Trafalgar for orientation next week; have held their last movie night of the year; hula themed fun night on June 7; fun day will be June 21; parent and student volunteer appreciation event to be held in June (organized by teachers); PAC bought laptops for school
- **LVR:** talent night at Capitol was sold out with funds going toward the grad, held a grad fashion show, parents traditionally have planned and run the grad, so no changes to grad program; dance program has a show Fri May 25 in the gym, their bedding plant fundraiser was successful; senior boys rugby team ranked 7th in province, heading to provincial championships; Mackenzie Carlstrom (gymnastics) and Taryn Scarff (music) have received bronze Duke of Edinburgh medals; Galen Boulanger received a gold Royal Conservatory of Music award for the highest mark in BC in the grade 5 voice and music theory exam; JJ Lee gave a presentation about memoir writing; Hawaiian Day coming up; Atlas students spent a night outside at Whitewater (no tents or snow caves allowed!), and many returned with positive changes and improved outlook on life – this is a fantastic program for many students who do not respond well to the standard academic high school program
- **BK:** Vancouver Aquarium AquaVan here today and tomorrow; spring fling is cancelled, but will make up for it with the fall fair
- **South Nelson:** grade 4 and 5 students participating in the FRIENDS for Life program; teachers are completing a book study of the Mindset book; South Nelson and Gordon Sargent schools are developing a combined budget and working toward having one integrated program, this will be the main topic at the May 28 School Planning Day, PACs are already integrated; Gordon Sargent holding a Celebration of Learning in early June; recent fun night was very simple and very well attended
- **Note re dry grad event funding** – the district receives dry grad funds for which schools can apply, does not involve PACs

6) Correspondence and related business

- a Trafalgar parent cc'd DPAC their letter to the Trafalgar Principal expressing concerns about a letter sent home with their grade 6 child requesting that grade 6 students stay home on May 23 when the grade 5 students visit for their orientation; no follow-up by DPAC. The Superintendent and Trafalgar Principal have discussed the orientation and the format is being reconsidered.
- other parent correspondence with DPAC has been followed up and concluded

7) Discussion Items

a) Preliminary 2012-2013 Budget

- resources are aligned with district goals and student expectations
- SD8 budget will decline by ~\$700,000 annually for the next three years as the district comes out of funding protection. After that it will receive only the funds generated by each pupil, therefore we must have an educational system that is sustainable with only this core funding
- current budget includes a 1% reserve to ensure stability
- approved many funding requests including for a district technology “evergreen” program (updating technology), new industrial and technical education equipment and DPAC
- reductions include: 4 CUPE positions, 19 teaching FTEs, closing District Resource Centres
- More information including an FAQ is on the SD8 website: [overview](#) , [details](#)

b) BCCPAC

- Kendra and Jenny attending
- 10 proxies returned to date; secretary will send out reminders to remainder tomorrow
- each DPAC executive will advise via email their vote on the 17 resolutions, and the DPAC consensus will be sent to the PACs for response to guide AGM voting by proxy
- should consider rewording and submitting previously defeated KL DPAC resolution about seat belt on school buses

c) Family of Schools’ meetings

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

d) BCTF Strike Update

- parents have expressed concerns about cancellation of extra-curricular activities
- note that these are voluntary on the part of teachers, but have become expected of teachers
- report cards received

e) DPAC Parent Survey

- ready to be finalized
- Vice-Chair will finalize and put on Survey Monkey, secretary will post on website and advise schools to provide for parents who prefer completing the survey on paper and faxing it to the district office

f) Parent Celebration

- June 21, 5pm

Motion: That DPAC spend up to \$300 for food and other supplies for the DPAC parent celebrations in Creston and Nelson

Moved: Susan

Second: Kendra

Carried

8) Committee Reports

a) Chair

- attended brainstorming meeting regarding developing a proposal for the Columbia Basin Trust Community Directed Youth Funds of up to \$25,000/yr for four years for Nelson youth
- organized by the Nelson & District Youth Centre, it was a well-attended meeting with a broad representation from Nelson area groups that work with youth

b) Treasurer

Gaming account = \$ 529.81

Regular account = \$ 2,428.05

Total = \$ 2,957.86

- almost all funds are committed
- thank you to SD8 Board of Education for approving a \$1,000 increase to the DPAC budget

c) Education

- Hasn't met this year

d) Finance

- budget information is in the first discussion item
- DPAC appreciates the current budget approach which focuses on student needs; also finalizing it now instead of in September, which should reduce the number of disruptions in the fall when students are trying to settle in to the new school year; plus appreciates the transparency and inclusiveness of the budget process
- district is now running very efficiently, having learned from several years of debt repayment, although it is unfortunate that staffing will be reduced, however, student numbers have dropped over the past few years

e) Policy

- Meeting postponed from April 30 until May 28

f) Healthy Lifestyles

- as per last month, i.e., Louise organizing events and disseminating lots of information about healthy living and sources of funds for school and community healthy living initiatives

g) Facilities Planning

- May 2 meeting and tour: DPAC unable to attend
- would like to raise issue of bus safety; students should be aware of bus riding safety and compartment rules and periodic safety and evacuation drills should occur
- DPAC to write letter to Larry Brown
- potential funders include CBT, BCAA, ICBC

It was noted that today is the International Day against Homophobia

9) Adjournment: at 8:17pm

DPAC Meeting Schedule

June 21, 2012	5:00 pm	Parent Celebration
	6:00 pm	Meeting

Committee Meeting Schedule

Board of Education:	Tuesday, May 29, 5pm Creston
Finance:	Tuesday, June 19, 1pm
Education:	TBA
Policy:	Monday, May 28, noon
Healthy Lifestyles:	Thursday, October 18, 4pm
Facilities Planning:	TBA