

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 22, 2012
Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

Attendance:

Nelson Parents:

Jenny Henri, DPAC Chair, Mt. Sentinel
Susan Wilson, DPAC Treasurer, Mt. Sentinel
Sheri Walsh, DPAC Secretary, Mt. Sentinel
Tracy Barkman, Winlaw, MSSS, WEG
Kendra Mann, DPAC Vice-Chair, Rosemont, Trafalgar via Adobe Connect

Staff and Education Partners:

Nelson:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent
Peter Kozak, CUPE rep local 748

Regrets:

Trish Dehnel, Trafalgar, LVR, CPF

1) Welcome/Call to Order: at 6:06 pm

2) Approval of Agenda

- add \$10/day Childcare Plan after school reports
- agenda accepted by consensus

3) Acceptance of October 25 minutes

- October 25 draft minutes approved by consensus.

4) District Reports

a) Jeff Jones, Superintendent

- Mt. Sentinel is hosting the senior girls' provincial volleyball tournament; Mt. Sentinel and Salmo are playing
- pleased that our staff and community are able to support students travelling in the near future: LVR rugby team going to N Ireland and Wales, LVR students going on an exchange to NWT (and NWT students coming here), Mt Sentinel drama class to NYC, Crawford Bay students going to Oaxaca in a program patterned after Quest program that was at Mt. Sentinel
- Community Links district funding this year reduced from \$30k to \$12,500; applications from Canyon-Lister for computer upgrade to accommodate additional Homelinks students and the Brent Kennedy's outdoor learning garden will be submitted shortly

5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** some struggling, especially in the intermediate class with the very large class sizes due to reduced staffing; Vancouver Theatresports visited; Remembrance Day ceremony; Volleyball news: Sr. Boys team won the Mt. Baker Invitational Tournament, hosting W Kootenay Jr. boys finals this week; hosting W Kootenay Jr. Girls finals on Saturday, Sr. Girls Provincial tournament Nov 29-Dec 1; report cards out last week – comment-only cards for the intermediate class; parent-teacher interviews this week; Interact club has fundraised and installed new water fountain that filters water and counts water bottle equivalent usage, also planning trip to Oaxaca to continue water quality work that was being done by the Quest class

at the Hijos de la Luna orphanage; weight room well used; Gr 11-12 went to see Life of Pi movie; stage band fundraising for trip to Idaho; concerns about transition from elementary schools; some issues with multi-age classes in grades 9-12; changed timetable with two shorter breaks have implications for getting help from teachers and having time to eat

- **Rosemont:** movie night good; Christmas concert with Smurfs coming up; raffle fundraiser for outside equipment; sold a full bin of apples, a second bin arrives Nov 30; just had book fair
- **Winlaw:** raffling kayak for upcoming trip to Pines Camp; breakfast program running; moved a few grade 4's into the 5/6 class but there are some challenges (note that there is upcoming Professional Development sessions for teachers with multi-grade classes and the West Kootenay Teacher Education Program has a focus on developing and helping teachers working with multi-age classes)
- **WE Graham:** Outdoor Education Leadership Program students love their program
- **BK:** Purdy's fundraiser underway
- **Blewett:** considering adding on to playground
- **LVR:** parent teacher meetings being arranged using new online software; considering emailing report cards as pdfs due to high mailing costs; report cards out this week; Vancouver Theatresports visited; Remembrance day ceremony; new student led ACTION LVR committee to promote student suggestions around improvements to LVR
- **Trafalgar:** used parent teacher meeting booking online software – lots of positive feedback; report cards going out approximately Dec 10; will start annual magazine fundraiser this week; playground was completed last month and is very well used, the final turf will be added in spring; book fair recently held at school; first dance at Hallowe'en well attended; selling pointsettias
- **French connections:**
 - French Advisory committee (FAC): met October 16, held a visioning afternoon with French Teachers; next meeting Dec 6 to review committee terms of reference.
 - Canadian Parents for French (CPF): chapter meeting Nov 22 at the francophone society (AFKO). Funding approved to host the annual carnival on Feb 1 and to host "French Connections" involving LVR leadership French Immersion students to coordinate and connect immersion students with community francophones and French speakers to do various French language workshops.
 - AFKO: Community French movies: L'Autre Dumas and Intouchables shown by AFKO and enjoyed by many community members; a bilingual circus workshop at Mary Hall was attended by 154 people – many of our local students – the Circus is considering returning for more workshops in the spring; Nelson Star monthly French page "Voila" will publish works, articles, advertisements in French language by our students, teachers and community members.

ECEBC (Tracy) - \$10/day childcare plan Integrated early care & learning in BC – DPAC letter of support – Jenny will draft letter of support

6) Correspondence and related business

- more emails and calls from parents related to bussing
- letter from Secretary-Treasurer Kim Morris in response to our letter re boundary/catchment survey – DPAC to get back to Kim and ad hoc committee chair Sheri Huser with suggested questions
- Kootenay Savings turned down our application for Parents Night Out

7) Discussion Items

a) Transportation

- some parents feel they are not being treated with respect when they contact the transportation dept.
- concern with kids arriving late for school or very close to the bell time and leave; facilities meeting discussed developing
- Larry and trustees met with Erickson PAC last night regarding some transportation issues

b) BCCPAC

- Liz Thierres stepped down as director so Susan stepping in to policy; special needs and safety to be taken on by others
- AGM May 1-3, likely in Richmond
- have been calling DPAC chairs

c) Family of Schools' meetings

- **Kaslo & Crawford Bay:** Superintendent to determine date and DPAC will organize
- will be another round of meetings

d) Surveys

- Ad-hoc Catchment/Boundary Committee survey – DPAC brainstormed questions earlier today, will submit to Secretary-Treasurer and ad hoc committee chair
- next meeting Dec 11, new trustee Walsh is a committee member
- DPAC parent survey delayed until the spring, we have a draft that we can update

e) Parents' Night Out

- 2nd event Nov 7 at LVR – Joel Kailia and Catherine Williams presented child and youth Mental Health, Anxiety and Depression to about 60 parents; DPAC received \$300 from NDCU for this of which \$200 covered the honoraria; as there were no childcare or travel subsidies for this event, maybe \$100 could be applied to the childcare and travel subsidies paid out at the Oct 17 event (\$130) the pilot project is going well at LVR, could be expanded
- Dec 4, Trafalgar parents will be learning about the Options for Sexual Health Clinic in Nelson, while in Kaslo, there is a presentation on Nov 28 "Helping Kids Use Social Media Wisely", (funded by Selkirk College and CBAL)
- DPAC has applied to Columbia Basin Trust (KSCF turned us down) to fund the series until December 2013; looking for more topics and speakers

f) Educational Leadership Conference

- it was fantastic, 1200 people will include link to conference presentations in next community reminders
- Susan gave a presentation about PAC and DPAC finances and rules around dispersal of gaming and PAC raised funds, ~40 school administrators

g) Christmas Party (December 13)

- we will spend ~\$300 and formalize it later

8) Committee Reports**a) Chair**

- attended facilities and transportation meeting
- read that a Castlegar student leadership group meets with city council regularly – sounds like a great idea

- in some areas student councils meet with their local Board of Education
- could there be a Superintendent-student leadership council?

b) Treasurer

- current accounts:
 - \$ 354.82 gaming
 - \$ 209.52 regular
- Total: \$ 564.34 total
- will receive \$4,950 from district very soon

c) Education

- met November 8 (attended by DPAC secretary); reviewed all school growth plans with respect to the goal, rationale and work plan and provided feedback; Andy will discuss with principals who will revise as required; board approved plans this week; they are posted on the SD8 website
- next meeting January 23

d) Finance

- met October 30 and November 20 (attended by treasurer and secretary); on Nov 20 reviewed financial statements as of October 31 – on target
- as operating grant will be further reduced for 2013-2014 fiscal year and some increased costs are already projected (e.g., pension increase), Nov 20 meeting included brainstorming of revenue-generating and cost savings measures which will be ranked and discussed further at December meeting; 2013/14 budget process posted on SD8 website
- next meeting Dec 11

e) Policy

- met Oct 26 (attended by secretary and treasurer); reviewed and discussed the draft regulation for District Choice Programs
- next meeting Nov 23

f) Healthy Lifestyles

- first meeting of year December 6, 4pm

g) Facilities Planning

- met October 29 and Nov 21 (attended by chair and secretary); finalized annual plan; updates about Crawford Bay demolition and Hume remediation progress; reviewed bus driver training, received a summary of school transportation info across the province; looked at new bus camera view and catchment map preview; will be looking at bell times and bus schedules and recommending guidelines for before school arrival and after school departure times
- next meeting December 13

9) Adjournment: at 8:15pm**DPAC meeting schedule:**

December 13, 5:00pm (6:00pm Creston) – **Christmas Party**
January 24, 6:00pm (7:00pm Creston)
February 28, 6:00pm (7:00pm Creston)

March 28, 6:00pm
April 25, 6:00pm
May 23, 6:00pm
June 20, 5:00pm – **Parent Celebration**

Committee meeting schedule

District Lifestyles:	Thursday, December 6, 4:00pm
Education:	Wednesday, January 23, 4:00pm
Facilities Planning:	Thursday, December 13, 11:00am MST CRESTON
Finance:	Tuesday, December 11, 1:00pm
Policy:	Friday, November 23, 12:00pm, Friday December 21, 12:00
Board of Education:	Tuesday, December 11, 5:00pm