

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 25, 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
Kendra Mann, DPAC Vice-Chair, Rosemont, Trafalgar
Sheri Walsh, DPAC Secretary, Mt. Sentinel
Ester Zdebiak, BK, Mt. Sentinel
Tracy Barkman, Winlaw, MSSS, WEG via Adobe Connect

Staff and Education Partners:

Nelson:

Jeff Jones, Superintendent

Regrets:

Trish Dehnel, Trafalgar, LVR, CPF
Cathy Scott-May, LVR

1) Welcome/Call to Order: at 6:12 pm

2) Approval of Agenda

- agenda accepted by consensus

3) Acceptance of September 27 Minutes

- correct date of Education Committee meeting from Oct 13 to Oct 15
- revised September 27 draft minutes approved by consensus.

4) District Reports

a) Jeff Jones, Superintendent

- SD8's new website is up and running; the search function is great; submit suggestions and news via newstoshare@sd8.bc.ca and it will appear under "News & Highlights"
- LVR film premiere the Change Agents, Nov 1 at the Capitol, tickets \$15
- Celebration of Learning newsletter fall edition – this month's theme is outdoor learning, a copy is distributed to each school
- important school trustee by-election for Slocan Valley/Bonnington Nov 10
- staff from all schools attending violence threat assessment training this week, a provincial initiative and every SD is participating
- highlights from leadership meeting on Tues – discussed fiduciary duty, i.e., principals must support board decisions; consistent procedures regarding hardship claims, e.g., if one makes a choice that they cannot afford, is that a hardship? Emphasized strategies to support learning identified in achievement contract, e.g., "read by [grade] 3", building the capacity of education assistants; over 2/3 of teachers involved in district systematized strategies
- principal Tim Hutteman and district principal International program Sandy Prentice are in China attending recruitment fairs, also building stronger inter-cultural capacity of our district staff
- twitter chat with superintendent held on Oct 2 – topic was "What is great in SD8?" modest participation; plan to repeat regularly, and hopefully will grow #sd8isgreat
- attended totem pole raising at ARES

- update to Hume mold and air quality issue: contract to remove affected area will be awarded tomorrow; the district responded to an inaccurate report in the online Nelson Daily, however the story remains posted
- there are some phenomenal opportunities in our district of which we should be proud

5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** Illusions magic show grad fundraiser by Connor Bojey well attended and raised over \$800; new lunch program is ramping up, breakfasts being served as well plus snacks will start soon; on Oct 17 Gary Anaka spent the day with students teaching and providing strategies to positively influence the development of their own brains, then he gave a high energy presentation to a gym full of parents (DPAC fundraised to have Gary there for the day); Tim Burton movie marathon Friday evening to support drama group heading to NY next spring; working on a cabaret as a fundraiser in November; Law 10 class went to the courthouse, English 10 class went to Salmo to collaborate with English 10 class
- **Rosemont:** open house, PAC sponsored dinner was well attended; movie night end of Sept, end of Oct; brain gym daily
- **Trafalgar:** dance next week; love the new playground; grade 6 started MindUp program; making a new aboriginal drum
- **Winlaw:** breakfast program, hot lunch programs up and running; holding Hallowe'en howler; parent welcome potluck was well attended; Sheri Walsh attended our last PAC meeting; artist program with Ron Mulvey; working on a kayak raffle to fund a possible Pines Camp event
- **BK:** kayak raffle successful, fall fair well attended, not sure yet how much \$ was made
- **Blewett:** 35th annual Hallowe'en extravaganza tomorrow night
- **2 schools** applied for Community Connections funding: **Brent Kennedy** - outdoor learning venue; **Canyon-Lister** - to increase computer accessibility to accommodate the increased Homelinks enrollment

6) Correspondence and related business

- lots of emails and calls from parents about bussing problems; written correspondence has been compiled into one document
- new Our Voice BCCPAC publication, find it [here](#); submit comments to BCCPAC

7) Discussion Items

a) Transportation

- Cathy Scott-May (LVR, French Immersion) – would like clarification around plans for out-of-catchment busing. If out-of-catchment busing is to be eliminated next year, then parents should be surveyed very soon to find out how that may impact decisions about which school children will attend, which will impact individual school enrollment. This may also contribute to a higher attrition rate in the French Immersion program.
- Bev Pommier, (PCSS) – Numerous PCSS parents erroneously received invoices for out-of-catchment busing, some of whom paid it but have not yet had their fees refunded. Furthermore because of elimination of one bus route, many children have to catch the bus very early, and arrive 45 minutes early for school, then have an hour long ride home which makes for a very long day. Also concerned with potential safety issues with such a long route during winter conditions. Finally, concerned about lack of person to contact about bus location and timing, e.g., last week during a wind storm, the bus was very late, no one was available to contact, and finally an email was sent stating that the bus would be late, but the email arrived after the bus.
- Blewett parents have grown tired of complaining and feel that no one is listening to their concerns about the lengthy afternoon bus ride for elementary students.
- Winlaw: the morning bus with the most students was arriving late so they delayed bell time by 10 minutes, but could not delay the dismissal bell because of pm bus schedule

- Jenny Henri: the transportation challenges this year have been completely unacceptable, there has also been poor communication with parents, hope that future changes will be made with improved communication; we should be discussing this now, not in the spring
- Jeff Jones – I am hearing many concerns which are part of every meeting and it is unacceptable to have kids waiting 45 minutes after school for the bus or be on the bus over 45 minutes. What would be helpful now is to find out from parents what they expect from the transportation system. The reality is that we need to make a decision about what we are prepared to do without in order to increase transportation, since every bus route costs ~\$58,000 and we are losing another \$750,000 in funding next year.
- Maybe we should include parent expectations in the catchment and boundary survey to be developed by the ad hoc catchment and boundary committee with DPAC.

b) BCCPAC

- held 3rd regional conference in PG on the weekend and it was fantastic! 65 participants; next one planned for somewhere in the Kootenays
- Our Voice – please read and send comments; see link above under Correspondence

c) Family of Schools' meetings

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

d) Surveys

- DPAC parent survey – hold off because of other surveys
- Ad-hoc Catchment/Boundary Committee survey – DPAC sent a letter to Kim Morris on October 1 expressing concerns about DPAC capacity to develop and administer this survey

e) ERASE Bullying Strategy; other anti-bullying strategies

- Susan attended 2 of 3 days of training, Theresa Campbell, facilitated; violence threat risk assessment training– principals brought real life examples – e.g., what happens when kids threaten others; Heather Dennill working on the Fair Notice brochure right now for parents; automatic protocol will be established, is a 5 year strategy, parents can help – Susan took notes – will send out synopsis
- parent involvement with bullying is critical – how do we distill info to make it useful to parents – bring to PACs, e.g., video game ratings
- mental health services very difficult to access in this community, even in a crisis situation
- can we have a parent rep at schools to support other parents?
- do we have other anti-bullying strategies in the district, increasing resiliency – there is a code of conduct at every school that addresses negative behaviour, but inconsistent language & processes, working on increasing consistency, lots of policy in place with focus on bullying but would rather see instead a focus on how we should treat each other as human beings in our school communities; code of conduct should apply to everyone at the school
- BK did have BKsquared, ways to be kind and be keen were discussed and posted
- give recognition to students doing good deeds
- scavenger hunt around code of conduct has been done at some schools

f) Parents' Night Out

- 1st event held Oct 17 at Mt Sentinel – Gary Anaka presented “The Magical Teenage Brain” to a packed gym, financial support from RDCK Area H, Prestige, Kootenay Savings and Heritage Credit Unions plus DPAC for travel and childcare subsidies
- 2nd event Nov 7 at LVR – Joel Kailia and Catherine Williams presenting Mental Health, Anxiety and Depression; Louise to look for funds to cover honoraria
- DPAC has applied to both CBT Social Grants and Kootenay Savings Community

Foundation to fund the series until December 2013; looking for more topics and speakers (some suggestions include nutrition, sleep, exercise, internet safety, dental health, sexual health)

8) Committee Reports

a) Chair

- is in the process of moving, and has not attended many meetings

b) Treasurer

- received and spent gaming grant on BCCPAC memberships for PACs
- as of Oct 17:
 - \$599.81 gaming
 - \$9.78 regular

c) Education

- met October 15, looked at applications to the Learning Improvement Fund from schools, some were allocated; report will go to board on Tuesday, to be submitted to Ministry of Education at end of month

d) Finance

- met September 18, next meeting Oct 30

e) Policy

- meets October 26, tomorrow

f) Healthy Lifestyles

- October 18 meeting postponed until November TBD

g) Facilities Planning

- next meeting October 29

AGM next month Nov 22

9) Adjournment: at 8:00 pm

DPAC meeting schedule:

November 22, 6:00pm (7:00pm Creston) – **AGM**
 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:	TBD
Education:	Thursday, November 8, 4:00pm
Facilities Planning:	Monday October 29, 2:00pm
Finance:	Tuesday, October 30, 1:00pm
Policy:	Friday, October 26, 2:00pm
Board of Education:	Tuesday, October 30, 5:00pm