

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2012
Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

Attendance:

Nelson Parents:

Jenny Henri, DPAC Chair, Mt. Sentinel
Kendra Mann, DPAC Vice-Chair, Rosemont, Trafalgar
Susan Wilson, DPAC Treasurer, Mt. Sentinel
Sheri Walsh, DPAC Secretary, Mt. Sentinel
Ester Zbediak, BK, Mt. Sentinel
Trish Dehnel, Trafalgar, LVR, CPF
David McCulloch, Blewett Co-chair
Greg Bezaire, Blewett Co-Chair
Allison Ferraro, LVR
Lisa Rezansoff, LVR

Creston Parents:

Corey Bart, Erickson (*unsure of spelling*)

Staff and Education Partners:

Nelson:

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

Creston:

Margaret Ross, teacher grade 3 Erickson

Regrets:

Lenora Trenaman, Trustee

1) Welcome/Call to Order: at 6:05 pm

2) Approval of Agenda

- moved transportation forward in agenda to accommodate parents in attendance
- revised agenda accepted by consensus

3) Acceptance of June 21 minutes

- June 21 draft minutes approved by consensus.

4) District Reports

a) Jeff Jones, Superintendent

- appreciation and gratitude for being parents and for supporting public education
- enrollment is in line with projections, with only a small decline; however accurate enrollment figures will be available after Sept 28 "snapshot day"; district now being funded according to enrollment
- unanticipated growth in the Creston area because the Bountiful community independent Elementary-Secondary did not open this year, leading to an unexpected influx of those students who come from a different cultural and spiritual background; many registering as

home school students, some at Canyon Lister and PCSS, some as independent learners; met with 78 families last week for Homelinks; district is working with Min of Education; welcoming over 100 students registering in one area of district is creating some challenges, which are not insurmountable

- staffing – teacher recall list – vast majority of teachers have been recalled, less than 3 FTE on teacher layoff list, and postings are out; 3 people chose to take severance; others went on leaves or retired
- CUPE staff go through layoffs and recalls every year, as per their collective agreement
- new SD8 website going live really, really soon (in the next week)
- Virtual Learning Commons site unveiled in late August – a place for professional resource sharing and will interface with the professional learning portal site
- 9 learning strategies were identified in spring; district is increasing capacity to attend to identified student needs, e.g., had a session on helping students “read by 3”, (read by end of grade 3); kindergarten teachers identifying how students are changing over time; our new learners are different; getting good feedback from teachers
- newstoshare@sd8.bc.ca – send in news of breakthroughs, opportunities, will appear on new website – celebrate what’s right with our district

5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** at the end of the first week, enrollment was down by about 40, will get an update on Monday; new timetable has 3 blocks with 2 breaks, instead of 2 with one break; are many blended classes, sports day successful, new lunch coordinator, breakfast program starting, Terry Fox run today; illusionist coming Oct 13 7:30 Connor Bojey (local teen) grad fundraiser; applied for Breakfast for Learning grant
- **Rosemont:** movie night tomorrow night
- **Trafalgar:** ab ed - drumming circle, tipi up; dance coming up, ice cream social next week; new principal; Terry Fox run; doing MindUp workshop; new playground
- **LVR:** new vice-principal, 774 students, 212 grads, Terry Fox run, BBQ for grade 9s and international students 440 hot dogs eaten; young creative writers workshop in October, a few exchange students – Japan, Bordeaux, Iqaluit, co-running an interact club with Rotary – 1st activity this weekend, Slokan River cleanup
- **Canadian Parents for French:** CBT/CBAL had literacy celebration yesterday – nominated volunteer French teacher, along with two SD8 staff – Cathy Speirs and Cheryl from Wildflower; Oct 3 CPF AGM at Trafalgar; two LVR students are award winners; Carnival Feb 1, when is next FAC meeting? AFKO working to bring French theatresports next year; Nelson Star has a French page one day/mo
- **BK:** fall fair Oct 13 9am-2pm, also silent auction (40 items), door prize kayak, paddle and pfd; new principal, turkey dinner in December 14 (Frog Peak catering), building an outdoor classroom but need to fundraise
- **Blewett:** meeting with Bruce McLean and Bill Stockdale regarding final components for new playground; received grant from regional districts and businesses; new principal; Hallowe’en haunted maze is Fri Oct 26; selling coupon books; Terry Fox run tomorrow; PAC is larger

6) Correspondence and related business

- lots of emails and calls from parents about bussing problems; written correspondence has been compiled into one document
- Teacher periodical

7) Discussion Items

a) Louise Poole, Healthy Schools Coordinator

- Healthy Schools' Coordinator position is half-time, funded through Interior Health and has been extended for another 3 years
- **Parents' Night Out:** series begins with Gary Anaka at Mt. Sentinel on Oct 17 completely funded by donors (RDCK Area H, Prestige Lakeside Resort, Kootenay Savings and Heritage Credit Unions), DPAC will cover childcare and travel subsidies; 2nd event is a presentation about youth mental health by Dr. Joel Kailia and Catherine Williams at LVR sometime in November – some funds required; DPAC will be applying to both the 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)
- **Farmbag Fundraiser:** local produce fundraiser set up with Endless Harvest, can be organized by school or PAC; need to determine logistics around ordering and payment (paper and/or online), delivery and bagging of produce; need to consider safety checks and balances around food; could start anytime; please bring up at PAC meetings and contact Louise for information
- **Other programs:**
 - FRIENDS for Life workshop Oct.5
 - Swim to Survive program for grade 3 students is completely funded, several schools are eligible to apply
 - Interior Health held webinar about changing role of nurses in schools; nurses will have 1 hour/week/school to complete healthy schools assessment and initiatives
 - applying for CBT Social Grant for Student Led Health Initiatives such as building resiliency and connectedness
 - through Healthy Schools and DASH BC student groups can apply for grants of \$500 as well as \$1,000 for trials
 - Andy Leathwood has more funds for food for kids in need through Community Connections; food must meet BC School Nutrition Guidelines
 - REACH students at LVR are making lunches for Rosemont and Hume students
- David McCulloch (Blewett) some corporations such as Sun Rype and Saputo have food assistance programs for schools – contact David for more information

b) Transportation

- David McCulloch (Blewett) – has received 13-15 emails from parents about long bus ride home and out of catchment fees; attended Board of Education meeting September 18; why is there no DPAC rep on the ad hoc committee? When will the survey be distributed? Larry Brown at last PAC meeting, 12-14 parents attended of whom two now have moved their children to BK because of fees, while four more families are considering moving their children; Larry said that he would try to reduce 1h 20 min bus route home to 1 h for in-catchment students, but he stated that he has received no direction from board to address travel time and routing for out of catchment kids
- Jeff Jones – there are SD20 students that come in to SD8 to Mt Sentinel and SD8 students west of Salmo that go to SD20 schools
- Jenny Henri – only recommendation of 2009 transportation review not yet implemented is the elimination of out of catchment bussing; the word “district” is not used, but is assumed
- Susan Wilson (Mt. Sentinel) – many concerns received by PAC and principal (long rides, changing drivers, out of catchment fees), Larry says they are working on it; PAC has written two letters summarizing concerns; Larry and Kim joining PAC meeting on Monday
- Sheri Walsh – according to BK secretary, one bus arrives late at BK every day
- David McCulloch - Larry said cannot improve frequent driver changes because of having to work within the CUPE collective agreement (to date 8 different drivers on route 26, 7 on

- Blewett route) – raises safety concerns
- Corey Bart (Erickson) – child has to go to high school to transfer to another bus, but elementary student not allowed to get on to bus because no room, and had to wait 18 minutes for bus to come back to pick him up, raising safety concerns
- ad hoc supervision of elementary school students by adjacent after school childcare; this is a safety and liability concern, regardless of cost
- Larry said changes will be brought in on October 9, will talk to affected parents next
- Allison Ferraro and Lisa Rezanoff (LVR) (Allison is also a teacher at Redfish) – our children take the special needs bus, have written and talked to many people, and been bounced around, LVR principal suggested they attend DPAC meeting; main concern is safety – many special needs children are non-verbal, transitions are extremely difficult for these children; they need stable and consistent routines and people in their lives; have had five different drivers to date and even a different driver in morning than in the afternoon one day; many of these children have serious medical needs, physical and intellectual disabilities; what are the 1st aid and safety requirements, plans and training for drivers? has each driver been trained to work with special needs children? each new driver does not know the children on the bus; the driver is the first face seen in morning, is an extension to the classroom; have had only 1 week of consistency in drivers while we keep being told that the district is training another driver; children are asking for Ray, the driver they had in past years – he was wonderful; when will we have one consistent, well trained driver?
- Trish Dehnel (LVR) - students arriving late and bus leaves very early after school
- Peter Kozak (CUPE) – budget restrictions have led to development of blended administrative/driver positions, and not all were in place before the start of the new year, also layoffs allow for more senior people bumping those with lower seniority; many positions still not settled; management is directing workforce to perform different duties
- Jenny Henri (DPAC) – were all runs practised?
- Peter Kozak (CUPE) – not sure that all runs were tested by assigned drivers; kinks were taken out of North Shore Harrop runs, now working on others
- Margaret Ross (teacher, Erickson) – all buses go through ARES, which is overcrowded and confusing
- Jeff Jones – thank you for observations, we will endeavor to address concerns

c) BCCPAC

- new website up
- new office administrator
- northern regional conference in Prince George Oct. 20

d) Family of Schools' meetings

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

e) Surveys

- DPAC parent survey - tabled
- Ad-hoc Catchment/Boundary Committee survey – DPAC is writing letter to Kim Morris with concerns about DPAC capacity to develop and administer this survey

8) Committee Reports

a) Chair

- attended Board of Education meeting Sept 18, many parents in attendance, out of catchment fees not discussed
- also attended Education and Finance Committee meetings
- Kendra attended SD8 opening celebration in August with launch of the new Learning

Commons website; also met new staff

- everyone can use the Learning Commons site where there are oodles of educational resources <http://commons.sd8.bc.ca/>
- would like to find resources from the Mental Health Conference that was held in Vancouver in August
- AGM October 25 – encourage parents to participate; need people to run for the executive

b) Treasurer

- funds depleted, however gaming grant of \$2,500 and district funding of \$4,950 will be received shortly
- preparing 2011-2012 financial statements

c) Education

- discussed utilization of Learning Improvement Fund allotment – elementary school funds have been distributed; secondary next
- parent education now included within the mandate of the Education Committee
- developing work plan

d) Finance

- met September 18
- education partners invited to give financial reports in January
- discuss Out of Catchment fees; non-payment will not result in students being denied access to bus or school, but hardship claims come out of school budget
- audit was positive, appropriated surplus, \$1.3 million in school trust account and \$93,000 in supplies account with associated budget and utilization plan

e) Policy

- met September 26
- to improve clarity and process, Policy 462 around school choice to be broken down into 3 policies addressing each of catchment area, program choice and school choice

f) Healthy Lifestyles

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

g) Facilities Planning

- met September 26, attended by Kendra and Sheri
- discussed capital plan, preparation of facilities report, demolition of old Crawford Bay school, repairs to Hume School to remove mold affected flooring and future plans for the affected room as well as space utilization in other schools; also discussed different methods of determining school utilization rate; also discussed annual plan goals and strategies
- briefly discussed transportation issues including out of catchment and cross-boundary bussing, safety procedures (will be student bus safety training in the near future) and were assured that changes were being made to improve schedules and safety and that ad hoc committee will work on the boundaries and catchments
- use of video cameras in buses was questioned

9) Adjournment: at 8:30 pm

DPAC meeting schedule:

October 25, 6:00pm – AGM, followed by regular meeting
November 22, 6:00pm (7:00pm Creston)
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, October 18, 4:00pm
Education:	Monday, October 15, 12:30pm
Facilities Planning:	Monday October 29, 2:00pm
Finance:	Tuesday, October 30, 2:00pm
Policy:	Friday, October 26, 2:00pm
Board of Education:	Tuesday, October 9, 5:00pm