

**Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday September 22, 2011  
Nelson Board office, video conferencing to Creston Education Centre**

**Attendance:**

Jenny Henri – DPAC Chair, Mt. Sentinel DPAC Rep  
Susan Wilson – DPAC Treasurer  
Robin Woodbridge – Trafalgar PAC Chair  
Kendra Mann – DPAC Secretary, Rosemont DPAC Rep  
Ester Zdebiak – Brent Kennedy, Mount Sentinel

**Education Partners:**

Jeff Jones – Superintendent  
Peter Kozak – CUPE  
Tom Newell – NDTA  
Becky Blair – CVTA

- 1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:03 pm**
- 2. Approval of Agenda by consensus.**
- 3. Approval of Minutes as amended by consensus.**
- 4. District Report: Teacher Job Action**

Becky Blair – Job Action

Teachers are in Phase 1 of job action, concentrating on giving services to children but not doing administrative work. Teachers are in classrooms and are hoping that bargaining will go faster with this approach.

Tom Newell – Job Action

Want parents to understand the BCTF objective is class size and composition and salary improvements. Want to regain the language that was stripped from the agreement in 2001. Want to class size limits lower than the current Bill 33. In 1998 teachers gave up salary increases for class size and composition language in the contract. During Phase 1 teachers are committed to teach kids and want to teach kids. Teachers have withdrawn from supervision duties but in any emergency situations teachers will respond. Being on strike is about putting pressure on the employer in hopes of a quicker settlement. All special needs paperwork and meetings for IEP's are still happening. Field trips will still happen but they have to have a duty free lunch time. Quest at Mt. Sentinel is still continuing they are still doing what they need to and have acquired a written agreement. Parents can expect information for from the union in sealed envelopes labeled "from the union" sent home with children.

Jeff Jones – Job Action

School is not business as usual. School district and local teacher's union are committed to learning and safety. Day in the life of a principal has changed. They now have to speak

personally with staff rather than sending emails as the union has instructed teachers not to open emails from administration. Principals may be more difficult to connect with as they are much busier. Report cards won't be coming home, but Grade 12 students will have access to their marks for scholarship and post secondary applications. The SD8 website has a link with more perspectives of job action.

#### Peter – CUPE

CUPE is at an arms length of the whole process. They have been advised what is allowed to be done in a day and what is not. CUPE workers are not to perform duties that teachers normally do.

#### Questions from parents:

*Are teachers reading emails from parents?*

- Yes they can read emails from parents this is not a part of job action.

*Where can students turn to, if teachers are not providing extra help?*

- Teachers are still required to help struggling students. This is not part of Phase 1 job action.

*Do you envision phase 1 to continue till April when bill 27 &28 are changed?*

- Oct. 11 BCTF goes back to the judge for clarification on Bill 27 and 28. Teachers will not sign a contract when it comes to current learning conditions. Bill 33 might have to be replaced in order to move forward. Split of issues is being discussed : what can be argued provincially and what be argued locally.

*Will the teachers be prepared to sign a contract with class size and composition over salary?*

- Teachers are very cautious about doing so, If it ever came to a vote it's hard to say if the membership would agree to that.

*What is Phase 2? When may it come into effect?*

- Phase 3 is full walkout phase 2 might be a rotating walkout.

*As a parent who do I pressure for a resolution?*

- The local MP – Michelle Mungal, and George Abbott.

*Is there an increased role for parents in regards to supervision?*

- Schools have been working diligently with safety as a primary concern. Teachers are participating in supervision when no other person is available. Recess has not been removed in our district because our district feels that recess is important for children. Jeff feels that adjusting a scheduled day for kids is premature at this point.

#### **Jeff Jones – District Discussion**

- SD8KootenayLk – SD8 Twitter feed. Jeff is tweeting out updates. Jeff also has a blog that goes out to twitter followers. The website has information that's current – Trustee election, teacher strike.
- \$50,000 grant for playground at Trafalgar has been announced. The district is still working out the details.
- Community engagement and engaging our communities letting community know who we are. Putting public back in public education.

## 5. School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel** – Pretty hectic but things are going smoothly, they had sports day, went off fairly smooth.
- **Rosemont** – Sept. 30. movie night, October 6<sup>th</sup> open house, full grade math and PAC has a full executive.
- **Trafalgar** – 446 kids, grade 6 is highest class sizes – no classes above 30. During summer parents got trees watered. The landscaping project still has \$15,000 remaining. First PAC meeting 13 parents showed up. No one stepped forward for executive. Daniel Vecchio is coming into area in October safety for young girls and violence against women. Had a great meeting with Jeff and the Canadian Parents for French (CPF)
- **Brent Kennedy**– ground squirrels under the stairs have been annihilated. Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> is the fall fair.

## 6. Correspondence

- None

## 7. Discussion Items

- a. BCCPAC – provincial government announced no funding for BCCPAC who wasn't surprised and there are reserves. Regional conference this fall – our region is Kelowna on Saturday October 15. Rod Allen – personalized learning, superintendent of learning. Local presenters. Terrace is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, trying in lower mainland for November. Getting redesigned website started process offered contract this week. Launch will be 1<sup>st</sup> week of December.

**Motion:** Spend up to \$1500.00 for representatives to attend the Regional Conference in Kelowna. Made by Susan Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kendra Mann – APPROVED

- b. DPAC Meeting schedule 2011/12 – approved as circulated by consensus
- c. DPAC AGM – October 27, 2011 nominations open for all positions. Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Plus policy, finance, Healthy lifestyles, Facilities planning. DPAC will work with Jeff for a press release promoting Parents as Partners.
- d. Barry MacDonald – Boy Smarts presentation featuring different strategies for parenting boys. Jeff will look into district support for this.
- e. Family of schools meeting – Structure, setup, everyone doing it differently, support of DPAC to bring PACs together. Meeting with combined pacts in family of schools. What does K-12 trajectory? Helping PACs engage to broaden communications. “PACs should be more focused on learning instead of fund raising” Jeff Jones. Engage the community - DPAC to facilitate bringing people together. October 17 – Creston Family of Schools meeting.

## 8. Committee Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report
  - Gaming: \$209.57
  - Regular : \$761.42

- b. Education meeting – hasn't met yet this year
- c. Finance – Reviewed audited financial statements. Province has given 3 years to pay back the enrolment audit clawback. Provincially, 19% of enrolment audit clawback came from Aboriginal Education.
- d. Policy meeting – Meeting on Monday afternoon SPC policy out for field testing.
- e. Healthy Lifestyles – missed last meeting.
- f. Facilities planning – postponed until 2012.

**Adjourned 7:40 pm**

**Meeting Schedule:**

October 27, AGM