

**Kootenay Lake DPAC  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2013  
Nelson Board office**

**Attendance:**

Jenny Henri – Mt. Sentinel, DPAC Chair  
Kendra Mann – Rosemont, Trafalgar – DPAC Vice Chair  
Susan Wilson – Mt. Sentinel, DPAC Treasurer  
Nicole Rhynold – JVH  
Ester Zdebiak – BK, Mt. Sentinel

**Education Partners:**

Jeff Jones, Superintendent of Schools  
Peter Kozak, CUPE Local 748 Rep  
Michelle Bennett, CUPE Local 748 President  
Bill Maslechko, Trustee  
Lenora Trenaman Trustee  
Sheri Walsh – Trustee

- 1. Meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm**
- 2. Approval of Agenda** by consensus
- 3. Acceptance of June minutes** – tabled until October meeting
- 4. District Report**

**Jeff Jones, Superintendent**

A very successful trip to China happened during the summer which saw three teachers and seven students experience learning in China. This compliments our international program by allowing for inter-culturalization of our staff and students. We not just receive international students, but we also support opportunities for our school community to experience what it's like to be an international student in a land where experiences such as unfamiliar language, food and surroundings. Students who participated in this program are preparing a presentation to the Board at a future public board meeting.

The 2013-14 school year is off to a great start. No concerns have been expressed about student transportation and many new students were welcomed at the elementary level. Some shifts in demographics caused some class reconfigurations. Monday Sept 30 is considered a final head count for funding purposes.

Jeff Jones visited JV Humphries School recently. The school welcomed many new students in elementary. Many due to the change in funding for distributed learning programs such as Homelinks. The school is undergoing some construction and workers schedule their time from 3:00 pm to 1:00 am to accommodate students and staff.

The Senior management team is working remotely a few times a week at various school in our district to meet with the school community.

Jeff Jones attended the premier of "North and South: The Documentary" which was a joint project between students at LVR and Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson, Northwest

Territories. For more information please visit:  
<http://www.nelsonstar.com/community/222599311.html?mobile=true>

Many field trips being planned for the Spring, both international and Canada wide. Many thanks to school staff to make these opportunities available for students.

The opening address from the superintendent at the August 22 presentation can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1fnYXLOxp4>. It speaks about the global context of student learning, from careers, focuses and the United Nations' Global Sustainability Goals. There is a dialogue on adapting to the changing needs of our students and helping staff with this.

### **Michelle Bennett, CUPE Local 748 President**

CUPE contract negotiations have concluded at the provincial level, but not locally. CUPE local presidents met recently and will recommend their members accept the provincially negotiated contract, however local issues remain in bargaining. Provincial negotiations include wages, benefits, term of contract. Local negotiations include seniority and work schedules. If talks break down locally, there could be strike action but it is not expected at this time. Negotiations have been progressing well within our school district.

Provincially, CUPE workers will see a 3.5% increase over two years. The rise in costs will come out of the existing school district budgets. If accepted, the contract will include the past several months where July 1, 2014 negotiations start again.

A Special Financial Committee meeting will be held on October 8 to determine where the budget can be amended to include the increase in wages and benefits. The Ministry's mandate is for districts to not cut core services to make up this shortfall.

## **5. School Reports**

Mt. Sentinel: sports day went well. Grad is starting to get planned. Good start to the new year. Breakfast for Learning and meal program is aiming to offer food five days a week.

Rosemont: Fun Friends program (giving thanks, learning about anxiety) will take place just before thanksgiving. Full Executive was voted in at the last PAC meeting.

Trafalgar: Ice Cream social is coming up. The next dance is soon, and students were told not to wear costumes.

JVH: 38 new students arrived at the school (mostly from Homelinks). A new teacher is being assigned.

There was a change in funding for students enrolled in distributed learning such as Homelinks. Families receive some financial support to provide extra-curricular activities and some independent schools are offering more than public schools. The ministry is looking at capping the amounts which has caused some movement from Homelinks to "bricks and mortar" schools.

## **6. Correspondence**

a.) Nil

## 7. Discussion Items

### a.) BCCPAC

- Memberships due now – thanks to those who have submitted their form to DPAC. There is an online option this year so DPAC will sign up PACs and pay the \$75 on their behalf.
- Fall Leadership Conference in Kelowna – there will also be a DPAC Chair meeting at the same time, so DPAC will be eligible for three travel subsidies to attend. We will announce we're looking for parents to attend the conference.
- ThoughtStream Questions – the group brainstormed some thoughts to share:
  - What are the main issues affecting parents at your school right now?
    - Access to core curricular programs at smaller rural schools
    - School fees – rising costs including academies: feels like parents are being nickel and dimed to death
    - Out of Catchments Busing fees – student transportation costs
    - Expectations of K students to sit still
    - Gender Gap
  - How can BCCPAC best support parents in your school?
    - Parent education – conferences, resources, YouTube videos (5-8 minute) of PAC training
    - More information about gaming grant criteria
    - Advocacy support
    - Understanding provincial politics - an easy way to summarize the issues: maybe there's a role for BCCPAC to summarize these items.
  - What resources or services does your PAC or DPAC wish they had access to?
    - Bring back the Advocacy Program
    - Leadership training – parent engagement
  - Is there anything else you would like to share with BCCPAC?

### b.) PAC Orientation

- Topics
  - PAC Boot Camp – Basic Training: PAC 101, Treasurer 101
  - Chair, Secretary and Treasurer How-To
  - Invite the district staff to share what their roles are in the district – Finance Dept. HR, etc.
  - SPC perhaps another training night.
- Dinner
  - Light supper 5:00 – 5:30 pm: luncheon meat, rolls, dessert
  - 5:30 – 7:00 pm PAC Orientation, 7:00 – 8:00 pm DPAC meeting

- ### c.) Bus Passes for students – information was sent out in June along with a registration form to be returned to the operations department. A sample bus pass was circulated during the meeting. It is credit-card sized plastic card with the school district logo on the front and the student's bus information on the back. There will be no pictures of students and the name will have the first letter of their first name and full last name.

Bus passes will give a more accurate ridership number. Some questions that came up in discussion include how often will the passes be issued? It's expected passes will be re-issued each year. It was suggested to colour code the passes for bus routes and/or grads/ages of students. Ideally the passes would be available at the first day of school and would be similar to a student card.

Outstanding 2012-13 out of catchment bus fees must be settled before issuing a current bus pass. Eligible riders will be verified but kids won't be left on the side of the road. It was suggested bus drivers keep paper schedules of their routes for those families who don't have access to the internet to download bus routes.

Bus Safety Week is October 15-18. Our Transportation Department is working on a few activities.

- d.) Family of Schools PAC meetings – JVH and Crawford Bay still need to have a Family of Schools meeting with DPAC and the Superintendent. It was suggested to meet at the Dock and Duck, Balfour Beach Inn or Redfish School to use their strong start room.

It was suggested two meetings be held, one in Crawford Bay and one in Kaslo. We discussed holding a family of schools meeting when the board is in location outside of Nelson.

DPAC will work out potential dates with the superintendent.

## **8. Committee reports**

- a.) Chair – DPAC executive met with Transportation Coordinator Michelle Lohrey. Looking forward to the parents night out series continuing this year.
- b.) Treasurer – 1015.84 regular, 2542.42 gaming
- c.) Education committee – first meeting was held today. Reviewed terms of reference and created a work plan for the year. DPAC is offered two seats and are looking for new parents. Next meeting is October 4 from 10:00 to noon to review the LIF applications.
- d.) Finance – the preliminary budget saw appropriated surpluses carried forward with approximately a \$300K surplus to be allocated.
- e.) Policy – next meeting will be October 4 from 12:30 to 3:00 pm
- f.) Healthy Lifestyles – next meeting will be October 10
- g.) Facilities and Transportation – next meeting will be October 7, 12:30. The Student Transportation Review from 2008 will be discussed at the next meeting. There is a district goal regarding transportation so the review. It was suggested DPAC send a note to parents regarding the student transportation review to see if there are any comments or input to share.

**Adjourned – 8:05 pm**