

Kootenay Lake DPAC

Meeting Notes

Thursday February 25, 2010

Nelson Board Office, videoconferencing to Creston Ed Centre

Attendance:

Jenny Henri, Mt. Sentinel DPAC Rep, DPAC Chair

Retha Marsden, Erickson DPAC Rep, DPAC Vice-Chair

Susan Wilson, WEG DPAC Rep, Past Chair

Jen Smith, Central Ed Centre DPAC Rep

NOTE: There was no quorum, so the following are notes from the discussion that took place.

Correspondence

- A local photographer contacted DPAC asking about student photos. Principals are responsible for scheduling and booking photographers so the photographer was asked to contact principals directly. PACs can ask their principal for details on how they hire the school photographer

BCCPAC

- The AGM is scheduled for April 16 and 17 in Vancouver. Jenny will be attending and Retha may be able to join her. Jen will be on the Coast at the same time and may drop by.
- BCCPC will be circulating resolutions to vote on, including a completely revised Constitution and Bylaws. DPAC will organize a Resolution Meeting prior to the AGM for parents to discuss the resolutions.

DPAC Vision/Mission Statement

- Katia was unable to join us, so this is tabled until the next meeting.

School Planning Council (SPC)

- Reminder to PACs that it's time for your SPC to meet to discuss the School Planning Day, next years' school fees and other important school issues. Please contact your principal to arrange a meeting date.

Facilities Planning

- The school district is currently looking at the Slocan Valley and Creston as part of a facilities review. The goal of the facilities review is to fill up unused space in district buildings. Retha attended the Creston meeting:
 - The district is proposing to move Homelinks to Canyon/Lister and closing the Creston Education Centre.
 - This was met with stiff opposition as many parents feel the Creston Ed “hub” has become vital to learning in Creston and provides a central location.
 - The enrolment data was questioned and other questions around the elimination of out of catchment bussing came up, and the need for a timeline from the Board so parents can make decisions before September.
 - Other questions include the maintenance costs for a closed building, selling the building or perhaps moving the pre-school into Creston Ed to help with costs.
 - The next meeting will be Tuesday March 2.
- Susan attended the Slocan Valley meeting:
 - The district presented three options at a February meeting: close WE Graham Community School, close Winlaw School or reconfigure Winlaw to K-3 and WE Graham to 4-10.

- Parents are not in support of any of these options and have met as a group twice to come up with a plan. So far, parents are asking for more time to consider other options and be provided with accurate enrolment data.
- The elimination of out of catchment bussing is also a concern, and parents would like to board to provide a timeline to when these changes will come into effect.
- DPAC will write a letter to the Board requesting a timeline in which parents will be informed of any elimination of bussing. Also in the letter, DPAC will request proper enrolment data is shared publicly so communities can make informed decisions.
- There was some discussion around why the district continues to school children in 40-50 year old buildings. Could there be some type of long-term leasing of available public buildings? Would that cut down on costs, and provide flexibility when space is no longer needed?
- In regards to student transportation, it was suggested the Board ask if there are any parents willing to pay for student transportation. It is understood that there is currently no process in place to determine “special circumstances” when parents request ridership on an out of catchment bus run. Perhaps user fees could be part of that discussion. The Pupil Transportation Procedure Manual has been updated and placed on the web site (<http://www.sd8.bc.ca/PupilTransportationProceduresManual.pdf>) but is still in need of updating.

Feedback from DAG cuts to PACs

- Jenny will ask PACs for feedback in the next Parent Reminders.

Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA)

- FSA are now completed. Central Ed Centre does schedule FSA time, however few students take part. There was no issue at Erickson. Mt. Sentinel saw letters, from the BCTF, go home to parents for the first time with all but one Grade 7 student writing the FSA
- There was a letter read from the Canyon/Lister DPAC Rep highlighting the problems the school had with the online portion and indicated four students did not write the FSA.
- The Kootenay Lake Teacher’s Federation (KLTF) wrote a letter to the board in response to the Board’s January motion regarding FSA. The KLTF felt the tone of the letter was offensive and has began a grievance process over this issue.
- There is lots of support by all education partners to state publicly our opposition to the Fraser Institute’s ranking of schools using FSA data. Susan will ask this to be placed on the next President’s Meeting agenda. DPAC could also write a letter to local media just prior to the release of the Fraser Institute’s “Report Card on Education” educating the public on what the ranking represent and how inaccurate they are.
- The District held FSA information meetings, and invited only parents from Grade 4 and 7. DPAC was no involved in the planning or promotion of these meetings and from every understanding they were not well attended.

Treasurer

- No cheques have been written – balances are the same as last meeting.

Education

- There was a meeting on February 21. The 21st Century Learner continues to be a topic. There was discussion around the various types of school calendars including a balanced or Year round calendar. This would see a major shift in philosophy but could potentially be beneficial. The Education committee will continue to explore these issues and make recommendations to the Board, however it’s not expected to be a topic for the 2010/11 school year.

Finance

- The Board is waiting for the March 15 funding announcement from the Ministry to see how much money is coming to the district. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 30.

Policy

- Met this week and have been discussing the need to simplify board policy and determining which are really policies and which are guidelines. There is a grant available from the BC School Trustees Association to help districts move to this model.
- There is a need to make sure policy can be followed, while ensuring there is fair way to change guidelines.
- There was a discussion around hot lunch volunteers having their FoodSafe certification.

School Reports

- Mt. Sentinel student who were trapped in Haiti during the earthquake are safe and sound at home. Some students are still feeling the effects of being in such a traumatic situation. The district is providing counseling services to students and families. There is starting to be “fund raising exhausting” in the community as people continue to fund raise for Haiti along with several national annual fund raising events begin.
- Wildflower gave a fabulous presentation to the board a few weeks ago. Central Ed Centre raised funds for the Food Bank by asking for donations in front of the Kootenay Co-Op to make borscht. People who donated to the event were given hand-painted rocks made by students.
- Shared several Creston Schools organized a community fund raiser on February 20 to raise funds for a new play park. Over \$4000 was raised.
- Erickson held a Haiti fund raiser and raised \$400. They will also hold their annual Easter Lily Fund raiser.

Meeting ended at 8:06 pm

Meeting Schedule:

March 25, 2010 6:00 pm

April 22, 2010 6:00 pm

May 27, 2010 6:00 pm

June 17, 2010 5:00 pm – Parent Celebration