

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

February 15, 2024

6:00pm-8:00pm (PST)

Video Conferencing via Zoom

Minutes

1) Call to Order, 6:01PM

We acknowledge, respect, and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District #8.

2) Welcome & Introductions & A Word from the Chair

Quorum has been established, DPAC Executives introduced, Vice Chair Bremner also introduced as she is the trustee who will be generally attending DPAC meetings

Natalia Nazaroff - DPAC Chair/MSS&Elev8 DPAC Rep/DPAC Gov&Policy Rep/Advocacy Coordinator;
Colleen Bayly - DPAC Vice-Chair, DPAC Rep for Creston HL and Erickson Elem/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep;
Michelle Sylvest - DPAC Treasurer/Hume DPAC Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC Secretary/LVR DPAC Rep/DPAC EdCom Rep; Lorien Quattrocchi - Hume DPAC Rep; Candace Pongratz - Blewett DPAC Rep; Meaghan Craven - DPAC rep BK; Lisa Wilkinson - Crawford Bay School DPAC Rep; Nicole Rhynold - DPAC Rep JVH; Deana Postnikoff - MSSS parent; Trish Smillie - Superintendent of School/CEO; Ben Eaton - Director of Instruction, Innovative Learning; Tamara Malloff - District Principal Innovative Learning; Will Rosendale - Manager of Operations; Lenora Trenamen - Trustee North/East Shores; Julie Bremner - Trustee Nelson/Bealby Point & Vice Board Chair; Breanne Gaudreau - LVR Parent; Lisa O'Conner - HL Nelson DPAC Rep; Mathilde Armour Piccirilli - Creston Wildflower DPAC rep; Lauren Rethoret - Wildflower DPAC Rep;

Chair statement - At DPAC, we are the collective voice of parents. This school year, we have had many parents bringing forth concerns that they would like to have addressed. There are some common questions that parents, from all corners of our district, are asking. We thought we should take a few minutes to address a few of them. They are in no particular order.

The first issue is recycling. This topic has been addressed at numerous DPAC meetings over the past few years. Our District would love to have better opportunities to recycle in our area. We have invited Will Rosendale to come give us an update on any new changes to recycling in our communities on behalf of Director Kerr. As parents we feel that teaching our children recycling is of great importance and therefore this is why this issue keeps coming up. Unfortunately, the district is under constraints because of the service level to the communities. This is not an issue that as DPAC we can pursue further, at this point in time. We need to understand that our District is doing what it can with the local recycling programs. We, as parents, can do our part as well in helping teach our children the importance of recycling and perhaps helping at individual school levels.

The second issue that has been brought up at every meeting of late is the new rules about food in our schools. This is an ongoing issue and there seems to be some misunderstandings on how this is to be addressed. We have Superintendent Smillie here tonight to address the proper channels to get these issues resolved at your school. We have also invited Director Deanna Holitzki to give us a presentation on the various food programs and regulations for our schools. This presentation and discussion will be at our March DPAC meeting.

The third area of concern is the Numeracy and low Numeracy scores that were reported from LVR. Again it is our understanding that Numeracy scores and Math marks are being confused by parents. We have asked the District to help explain to parents what the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment is, how long it has been in use, how our district relates to the provincial numeracy scores and how this assessment is used by the Province. As well we asked if they had any data on how our kids are doing in Math in our district and how this compares with the province? We have District Principal Tamara Maloff here with us today to help us understand the numbers.

3) Adoption of Agenda

Motioned - Lisa; Seconded - Mathilde; All in Favour

Natalia, Candace, motion carried - added Mischa Oaks to the new business items

4) Approval of Minutes

Motioned - Candace W; Seconded - Tammy; All in Favour

Tilly/Lisa, All in Favour

5) Superintendent's Report - with Guests - Manager of Operations Will Rosendal, Director Ben Eaton & District Principal Tamara Maloff

- February is here - pink shirt day, 100 days of school
- Highlights of the Superintendent's Report - CBESS, Hume,
- Spoke about new principals at school - more consistency, new district principal of international education
- French Immersion registrations are underway
- K-3 Parent Numeracy education night upcoming on zoom
- Board Highlights - school completions rates is one way of looking at system success - this year can celebrate with a new 5-year high, exceeds the provincial average
- Go to your principal for questions about the food equity programs (or any other programs) and will have a presentation in March at the DPAC meeting. Also will have presentations on Open Parachute in March
 - Recycling - Update from Manager of Operations, Will Rosendale, use GFL and WM within the district but they only handle a limited amount of recycling, contamination is the major issue, can recycle paper and cardboard and are working individually with each school and programs. South Nelson program migrated to LVR. Pack in pack out system is best - use reusable containers. Will take some time to work through the rest of the schools. LVR Green Team will speak to other school environmental clubs.

- Math and Numeracy - District Principal Tamara Malloff - numeracy is the ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts in a variety of contexts. Math is the abstract science of number, quantity and space. The GNA is a provincial assessment written in Grade 10. It requires students to solve problems by interpreting, applying, solving, analyzing and communicating in a real-life context. Measures what was developed in K-9. Might include reasoned estimates, planning and designing, how to share fairly and create a model or strategy. 20% of the exam is recall - locate information in a problem/reading for information, there is also a portion of skills and concepts and level 3 is strategic thinking. Showed some sample questions from the assessment. There are practice assessments online. It is a citizen's numeracy. This gives the province some data ensuring students have the big picture around numeracy. Can be used to inform practice by teachers and is intended to be cross-curricular in nature. Have a series of assessment workshops and school based PD days. Last full year. All students in SD8 performed slightly worse than the province. Will need a longer term plan. What about math? Report card data is reasonable. Parent piece is big, need to help students prepare for this. Universal supports built in for all learners. Does every student that rewrites it do better? Anecdotally yes but there are no numbers. Students don't need to stress out about these assessments but results are shown on transcripts. .
- Brief presentation on Connected Learners by Director Eaton - full presentation was shared in the February 13 Board Meeting. Video from Student Leadership Conference.

6) Treasurer's Report

- BCCPAC membership reimbursements, advocacy training, zoom license, BCCPAC conference travel

DPAC Financial Report 2023-24
Final Summary and Expense Breakdown
Account Summaries

Category	General Account	Gaming Account
Opening Balance	\$10,446.77	\$2,929.23
Total Revenue	\$4,900.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$4,504.12	\$652.50
Closing Balance	\$10,842.65	\$2,276.73

Detailed Expenses Breakdown

General Account

- **BCCPAC Memberships:** \$1,125
- **Reimbursements:** \$3,476.62
 - Costs for BCCPAC events, memberships, and activities.

Gaming Account

- **Parent Education:**
 - Advocacy Training for Susan Wilson: \$500

7) Correspondence

- No new correspondence to report - items have been added to the agenda as appropriate

8) New Business

a) BCCPAC AGM and Conference Reps

- Can send two representatives - is open to the executives first as per the policy manual.
- Natalia motions to approve up to \$2,500 to set aside for two representatives from the DPAC to attend the conference in May. Lisa seconds, motion carries.

b) Resolutions for BCCPAC AGM

- Resolutions can now be submitted. Last year our DPAC submitted two resolutions.
- Does not need to be the DPAC, each school PAC can also submit resolutions.
- Many concerns that are brought up in the DPAC are actually ministry mandates and we could put resolutions in for BCCPAC to lobby the ministry on certain issues.
- BCCPAC townhall on February 27 on parent advocacy.

c) Ideas for Parent Education Nights?

- District is hosting many parent engagement nights on zoom
- South Nelson suggested Salema Noon on body science and sexual health - is well received in the lower mainland. Echoed by BK.
 - There is also a Wildflower Nelson local option parent that can speak on the same topic.
 - Blewett also expressed an interest
 - We can vote on this tonight if this has been discussed already by other PACs.
- IEPs - what to expect at a meeting and what a parent's role is at those meetings. This is also covered in Advocacy 101. Need to get the word out in DPAC that parent advocates can help. School districts have had two parent engagement nights on this topic and the district will highlight the next one to the DPAC. Also need more parents trained to advocate for parents.

d) Mischa Oaks

- Feedback from PACs is to revisit in the fall

9) Committee Reports

- Policy and Governance - Natalia Nazaroff and Tyler Dobie - Tyler was unable to attend the meeting tonight but together our two reps developed a report. District is creating a new sustainability policy related to climate change in SD8. Partner groups will have input into this policy. See pages 89-95 on the board agenda for the February 13 meeting.
<https://www.sd8.bc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2024-02/2024.02.13%20-%206%20Public%20Agenda.pdf>
- There is a process for anyone to give feedback on any policy at any time -
<https://www.sd8.bc.ca/node/36784>
- Education Partners - next meeting is in March.
- Finance & Operations - amended school budget for this year. 4,728 was the budgeted enrolment and 4,825 was actual enrolment. This results in an increase in funding from the MOECC but there has also been an increase in spending (supplies, staffing). Budget is increased by \$3.7M.

10) School Reports

- Wildflower Creston - 18 students - is in the KRSS facility, challenging situation with drop offs and younger students with older students, recommend to follow the resolution protocols and discuss with the principal then superintendent, maybe the senior students could help out with a buddy system,
- LVR - graduation, yearbook, tournaments, new semester, course selection for next year
- CBESS - ski day March 8, clothes swap & community cupboard, pink shirt day, community day about the high school in the future,
- South Nelson - movie night, having a PAC breakfast, planning end of year fun night, donating funding to students for food programs, disappointment that there were no evening winter concert performances,
- Blewett - mitten driers for each classroom, looking to improve safe crossing and dropoff zones, drought resistant gardening, outdoor movie night, bike safety course,
- Hume - hot lunch, skiing,
- TF - busy with Hume PAC alumni, supporting band and french immersion parents doing major trips this year,
- MSSS - course selections, highlight was superintendent visit, basketball in full swing, trades sampler at school next year, hot lunch program needs parent
- Erickson - read-a-thon month, intermediate fun days, menus approved for hot lunch program,
- Homelinks - looking for ways to how to connect and build community,
- Desk - did not get quorum last meeting,

11) Comments from the Public

- None

12) Adjourn at 8:25PM

Next DPAC meeting March 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm PST