

# **Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday November 24, 2011**

**6:00 – 8:00 pm Nelson**

**7:00 – 9:00 pm Creston**

Nelson Board office

(video conferencing to Creston Education Centre unavailable)

### **Attendance:**

Jenny Henri, Mt. Sentinel, DPAC Chair

Kendra Mann, Rosemont, DPAC Vice-Chair

Sheri Walsh, DPAC Secretary

Susan Wilson, DPAC Treasurer

Robin Woodbridge, LVR

Terri Snyder, Trafalgar, Redfish

### **Staff and Education Partners:**

Jeff Jones, Superintendent

Peter Kozak, CUPE

#### **1) Welcome/Call to Order:** at 6:10

#### **2) Approval of Agenda**

Add teacher job action update to discussion items

Agenda approved by consensus

#### **3) Acceptance of October 27 minutes**

Under District Report, change “BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)” to “BC Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA)”, plus a few minor edits

Revised October 27 minutes approved by consensus.

#### **4) District Report**

##### **Jeff Jones, Superintendent**

- **Board News:** A great big thank to Art Field and Verna Mayers-Mackenzie for their years of service to the Kootenay Lake Board of Education. Their efforts are greatly appreciated. Welcome to incoming trustees Rebecca Huscroft (Creston South Rural) and Sheri Huser (Salmo/Taghum) and thank you for stepping up.
- **Staff News:** The new district Secretary-Treasurer Kim Morris officially starts on December 1. Thank you to Heather Smith, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, who has been assisting the superintendent with Secretary-Treasurer duties, despite her recent accident, as well as to Audrey Mackenzie and Willow Makortoff.
- **Report Cards:** Every child received a report card, albeit blank except for attendance records and information about courses taught by principals and vice-principals. Note that attendance records were inaccurate for some students at Mt. Sentinel as bugs are being worked out of BCeSIS (BC Electronic Student Information System) there.
- **Aboriginal Student Completion Rate:** Although the analysis is still in progress,

- preliminary results show that our overall 6 yr completion rate is up a bit, to 76%, as opposed to 74% last year. However, our aboriginal completion rate has risen in the past two years from 50% to 70%. While, again, this information needs closer scrutiny, a 70% completion rate for our aboriginal students (only a 6% gap with non-aboriginal students), is outstanding and exceeds the provincial average. We are hopeful that our focus on raising the awareness of aboriginal education in our district, and the awareness work being done is having a positive impact.
- **Communication with RCMP:** A convicted sex offender (offences against adults) recently moved to Yahk near Yahk Elementary, and the district was not notified by the RCMP. The district acted appropriately with respect to the school community once they learned of the situation. Note that this person is now back in custody.

### Peter Kozak, CUPE

- **Student Transportation:** Expecting implementation of recommendations of the 2009 Student Transportation Services Review regarding out-of-catchment bussing and improving route efficiency by next September. Additional consultation with schools, families, BC Transit, CUPE and affected municipalities will be needed. Family of Schools meetings could provide excellent opportunities to discuss transportation. A new route to Waldorf School has been added.
- **Student Transportation Safety:** A general discussion of safety issues around school bus transportation, passenger manifests and exchange of ideas for improvement, e.g., bus safety week, passenger training.

## 5) School Reports

- **Mt. Sentinel:** There are inconsistencies between parent experiences with respect to communication with teachers and principals as well as the recent teacher-parent interviews.
- **Rosemont:** This year's Christmas concert will only occur in the daytime, and is being organized by teachers as usual.
- **Redfish:** No family fun night this year because of the BCTF strike, however Christmas concert is going ahead. Some children seem to have reduced enthusiasm for school this year. Fundraising for grade 5 field trip and new playground ongoing. Tests have been sent home and report cards included attendance and student self-assessment. There are many parent volunteers.
- **Trafalgar:** Much fewer parent volunteers than in Redfish. There is reduced supervision of IEP students. Parents received emails regarding student progress from teachers.
- **LVR:** 780 students including 9 outreach and 48 international. No problems heard with respect to teacher-parent interviews. Some teachers sending tests home. Job action has not affected extra-curricular activities. There have been community accolades for LVR students with respect to behaviour from a Nelson bus driver, from recipients of their community efforts, as well as for the monthly student column published in the Nelson Star. MP Atamanenko talked about film project Turquoise Snowflake in the House of Commons. Grad outreach is going well; this year's theme is "Stairway to Heaven".

## 6) Correspondence

### a.) Business arising from Correspondence

- Received Teacher periodical.
- DPAC sent letter to BCTF and BCPSEA urging a return to meaningful negotiation. It was published in a few local papers, and can be downloaded from the DPAC website.

**7) Discussion Items**

**a) BCCPAC**

- Susan is attending the fall BCCPAC board meeting and regional conference in Vancouver this weekend. Regional conferences are a new initiative this year and there has been an uneven response.
- BCCPAC is doing transition planning for the president position as current president’s 2<sup>nd</sup> term expires in the spring.
- Funds are low because no new funds were received this fall.

**b) DPAC Christmas Party**

- December 15, with light supper at 5, 6 in Creston, followed by regular DPAC meeting.
- Susan will attend in Creston.

**Motion: That DPAC spend up to \$400 for food and prizes for both parties.**

Moved by: Susan Wilson                      Seconded: Kendra Mann                      Carried

**c) Barry MacDonald presentation**

- Author of “Boy Smarts: Mentoring Boys for Success at School”
- Mike Kent of Ripple Effect Consulting Inc. is organizing local conference “Helping Boys Become Healthy Men”, April 19-20.
- Parent workshop will be on Thursday evening, April 19, for a cost of \$2,400. Susan has been in contact with the SD20 DPAC (Lisa Stewart) about marketing and cost-sharing. Ideas for financial support include CBT, CPC, credit unions. Susan to follow up.

**d) Family of Schools meetings**

- Slocan Valley Family of Schools meeting is Monday, November 28 at Winlaw Elementary.
- Few RSVPs received. Kendra to send out reminder.

**e) BCTF Strike Update**

- Jeff Jones: substantial impacts including:
  - Lack of communication between principals and teachers regarding students
  - District coherence development has stopped
  - Teachers’ voices have been diminished
  - As of Oct 31, compared with previous six years, teacher absences have increased by 12.5%, administrator absences increased by 19.7%, straining finances
  - Potential to have significant long term impact
  - Needs more media exposure
- If parents are having difficulty contacting teachers, they should write a letter to the teacher, and cc Tom Newell, President, Nelson District Teachers’ Association
- DPAC to consider organizing a meeting of parents, local BCTF reps and SD8 staff

**8) Committee Reports**

**a) Treasurer**

Gaming account	= \$	16.98
<u>Regular account</u>	= \$	<u>3,957.17</u>
Total	= \$	3,974.15

- Gaming funds for this year yet to be received; pending submission of DPAC financial

reports.

- Will be ~\$1,600 expense for BCCPAC membership costs for SD8 PACs
- Will be ~\$300 expense for local attendance at BCCPAC regional conference in Kelowna in October.
- Thank you to SD8 for its continued financial support.

**b) Education**

- hasn't met yet this year

**c) Finance**

- November 1 meeting – report to be prepared by Jeff
- Next meeting December 13; Susan to attend.

**d) Policy**

- Next meeting November 28; Susan and Robin to attend

**e) District Lifestyles**

- next meeting January 2012; Tiffany and Sheri to attend

**f) Facilities Planning**

- next meeting January 2012; Kendra to attend.

**9) Adjournment:** at 7:50

**Meeting Schedule:**

December 15, 2011 5:00pm (6:00 pm Creston) – Christmas Party

January 26, 2012 6:00 pm (7:00 pm Creston)

February 23, 2012 6:00 pm (7:00 pm Creston)

