

**Southeast Kootenay  
District Parent Advisory Council  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, Nov, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**In Attendance**

**EXECUTIVE:** Debbie – Mount Baker Secondary (Chair)

**DPAC REPS and PARENTS:** Holly – Rocky Mountain Elementary, Robin – FJ Mitchel Elementary, Meaghan – Isabella Dicken Elementary, Ute – Fernie Secondary, Coralee – Jaffray Jr Sec/Elementary, Julie – Gordon Terrace Elementary, Jennifer – Steeples Elementary

**REGRETS:** Amy – TM Roberts Elementary, Sarah – Pinewood Elementary, Lorelle - Highlands Elementary

**PARTNER GROUPS and GUESTS:** Director of Student Learning/Ab Ed - Jason Tichauer, Trustee - Chris Johns, CDTA Vice-President (note taker) - Larry Dureski

**REGRETS:** Superintendent – Lynn Hauptman, Trustee – Trina Ayling, CDTA President – Shelley Balfour

**Call to Order:** 7:03 pm

**Agenda:** Approved as amended

**Minutes:** October AGM minutes – approved as circulated  
October GMM minutes – approved as circulated

**DPAC District Traffic Safety Report:** Draft minutes attached

- I. next meeting is 6:00 pm, Nov, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- II. District wide Traffic Safety week in April 2016
- III. Seeking parent input re: ideas for one day student activities to create awareness of Traffic Safety. Ideas have to be simple and useable at all schools. Send ideas to the Chair

**Superintendent Report:** Attached and presented by Jason Tichauer

Highlights included;

- I. Good news!!! Enrollment is up in our district and it's the first increase for a while.
- II. Average class sizes – see bottom of first page on report
- III. Student Leader (DSAC) retreat at Blue Lake

- IV. Aboriginal perspective and world views document. SD5 is one of five districts to provide input. Document on District website or via google search
- V. Laurie Middle School fire at 4:40 am on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>
  - fire in roof and was contained immediately
  - Sprinklers in gym and Home Ec. hallway were activated
  - Obtained emergency approval to close school for 2 days for clean-up and safety
  - Staff was brought in Nov 12 so they could see the building was okay
  - Gym floor might be salvageable due to rubber backing, will know more once floors are drier
  - Gym is currently closed indefinitely, students using other facilities for PE

Questions/Discussion from report:

Can the gym facilities from surrounding schools be utilized?

- Time tabling and enrollment factors can affect the use of other school's facilities
- Due to the location of Laurie Middle school, community facilities may be utilized
- The Board will be certainly looking at offsetting costs etc. surrounding the use of other facilities

**Trustee Report:** Presented by Chris Johns

Highlights included:

- I. Revised procedural bylaws to include acknowledgment of Aboriginal territories at Board meetings
- II. Muriel Baxter property to be leased by the City for an off-leash dog park. Commemorative plaque for Muriel Baxter to be installed
- III. Annual Facility Grant funding allocated for repairs to Laurie School's roof and HVAC unit. Two "aging" pumps replaced at Mount Baker (\$360,000.) and upgrades to various elementary school's HVAC systems (\$140,000.)
- IV. Proposed amendment to SD5 calendar for Jan 18<sup>th</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 as training days for the revised curriculum

Questions/Discussion from report:

Will these curriculum training days mean lost school time for students?

- These days are from an agreement between the Ministry of Education and BCTF for 10 hours of training.

- Small curriculum changes have been attempted in the past, possibly didn't work due to no time for necessary training. Parents may not oppose supporting the new curriculum but how is this not perceived as lost time?
- Not every school year is the same, sometimes there are 5 or 6 day differences e.g. this year, there is less red days because of the late start and early finish. Provinces priority is equal days per semester
- Days have been budgeted as paid days for CUPE members. Support staff directly related to students will be involved with activities planned for other members.
- This is a provincial agreement and locals have to follow it. District is attempting to develop a 3 year calendar.
- Approximately 25 teachers and added exempt staff will plan how to make the most of these two days.
- MoE wants this curriculum change to work upon implementation and wants to provide the time for necessary training.

Larry from CDTA provided a brief explanation regarding the difference between Pro-D and in-service training days.

**Business from previous Minutes:**

- 9.1 DPAC's available positions are now filled. Thank you to the following volunteers
  - Secretary – Julie, Gordon Terrace Elementary
  - Facebook Moderator – Robin, FJ Mitchel Elementary
- 9.2 SD5 Needs Budget – Trustee Johns
  - I. School Boards are legally bound to submit balanced budgets each year
  - II. SD5 has regularly endeavored to also submit what has been termed as a "needs budget" which is the rationalization of what they had to do to get a balanced budget
  - III. As the budget is developing, the needs budget works as a "snap shot" of the current situation, which is subject to change until September's enrollment is confirmed
  - IV. The Board does not want to not-fund, under-fund or cut any areas in the educational budget but with medical service plans, pensions, cost of living expenses etc. always going up, the need for adequate funding becomes quite apparent
  - V. SD5 Board and School Boards across the province have routinely advocated for better, stable and reliable funding for education via letters (can be found on the district website) and

presentations to the province's Select Standing Committee's yearly budget consultations.

- VI. SD5 has also sent a joint letter with their educational partner groups referencing 33 distinct areas that were potentially being affected due to lack of funding at that time.
- VII. Bottom line; we require more money to operate! Currently not even keeping up with cost of living.

#### Questions/Discussion;

- Need for better, available information regarding funding as average parent may not see the extent of cuts that have been made.
- Parents hear that the "per pupil funding" has increased but due to declining enrollment this may still be a decrease in educational funding
- Concrete example: Board has been advocating for the replacement of Mount Baker however, the building has been well maintained and programming in there is great

#### New business:

10.1 DPAC Website – can be found on District website under the Students/Parents tab.

- I. Our website has always been graciously on the district's servers which could easily be updated and maintained by the DPAC executive
- II. With the new system in place, staff now have to update
- III. Currently meeting minutes are up to date as a June 2015, our Constitution, Bylaws and Procedural manual are now available for downloading and meeting dates and executive members are current as of Oct's AGM

**Action:** The Chair and Trustee to meet regarding website access.

10.2 Acknowledgement of the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa people;

**Motion:** That DPAC acknowledge the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa people at the beginning of all DPAC meetings and events.

Motion; Julie, Gordon Terrace                      Second; Jenn, Steeples

**Carried**

**Action:** The DPAC procedural manual to be updated.

10.3 Christmas Basket – Traditionally DPAC has provided a fruit/choc basket to the Dec Board meeting in acknowledgment of the continued support and assistance of the Board and staff of SD5.

**Motion:** That DPAC spend no more than \$100 on a fruit/choc basket for the December Board meeting.

Motion; Robin, FJ Mitchel      Second; Holly, Rocky Mountain  
**Carried**

10.4 Office Supplies – As an annual budget was not presented at the AGM, items need to come to the general monthly meetings. Office supplies are currently required for printing agenda packages, training materials etc.

FYI – The Chair is available to all PACs to provide training and support for their executives.

**Motion:** That DPAC spend no more than \$50 on paper and ink for the organization's use.

Motion; Jenn, Steeples      Second; Meaghan, Isabella Dicken  
**Carried**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:20 pm