

**Southeast Kootenay
District Parent Advisory Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9th, 2016**

In Attendance

EXECUTIVE: Debbie - Mount Baker Secondary (Chair), Sarah - Pinewood Elementary (Vice-Chair), Melinda - Amy Woodland Elementary (Treasurer), Julie - Gordon Terrace Elementary (Secretary)

DPAC REPS and PARENTS: Kobus - Highlands Elementary, Jennifer - Steeples Elementary, Meaghen - Isabella Dicken Elementary, Ute - Fernie Secondary

REGRETS: Amy - TM Roberts Elementary, Laurel – Isabella Dicken Elementary

PARTNER GROUPS and GUESTS: Jason Tichauer - Director of Instruction/Ab Ed, Trina Ayling – Trustee, Chris Johns - Trustee, Shelley Balfour - CDTA President

REGRETS: Lynn Hauptman - Superintendent

Call to Order: 7:06pm

Acknowledgement of the traditional lands of the Ktunaxa people

Agenda: Approved as circulated

Minutes: (February 10th, 2016) meeting minutes approved as circulated

Treasurer's Report:

Gaming Account: \$1200.63

Regular Account: \$9966.35

Superintendent Report: Attached and presented by Jason Tichauer

Highlights included;

- I. Budget for next school year - meeting with schools and stakeholder groups to determine needs
- II. Science Fair - at COTR last weekend. Student from Laurie School took overall Grand Prize. KO student received a Silver Medal
- III. Student Voice and DSAC Meeting went very well

Trustee Report: Presented by Trina Ayling

Highlights included:

- I. All motions at last meeting were about advocacy. Asking all boards to forward any letters of response regarding the letters of concern sent about where money is being spent.
- II. Re; Provincial Budget -\$500 million (that could be spent on government services) to be used to pay down debt faster. This is despite the fact that B.C. has an AAA credit rating and one of the lowest debts in Canada. Another \$100 million, "Prosperity Fund" (min 50% to pay down debt, min 25% to collect interest, min 25% for core government services). Total of \$600 million that could be spent on education, etc. but is not.
- III. Three letters sent:
 - a. To parent organization BCSTA - expressing profound disappointment regarding the media strategic plan of budget rollout
 - b. Media release to district on benefits of return of long form census
 - c. Media release around disappointment of where money is being spent
- IV. School closure consultation meetings going on in many districts
- V. Hold Back Funds, normally relied upon to cover any extra district costs, have been diverted to cover the under estimated provincial student enrollment count
- VI. Education funding over the next few years will go up by 1% per year

Question: Regarding how government spends money on (or not on) government services.

How do we change this?

Discussion:

- Advocate. Write letters individually or as a group. A one page form letter for parents to print off and send may be helpful
- Vote for government that stands for what you believe in. Sometimes government holds back money until election time to "give presents", to areas in need, to gain favour.

Business from previous Minutes:

- 8.1 Update re: Request for a parent information, question and answer session on the newly revised curriculum

- Has been brought to committee. Is a go, just not sure of date. Looking for a Q and A session, not just an information session.
- 8.2 Any feedback re: PAC Constitution and Bylaw updates and/or PAC Procedure manual?
- One school loves. Pinewood Elementary looked through documents with their PAC Chair and thought it looked good.
 - Procedure manual: Executive team will remain in charge of compiling - depending on input and discussion from PACs
 - DPAC Constitution and Bylaw update - Executive team to compile and bring recommendations to a general meeting
- 8.3 BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM - April 28th-May 1st
Resolution Booklet is being sent directly to PACs by the end of March. Please watch for it!
- DPAC will require a signed hard copy of the proxy vote form as well as voting instructions by Friday April 22nd. Hard Copies will be printed off and sent to PAC Chairs for signing (2 signatures needed).
 - Booklets contain all resolutions, election of officers etc. and asks how your PAC would like to vote (yes, no, don't know, want changes)

New business:

- 9.1 Request for funding - "Parent as Career Counsellor" Workshop - Mount Baker <https://www.capilano.ca/pacc/>. (Flyer and feedback attached)
This is an interactive workshop designed to help parents become more effective career development allies for their children
- Marion Haythorne, is a former teacher who works with Capilano College - delivers a program called "Parent as Career Counsellor". She has received great reviews from colleagues on the CES board and Cap College pays her \$1000 fee to deliver this program (this is the last year they are doing this).
 - She would like to come to the Kootenays, after Kelowna which would reduce her costs to travel expenses and room/board.
 - Would like to see a session in Cranbrook and if enough parents show interest in the Elk Valley - perhaps one there?
 - Wed, May 18th at Mount Baker Secondary (tentatively)

Discussion:

- The Chair has attended similar workshops at previous BCCPAC Conferences. Amazing amount of information is provided
- Based on child's talents – parents work through activities to find careers based on child's passion and talents

- There is a supersized career menu for kid's options these days. We as parents have no idea. High need for this in this area as what we tend to think of here is: mining, forestry, etc.
- There is feedback from parents who have attended this event attached to the event information
- There is no charge to attend
- It was recommended having the second session in Sparwood to be more of a central location for the other surrounding communities.
- Would target upper intermediate (grades 7-10) to help with course selection as kids enter grade 10.
- Could help to ensure students have all necessary courses for career choice prior to graduation
- Need someone to host in Sparwood in the evening (best for attendance and space). Karen Kettenacker possibly

Motion: For DPAC to help cover the expenses of Marion Haythorne to come to the Elk Valley (Sparwood) and Cranbrook at the cost of \$1000

Moved By: Melinda - Amy Woodland Elementary

Carried

Correspondence:

- 10.1 Letters from the Board;
 - Re: Control of Ungulates

Discussion:

- Deer belong to the Province. There are concerns of deer on playgrounds.
- All cities and municipalities have been written to support looking for funding and express same concerns as well

Motion: To receive and file letter

Moved By: Sarah - Pinewood Elementary

Carried

Questions:

- Parents' questions and concerns of special needs kids transitioning to middle school from elementary and decline in support at this stage.

Discussion:

- Speech and Language support (SLP) as well as Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physiotherapy (PT) is lost once a child transitions out of elementary school. Support can be contracted to come in but slow process. OT/PT is a government

service and is only allotted a small amount of time in a community. SLP sharp cut-off in grade 6 - district service

- Trustee request of an email listing concerns to present in April at the next Advocacy meeting (Student services falls under this). Will also be included in Trustee's DPAC Report
- This is a long time aggravation for parents - strong parent support is expected

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Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 13th, 2016

Meeting adjourned: 8:11pm

Julie Botterill, DPAC Secretary
2016-03-09