

**Southeast Kootenay  
District Parent Advisory Council  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 14th, 2016**

**In Attendance**

**EXECUTIVE:** Debbie (Chair) - Mount Baker Secondary, Sarah (Vice-Chair) - Pinewood Elementary, Julie (Secretary) - Gordon Terrace Elementary

**DPAC REPS and PARENTS:** Ute - Fernie Secondary, Kim - Fernie Secondary, Robin - FJ Mitchell Elementary, John - Highlands Elementary

**REGRETS:** Melinda (Treasurer) - Amy Woodland Elementary, Jen - Steeples Elementary, Marie - Laurie Middle, Jen - Isabella Dickens

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

**REGRETS:** Lynn Hauptman - Superintendent, Chris Johns - Trustee

**Call to Order:** 6:37pm

**Acknowledgement of the traditional lands of the Ktunaxa people**

**Agenda:** Approved as amended - Item 7.1 (A Conversation About Rural Education) added

**Minutes:** (November 9th, 2016) meeting minutes approved as circulated

**Treasurer Report**

Gaming: 2725.85

Regular: 11746.15

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

Highlights included;

- I. 36th (officially) Mass Choir took place
- II. Grades 10-12 curriculum implementation has been delayed by one year
- III. New reporting guidelines - a lot more freedoms on methods of how to report students progress to parents. A lot more authentic/ongoing/talk based. More effective for students, parents, and educators
- IV. SD5 Student learning survey. 758 participates

**Trustee Report:** Presented by Trina Ayling

7.1 A Conversation About Rural Education

- Looking for public input on rural education - includes 4 Questions
  - what is your definition of a rural education?
  - what are the positive impacts in the community?
  - how are schools being used?
  - share your rural education story
- Came out Nov 17th 2016, deadline is Jan 9th 2017
- report will come out September 2017 - post election. Government will have 4-year mandate to do what they want with report. Consider how comments could be misconstrued for their benefit.
- Parents should be aware that this is out there and are advised to approach with caution. Could be a tactic to amalgamate boards as seen with health authorities. Parent comments could be misconstrued for the benefit of the government.

**Business from previous Minutes:**

8.1 Sept. 20th Executive Team meeting

- a) Discussion around a parent info night on advocating for their children and concerns re: The District Reference & Regulation (R&R) program – District Update attached

**Discussion:** This is a standing item on advocacy agenda - next Advocacy Committee meeting is Jan 30th 2017 at 9am-10:30am and following meetings to take place Feb27th, April 24th, May 29th. Committee agendas are sent out to PAC chairs and DPAC reps. Any parent questions can be sent to Debbie - she will amalgamate and forward to appropriate board member. Committee meetings are very participatory

- b) Updating DPAC Constitution, Bylaws, and Handbook; Is it possible to meet during the Christmas break?

**Action:** DPAC Executive and any interested DPAC reps will plan to meet over Christmas break

8.2 The Nov. BCCPAC 2016 DPAC Summit Meet - No update

8.3 DPAC letters of Support regarding;

- a) SD5 2016/2017 Needs Budget – Revisiting re; BCTF Court Case and newly released Select Standing Committee Report
  - Court Cas has essentially reopened bargaining. Will take a while to see what this will look like for SD5 and needs budget. Board would like to see teachers hired in January. Not to disrupt classrooms - possibly co-teaching until things get figured out.
  - Some items in needs budget will not be affected at all by Supreme Court win.
  - DPAC will write in support of SD5 Needs Budget and add Select Standing Committee Report. Debbie will send out draft to DPAC reps to be looked over and approved by email
- b) \$1 Million Funding to Specialized Education Schools
  - put back on January meeting agenda
- c) Removal of the Vancouver School Board – Draft letter presented
  - Approved by consensus

**Correspondence:**

From the CDTA/FDTA;

- 10.1 BCTF’s Victory at The Supreme Court of Canada press release - <http://www.bctf.ca/NewsReleases.aspx?id=43581>
  - I. Received: Class size, Composition, and Specialist Teacher Ratios
  - II. Outdated wording and class ratios (positive/negative) will be put back in

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 18th @ 6:30pm

Sincere appreciation to Marie who stepped up to do gift basket to district school board members and staff. Is being distributed among the different departments. Did an amazing job. Seemed to be greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas and Happy new year!

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:52pm

Julie Botterill, DPAC Secretary  
2016-12-14



December 14, 2016

Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier, Province of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Honourable Mike Bernier  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Bernier:

RE: Government Firing of Vancouver School Board

The School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) would like to express our support of the request put forward by our Board in their November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 letter;

*“...government implement restorative processes and procedures geared toward resolving conflict while giving equal representation from the education co-governance partners (the MoE and BCSTA), with the intent of resolving issues between conflicting parties and respecting the democratic process.”*

It is our understanding that public education in BC is a co-governance model between elected Boards of Education and the Ministry of Education. Our parents were quite dismayed therefore, to learn that while *“In other systems of shared responsibilities there are dispute mechanisms or appeal procedures in place to resolve conflict between parties”*, our provincial government chose to ignore such collaborative practices in favour of ignoring the democratic process that lead to the make-up of the VSB by simply firing the elected board of education of one of the largest districts in BC.

Having elected Trustees readily available to listen to and represent the students, parents, educators, partner groups and stakeholders throughout our district's communities couldn't be more valued in SD5, both as a tool for supporting students and as the democratic voice of the constituents throughout our district.

c/o 940 Industrial Rd #1  
Cranbrook B.C. V1C 4C6



Our Trustees are elected, based in large part, on their willingness to advocate for the needs of our students and schools. If government can simply remove and replace Boards of Education who are representing their constituents’ –which is the duty of all democratically elected officials, it is a sad day for British Columbians as it truly signals the undermining and erosion of the democratic process Canadian citizens hold dear as a right, and not a privilege

Therefore, SD5 DPAC further supports our Board’s request...

*“...that the MoE immediately call a by-election to restore democracy to the citizens of Vancouver.”*

Sincerely,

Debbie Therrien  
SD5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
DPAC Chair

Cc: Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC  
Frank Lento, SD5 Board Chair and Trustees  
Lynn Hauptman, SD5 Superintendent  
John Bird, BCCPAC President  
SD5 PAC Chairs

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