

**Southeast Kootenay  
District Parent Advisory Council  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

**In Attendance**

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

**DPAC REPS and PARENTS:** Ute - Fernie Secondary, Robin - FJ Mitchell, Marie - Laurie Middle  
**REGRETS:** Melinda - Parkland Secondary (Treasurer), John - Highlands

**PARTNER GROUPS and GUESTS:** Lynn Hauptman - Superintendent, Shelley Balfour - CDTA President, Trina Ayling - Trustee

**Call to Order:** 6:33pm

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

**Agenda:** Approved as amended

Additions:

10.1 Ministry of Education Response letter regarding the removal of the Vancouver School Board

**Minutes:** (February 2017) meeting minutes approved as circulated

**Treasurer Report:**

Regular: \$11743.88

Gaming: \$1298.39

**Superintendent Report:** Attached and presented by Lynn Hauptman

Highlights included;

- I. Random acts of kindness week/anti-bullying day took place
- II. Regional Science Fair happened last week. Rorie Smith from Mt. Baker and Braxton Chan from Parkland Middle as well as two students from the Elk Valley going off to National Science competition
- III. Lieutenant Governor was visiting schools in the area. Spreading message on being involved in government, democracy. Goal to visit 150 schools this year

**Trustee Report:** Presented by Trina Ayling

**Business from previous Minutes:**

- 8.1 Draft DPAC letters regarding;
  - a. Parent Concerns about Snow removal around Cranbrook Schools - approved by consensus
- 8.2 Updating DPAC bylaws and handbook – Executive will meet @ 6pm on Monday March 20th - location TBA
- 8.3 BCCPAC All-Party Forum on Education – April 4th @ 7:00 pm in Burnaby, with Livestreaming for our area. Opportunity to hear about educational platforms and strategies, directly from representatives of the three main political parties: the BC Green Party, the BC Liberal Party, and the BC New Democratic Party.
  - i. Do we have any questions we'd like to submit?
    - a. Topic - Timely replacements of schools regardless of seismic upgrades
    - b. Topic - The hiring of/need for specialty staff (speech/language pathologists, etc.) in our district (funding and recruitment)
  - ii. Understanding that the representatives would include MoE, Mike Bernier, BCNDP Education Critic, Rob Fleming, and BC Green Party Education Critic?? – Waiting on confirmation.
  - iii. Would we be interested in hosting a livestream event?
- 8.4 May 9th Provincial Election – DPACs across the province are working on promoting education as an election issue e.g. Nonpartisan Candidate Questionnaire for parents – Would we be interested in doing similar activities?
  - Open ended questions on education sent to candidates. Will get an idea of how much thought they put towards these issues. Think of some ideas before April meeting.
- 8.5 BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM – May 4 – 7th in Surrey.
  - i. Requirement of 2 members to attend – Robin, FJ Mitchell Anyone else interested in attending?
  - ii. DPAC Outstanding Parent Involvement Award - Recognition awards will be given to one recipient from each District and due to BCCPAC by April 14, 2017. The recipient for your district should be selected based on dynamic and exemplary leadership and inspirational practices that have had a major, identifiable impact on parent interest and participation in public education at the PAC or DPAC levels. Along with the Application form please include a letter from the DPAC to support your selection, with a brief description of how your Recipient fits the criteria. We ask you to select only one parent from those nominated in your district. – How do

we want to handle this?

- farm PACs, ask principals - who would they like to see nominated? One per district will be selected. Tremendous district parent. Will be submitted to DPAC who will make the selection. Timeline - Need to be submitted by next DPAC Meeting on April 12th.

#### **New business:**

- 9.1 Parent concerns re; Proper warm up procedures for school sports teams. Due to time constraints, warm ups are either shortened and/or not happening, causing unnecessary strains and injuries. Particularly at the higher school levels.
  - First person to bring concerns to is the individual it is about (i.e. coach), then bring to the principal. This is proper respectful protocol for all similar situations regarding parent concerns
- 9.2 BCCPAC Mid-term update
  - DPAC will write a letter to commend them for this detailed report **approved by consensus**

#### **Correspondence:**

From the Board;

- 10.1 Ministry of Education Response letter regarding the removal of the Vancouver School Board - **Action:** To Receive and File

#### **Questions** - From February meeting

- a) Are SD5 employees allowed to work with students after school hours?
- b) Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training – When does the training happen for staff?
  - see attached responses received from Darcy Verbeurgt - District Principal of Student Services and Health Promoting Schools

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday April 12th @ 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:57pm

Julie Botterill - DPAC Secretary  
2017-03-15



March 15, 2017

Derrick Anderson  
A/Director of Public Works  
Cranbrook City Hall  
40-10th Avenue South  
Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 2M8

Dear Derrick Anderson:

I am writing on behalf of the parents of SD5 to express concerns over the current road conditions around School District 5 public schools.

We have had an above average amount of snow fall this year, and we appreciate that, however the lack of snow removal around school areas is putting our children at risk.

We are of the understanding that currently the school board and the city work closely to ensure that the safety of our children is a priority, however, we are not seeing this in and around the school zones in Cranbrook.

Snow has been removed from the bus zones in front of the schools however drop off and pick up zones remain piled with snow and directly across the street from the schools are also piled with snow.

We realize these are mainly residential areas that are not on the priority route map, but truly, given their location they should be a priority.

By not removing the snow from the streets in front of the schools you are creating a one-way traffic zone, and when adding the drop off and pick up chaos to the routine we hope you can start to see our concerns.

As the District Parent Advisory Council, we have been receiving concerned communication from parents for quite some time. Parents have advised us that phone calls to the district and to the city have been made and the issues are still prevalent.

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



We trust that you can find some time to investigate these concerns and look forward to the problem being rectified.

We appreciate your time in considering our request.

Sincerely,

Debbie Therrien

Cc: Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC  
Frank Lento, SD5 Board Chair and Trustees  
Lynn Hauptman, SD5 Superintendent

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



February 21, 2017

Ref: 192482

Debbie Therrien, Chair  
Southeast Kootenay District Parent Advisory Council  
c/o School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
940 Industrial Rd. #1  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6  
**Email: [se.kootenay.dpac@gmail.com](mailto:se.kootenay.dpac@gmail.com)**

Dear Ms. Therrien:

Thank you for your letter of December 14, 2016 addressed to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier and me, expressing support for the Southeast Kootenay Board of Education's request for a mediation process and requesting a by-election in the Vancouver School District. As Minister of Education, I am pleased to respond and apologize for the delay.

I understand the appointment of an official trustee in the Vancouver School District, may be a matter of concern for the Southeast Kootenay District Parent Advisory Council and other parents in the District. I can assure you, the decision to remove the elected board of education and appoint Dianne Turner as official trustee, was not taken lightly. Government made a concerted effort to reach a resolution with the board over many months, and the appointment of Ms. Turner was made only after other avenues to resolve the District's governance and financial issues were exhausted. Please be assured, co-governance remains a key priority for the Ministry of Education and we recognize the importance of resolving issues through collaboration wherever possible.

With respect to your request for a by-election, I am sure you will agree the Vancouver School District has recently gone through a significant governance change. It is important to allow sufficient time to ensure the District's financial affairs are in order, and adapt to their new governance structure before a by-election is contemplated. As such, the appointment of Ms. Turner will be in place for at minimum one year, at which time the Ministry will reassess the status of the appointment and the prospect of a by-election.

.../2

Thank you again for taking the time to write about this important issue. If you have any further concerns or questions regarding this matter, or about the *School Act*, please contact Dave Duerksen, Executive Director, Legislation, Policy and Governance Branch, by phone at (250) 387-8037 or by email at [Dave.Duerksen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Duerksen@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernier", with a small dot at the end.

Mike Bernier  
Minister

pc: Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC  
Frank Lento, SD5 Board Chair and Trustees  
Lynn Hauptman, SD5 Superintendent  
BCCPAC

Agenda item(s) from Feb meeting – responses received from Darcy Verbeurgt  
District Principal of Student Services and Health Promoting Schools

- 9.6 SD5 employees – The question was asked: are employees allowed to work with students after school hours? Jason reported that employees have many opportunities to work with students after school hours in positions such as Hospital/Homebound, tutors, etc. There isn't a policy per se. He recommended that an email be sent directly to Darcy Verbeurgt, Principal of Student Services.
- Jason is correct there is no policy on working with students after hours, but there is certainly practice. I hope the explanation below helps clarify things. This explanation is about practice and an employee's responsibility to the employer.
    - The District has specific obligations to provide educational service outside of the regular school building and instructional time.
      - We will hire teaching staff to provide services to students in the hospital.
      - We will hire teaching staff to provide services to students who are homebound.
      - We hire teachers and sometimes Aboriginal Education Support Workers to provide tutoring services for students of aboriginal ancestry.
    - Many of the district staff have skills that are sought after by students and parents. Staff can always volunteer their time outside of the instructional hours of the school day and there is not a problem. The issue often comes into play about when they do it for pay.
    - **Teachers** are on salary. They are required to be on a district site when they are being paid for it. They have a responsibility to provide education for the students registered to them. They cannot ask for pay for tutoring and homework help to these students.
    - **Speech-Language Pathologists** are paid salary and have an expected day of work that extends beyond the instructional hours of the day. On the days they work, they would be expected to provide between 7 and 7.5 hours of work for the District per day. They have a responsibility to provide services to students on their school caseload or who should be on their caseload. They cannot ask for pay to provide for additional services to these students.
    - The **School Psychologist** is bound to provide assessments for the school district during their employment with the district. They are not allowed to freelance to other districts or to private requests.
    - **Education Assistants** are paid hourly and can work beyond the hours they are employed by the district. There is generally no restriction on who they work with.

- **District staff** can provide paid for tutoring services to access their skills and knowledge; however, they should be doing so outside of the regular work day. They should also not be using district equipment/supplies (such as their laptop or the school photocopier). They **should not be using district equipment/supplies or school space to personally profit** from (there may indeed be a policy on this but I cannot find it right now).

9.7 Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training – When does the training happen for staff? Jason suggested that an email to Darcy would be appropriate as this is under his responsibility.

- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention is the trademark of the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI). NCI training had a significant focus on the restraint of students. We trained people in NCI up to August 2016.
- We have moved away from the program offered by CPI and have recently (January) certified three Mandt System trainers in the district.
- From the Mandt System website:
  - The Mandt System is a comprehensive, integrated approach to preventing, de-escalating, and if necessary, intervening when the behavior of an individual poses a threat of harm to themselves and/or others. The focus of The Mandt System is on building healthy relationships between all the stakeholders in human service settings in order to facilitate the development of an organizational culture that provides the emotional, psychological, and physical safety needed in order to teach new behaviors to replace the behaviours that are labeled “challenging”. The Mandt System integrates knowledge about the neurobiological impact of childhood trauma with the principles of positive behavior support and provides a framework that empowers service providers to do their work in a way that minimizes the use of coercion in behaviour change methodologies.
- Mandt training will kick off with a large training in early to mid-May with a focus on specific, the Mandt trainers (myself and two others) have been using the language of the program with school staff and with district management.
- Ideally, I would like to train all staff, every position, district-wide, on the first three chapters of Mandt which focuses building relationships, preventing behavioral escalation. It would take about 5 years to meet this training goal.

