

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

In Attendance

EXECUTIVE: Debbie - Mount Baker Secondary (Chair), Sarah - Pinewood Elementary (Vice-Chair), Melinda - Parkland Middle (Treasurer)

DPAC REPS and PARENTS: John - Highlands Elementary, Marie - Laurie Middle, Ute - Fernie Secondary

REGRETS: Julie - Gordon Terrace Elementary (Secretary), Robin - FJ Mitchell Elementary

PARTNER GROUPS and GUESTS: Jason Tichauer - Director of Instruction/Ab Ed, Shelley Balfour - CDTA President (notetaker)

REGRETS: Lynn Hauptman - Superintendent, Trina Ayling - Trustee, Chris Johns - Trustee

Call to Order: 6:34pm

Acknowledgement of the traditional lands of the Ktunaxa people

Agenda: Approved as amended

Additions:

9.5 Snow removal at schools – who advocates for removal?

9.6 SD5 Staff working with children outside of school hours

9.7 Training for Non-Violence Crisis intervention – When is training happening for staff?

9.8 Notification re; staff changes

Amendment – meeting starts at 6:30 not 6:00 on March 15th, 2017

Minutes: (December 14th, 2016) meeting minutes approved as amended

- amended to reflect the change that Melinda is DPAC Rep for Parkland Middle School

Treasurer Report

General Account:

HSBC – Closing balance: \$11, 746.24 + \$.14 Interest

BMO – Opening balance: \$11, 746.38

Gaming Account:

HSBC – Closing balance: \$1300.87 + \$.02 Interest

BMO – Opening balance: \$1300.89

Superintendent Report: Attached and presented by Jason Tichauer

Highlights included;

- I. Supreme Court decision (Priority Measures Fund) \$550,000+ was SD5's share of the \$50 Million which equates to around 10 full-time teachers across District for half a year. The vast majority of postings are for specialist and co-teacher positions.
- II. Lieutenant Governor, Judith Guichon will be visiting HES, MBSS and PMS as well as the College of the Rockies for the Regional Science Fair on March 10th, 2017.
- III. The new Graduation Plan is available on Ministry of Education website. All parents are encouraged to look at the new plan. Full implementation will be staggered for Fall of 2018 starting with Grade 10 students.
- IV. Roger's Home Town Hockey starts at PMS on Friday afternoon.

Trustee Report: See attached

Business from previous Minutes:

- 8.1 Public Input for Rural Education – Accepting feedback until March 15th, 2017 at 4:00 pm (PST). Add your voice at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca./ruraleducation/> Closest Regional meeting is in Trail, BC on Friday, February 24th, 2017 from 6-8pm. Is anyone interested in attending? If so, contact the Chair. The Chair will enquire as to whether SD5 Trustees or staff will be attending on the District's behalf.
- 8.2 DPAC Letters of Support:
 - a. \$1 Million Funding to Specialized Education Schools – approved by consensus
 - b. SD5 Needs Budget – approved by consensus

New business:

- 9.1 BCCPAC – President John Bird's resigned thus the following changes have occurred; New Acting President - Dr. Farah Shroff, Vice-President - Jen Mezei, Treasurer and Acting CEO - Gord Byers
- 9.2 BCCPAC All-Party Forum on Education is April 4th, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the James

Cowan Theatre in Burnaby. DPACs are being asked to submit questions for the forum. More information at March meeting.

9.3 BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM, May 4th – 7th at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey, BC. Nominations being accepted until February 28, 2017, for the following two-year term BCCPAC executive positions; President (one year term), First Vice-President, Treasurer and 2 Directors. DPAC is looking for 2 members from SD5 to attend as the Chair will be stepping down at the Oct AGM. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Chair before the April DPAC meeting as the voting will take place then.

9.4 May 9th, 2017 Provincial Election – Public Education should be an election issue. DPACs will be working to make it so. DPAC – e.g. get people out to vote, give parents questions to ask candidates when they knock on the door, etc.

9.5 Snow removal at schools – Concerns were raised about whose responsibility it is to clear in front of the schools and the adjacent street. Jason Tichauer reported that SD5 is to remove snow from in front of the schools through private contractors and the City is responsible for the streets.

Motion: DPAC write a letter to the city expressing parent concerns and dissatisfaction

Moved By: Melinda

Carried

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.

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.

9.8 Staff Change notification – No information was provided to parents regarding Bill Johnson's move to Highlands Elementary in January, 2017. Fernie was wondering why? Jason reported that usually there is a press release when new administrators are arriving at the school. The new principal at FSS is a temporary assignment so there wouldn't have been a formal announcement.

9.9 Motion 01-17: That DPAC cancel the Jan 18/2017 general monthly meeting with any necessary items being dealt with via email and at the next regular scheduled meeting date of Wed, Feb 15/2017.

Motion; Sarah – Pinewood Elementary, Second; Melinda – Parkland Middle School

In favour; 9 Against; 0 Abstained; 2

CARRIED

Correspondence:

From the Board;

10.1 Jan letter to Honourable Linda Larson re; Rural Ed. Plan – received and filed

Next Meeting: March 15th, 2017 @ 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:59pm

Julie Botterill, DPAC Secretary

2017-03-09

Formatting of notes only



January 9, 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: \$1 Million Funding to “Specialized Education Schools”

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 October 11, 2016 letter;

Re: Government commitment to funding of an additional \$1 Million to Specialized Education Schools, with zero special education funding increase for public school districts.

It is our understanding that every child is entitled to an education that will allow them to develop to their fullest potential, if this is truly the case then all schools should receive additional funding for Special Education, not just the private sector. It is a real disappointment that the government would overlook this aspect of their decision and marginalize some of our most vulnerable children.

In the letter our Trustees have outlined the importance of increased funding for all student and pointed out the various demographics in BC the government has failed to address in making this decision.

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

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



“asks the government reconcile their prejudicially exclusive funding of Special Education Schools” and provide the same \$2000 increase in funding to ALL students in the public education system that have been designated as special needs.”

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

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



January 30, 2017

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

Honourable Michael De Jong
Minister of Finance and Government House Leader
PO Box 9048 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 Ministers De Jong and Bernier:

RE: SD5 Needs Budget for 2016/2017

The School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) would like to not only express our support but we commend our Board of Education for their advocacy and policies that best support the students of our district as outlined in their October 14th, 2016 letter;

“...School District 5 (SD5) Southeast Kootenay Needs Budget for 2016/2017. As per Board policy, this budget is sent to your Ministry each year following our legislated, balanced budget.”

However, we are completely dismayed that they must continue to take these necessary steps considering the potential return of proper investment in the future leaders of our province.

As your own Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (SSCFGS) continues to identify and recommend the need for adequate and sustainable investment in education, clearly this is NOT a district issue.

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



As tax payers, parents no longer believe the “highest funding per-pupil” headline that usually appears at budget announcement time. They are all too aware that inflation and downloaded costs (e.g. hydro, medical, carbon offsets, mandatory programs, training, and resources etc.) can quickly equate into less in their child’s schools and classrooms from year to year.

However, they are surprised to learn that while *“K-12 education continues to be significantly underfunded and the SSCFGS recommendations unheeded”* their elected officials choose to, *“pay down debt faster than scheduled in last year’s budget rather than invest that money in such an essential service as education”* or *“given the funding challenges faced by all 60 Boards of Education across the province, government is still focused on a \$100 million “Prosperity Fund” whose “lead priority” is debt retirement.”*

Even more surprising is *“why government continues to choose investment in private over public education year over year as illustrated by the 61.7% funding increase independent schools have received since 2005, in comparison to the paltry 19.7% increase provided to public education during that same period.”*

With subsequent budget surplus and BCTF Supreme court announcements, parents can only wait anxiously in hopes there will be no further costs passed on to our Boards of Education and districts.

As for SD5 DPAC, we remain ever hopeful that “highest funding” will magically equate into political will that allows for adequate, sustainable, predictable funding that allows all students to reach their highest potential and our Board’s Needs Budget policy to gather dust.

Sincerely,

Debbie Therrien
SD5 (Southeast Kootenay)
DPAC Chair

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



Cc: Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC
Frank Lento, SD5 Board Chair and Trustees
Lynn Hauptman, SD5 Superintendent
Dr. Farah Shroff, BCCPAC Acting President
Jen Mezei, BCCPAC Vice-President
SD5 PAC Chairs

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