

**Southeast Kootenay  
District Parent Advisory Council  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

**In Attendance:**

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

**DPAC REPS and PARENTS:** Marie - Laurie Middle School (notetaker), John – Highlands Elementary, Jen – Steeples Elementary

**REGRETS:** Julie - Gordon Terrace Elementary (Secretary), Ute - Fernie Secondary, Robin - FJ Mitchell

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

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

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

**Agenda:** Approved as amended

Additions:

9.3 May Meeting date

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

**Treasurer Report:** Report not currently available, will be e-mailed out to members.

**Superintendent Report:** Presented by Lynn Hauptman

**Trustee Report:** Presented by Trina Ayling

**Business from Previous Minutes:**

- 8.1 Updating DPAC Bylaws and Handbook- Thank you to Sarah and Julie for donating their time. Although amendments are not completed, it will be sent to reps for feedback of the proposed amendments.

**Action:** The Chair to send out proposed updates to DPAC reps only. Reps are responsible for reading and providing feedback to any/all proposed amendments.

Questions: How do we ensure the integrity of the proposed email voting process, to;

- a) provide proof to the membership that an email vote was sent and received by all members?
  - b) that sufficient time was allowed for all members to vote e.g. cancelation of meeting due to extreme weather etc.?
- 8.2 BCCPAC All-Party Forum on Education- April 4th. DPAC submitted the attached four questions for BCCPAC consideration. Although DPAC cancelled the “live-stream event” due to minimal parent interest, BCCPAC recorded the event.  
**Action:** The Chair will forward the recorded forum to members and interested parties.
- 8.3 May 9th – Provincial Election – DPAC would like to make members aware of the JCI Kootenay Hosted All Candidates Forum Tues April 18th Key City Theatre. Doors open at 6:30pm, with the forum running from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. This event is open to all area residents and is free of charge.
- 8.4 BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM – May 4 – 7th in Surrey B.C
- I. DPAC will be sending two representatives, Debbie – Mount Baker Secondary and new member, Robin – FJ Mitchel Elementary.
  - II. BCCPAC’s DPAC Outstanding Parent Involvement Award – Nomination deadline was extended to April 24<sup>th</sup>. DPAC will decide via email, how best to handle, who will be involved etc. once nominations are received.

#### **New business:**

- 9.1 Parent letter re; Social Media – DPAC is once again being asked to join our education partners in signing an updated letter. Has been a valuable resource to Principals etc.  
**Motion: That DPAC sign the updated Social media letter.**  
Motioned; Sarah – Pinewood Second; Melinda – Parkland **CARRIED**  
Discussion around a 60 Minute documentary re; how social media platforms use brain science to get and keep people addicted to social media use and its long-term effects. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-viewers-object-to-the-idea-of-brain-hacking/>  
BCTF offers free speakers that can help educate around social media trends, safety etc. for PACs and DPAC.  
Action: The Chair will forward the link to help make parents aware of this documentary.
- 9.2 Parent feedback to Revised Policy 2.2 Maintenance of Order - Section 177  
As these are legislated changes there is minimal feedback allowed although DPAC will request the 30-day appeal time to be included on the main letter.  
As parents may not be aware of Section 177, DPAC will request PAC Chairs to

Read this policy at their meetings.

Discussion regarding the possible need to educate parents on the steps to getting parent concerns addressed (person first, Principal, Superintendent etc. dates/time recorded and email being preferred, if possible).

Further discussion regarding need for parents and teachers to reconnect and align through respect to better support students and school communities.

**Motion: That DPAC extend the meeting time by ten minutes to attend to remaining agenda items.**

Motioned; Marie – Laurie

Second; Sarah – Pinewood

**CARRIED**

- 9.3 May Meeting Date – due to the provincial election the SD5 Board meeting has been changed to Mon, May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 pm.

**Approved by Consensus:** That DPAC move the regular meeting date from Wed, May 10<sup>th</sup> to Wed, May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

**Correspondence:**

From the Board;

- 10.1 Support of BCSTA letter re; Supplementary funding being transformed into predicable, ongoing funding. Action: To Receive and File

- 10.2 Hon. Jan Philpot re; Request for Additional Provincial Funding for Child and Youth Mental Health Services

**Motion:** That DPAC write a letter of support for the Board’s request and copied to designated recipients.

Motioned; Sarah – Pinewood

Second; Melinda – Parkland **Carried**

- 10.3 Letter to SD43.

Action: To Receive and File

Discussion regarding how Board advocacy efforts are shared with parents. All advocacy letters can be found on the SD5 website

<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/Board/advocacy/Pages/default.aspx>

**Questions:** Nil

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday May 17th @ 6:30 -8:00 pm

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:10pm

- 1) Across the province there are many ageing, non-seismic schools that are in significant need of replacement. Year over year, these out-dated and inefficient schools continue to be identified on district capital plans, and despite extensive community consultation processes that some districts have undergone to identify neighbourhood learning centre style replacements to better support 21st century learning, these schools have still not even been considered for replacement. How are you going to ensure that all schools in the province that are identified for replacement are replaced in a timely manner, and not just those in need of seismic upgrades?
- 2) The need for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding in the BC education system has been identified, supported and advocated for across the province via educational partner groups and the Select Standing Committee on Finances and Government Services year over year, but it has yet to be addressed. While we recognize that government must be fiscally responsible, we also know that it is the political will of government that determines how much and from whom it will extract taxes and where it will invest the money it collects. Do you have the political will to invest in education? If yes, how would you do it? If no, why not?
- 3) Attracting and retaining school staff, administrators and specialized professionals to rural areas of our province has always been a struggle, and for districts along the Alberta border the wage difference alone can escalate that struggle. While parents are happy to see the return to smaller, reconfigured classrooms that are coming about due to the teachers' Supreme Court win, this situation will further intensify the demand for these same professionals. What strategies, funding models or incentives should government undertake to ensure that Districts will be able to hire, and retain, the necessary and specialized professionals they will require to meet the renewed education standards the teachers' court win has brought about?
- 4) Consultation is a main stay in the educational world. However, parents often feel that the current process is undertaken to "simply check the box" and that their opinions, concerns and/or suggestions are not really heard. It further erodes parent's belief that they can effect change and are educational partners when it appears that their own duly elected representatives, Boards of Education, are not being consulted and/or listened to either. What is your definition of authentic consultation and what practices and procedures would you implement to ensure its use?