

**Southeast Kootenay
District Parent Advisory Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 22, 2020**

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

‘Acknowledgement of the meeting taking place on the lands of the Ktunaxa people’

In Attendance:

Executive: Karen - TM Roberts Elementary (Treasurer), Lies – Highlands Elementary (Secretary), Michelle – Gordon Terrace Elementary (Vice Chair), Tara - TM Roberts Elementary (Chair),

DPAC Reps and Parents: Danielle – Steeples Elementary, Jennifer - Amy Woodland Elementary- Alysha - Jaffray Elementary/Jr. Secondary, Ute- Fernie Secondary, Tathlina- Rocky Mountain Elementary

Partner Groups and Guests: Silke Yardley- Superintendent, Chris Gilbinski- FDTA, Wendy Turner- Trustee

Regrets: Shelley Balfour- CDTA

Agenda: Approved as circulated

Minutes: (March 11, 2020) Approved as circulated

Treasurer Report: See attached prepared by Karen, Treasurer- Approved as circulated

Superintendent Report: Presented by Superintendent Silke Yardley

Highlights Include:

- March 18 the world changed. District staff received some indication of what was to come, but they organized a meeting before spring break was over. The Ministry of Education was not clear on what was to happen going forward. Immediately, the SD 5 team made a plan as the realization of how learning would have to occur set in. They created a learning plan which started rolling out in the first week of April. The M of E had indicated to begin by April 6 so SD5 is way ahead of the provincial curve. The SD5 has all of the learning plans and much more useful information on it. The learning plans include the teachers checking on their students once per week and especially the vulnerable students. Some have still not made contact so that is the focus this week. Also there are weekly letters from the Superintendent updating all that is taking place at SD5. The 4 areas outlined by the M of E that the School Districts need to focus on are:
 1. Safety- managing social distancing and clean schools for all teachers and students who need to be in the buildings as the schools are not closed.

2. Essential Services- Tier 1 and Tier 2 kids who require 'school care'. These are children who are not able to learn at home or whose parents are required to work and have no child care. This looks like 4 children per class and the kids still must do their teacher directed work during this time.

Guidelines include no children who are sick and managing children who are not good at social distancing. The guidelines etc. are posted on the SD5 website.

3. Ensuring that vulnerable students are cared for. The M of E is concerned about the welfare of vulnerable students, mainly who this process is not working for. Students who do not have access to internet or technology, students who are not being engaged. Also of concern are Grade 2s and their ability to read and Grade 12s meeting criteria for graduation.

4. Continuity of Learning is a concern for the M of E as well. The curriculum is different now with more focus on key concepts. Hours of education expected is on website. Making sure that parents are getting the support to help their children at home. Help is also available on the website.

- Again, key areas of concern are reading for Grade 2s. Schools have been asked to identify kids not reading at the Grade 2 level. Carol Johns has been asked to help support these children for the Grade 2 Literacy Project. It has been proven that ½ hour per day for 66 sessions improves reading one grade level. Each school to date has students that they are concerned with for reading levels.
- Another area of concern is that vulnerable learners going to school are not able to social distance. Jason Tichauer is communicating with Safe Schools and all schools need to follow the Provincial Health Officers social distancing policy.
- Silke has stated that SD5 is in a good place overall, trying not to overwhelm parents and kids with the online learning process. Feedback from parents stating that the older kids seem to be doing well but lower grades struggling with concentrating. Silke stated that K-9 has already had the majority of their learning as Jan- Mar was the prime learning period for them. High school students who use the semester system will be at a disadvantage trying to finish up their last courses for points to graduate. Grade 8s and 9s should be concentrating more on maths. Students can still expect a report card that will be more about their level of participation etc.
- Currently the SD is feeding 130+ families with mini hampers being given out to kids. If anyone is aware of families who are being missed in this process, please contact the district. Youth care workers, teachers, principals and EAs are all pitching in to help. At Laurie School, an EA is sending home ingredients and recipes to some families. Please pass on if anyone is aware of needs involving technology, food, and school care.

Questions/Discussion from report:

Trustee Report: Wendy Turner

Highlights included:

- Trustees had a meeting via Zoom. They are suspending some of the 'normal' parts of their meetings and all Ad Hoc and Standing Committees.

- Schools have had enhanced cleaning and they feel like it is safer than going to the grocery store. SD is following the Ministry directive for safety of staff and students.
- The Trustees are on track for submitting final budget.
- The Board feels like SD5 and Silke Yardley are doing an excellent job dealing with this unforeseen complication of Covid 19. They are doing a great job with ensuring the Continuity of Learning within the SD5 being ahead of the provincial curve. A big thank you to all workers in SD5 from the Trustees. Superintendent response to that is that it is the team making it all happen and she is the facilitator. The small community has been great and she is just the Team Leader.

Questions/Discussion from report: None

Individual PAC discussion:

- Rocky Mountain is doing a teacher’s parade through town on Thursday. Fernie commented that they did that with the elementary school as well. Superintendent offered that the SD5 is looking for pictures to be sent in to post on the SD5 Facebook page- School District of South East Kootenay.
- Jaffray PAC is having a meeting to discuss the realm of what their PAC is expected to pay for ie: online learning programs that may be required for the COVID-19 at home learning. Superintendent Yardley stated that PACs may spend their money on whatever they choose. Highlands added that they had the same situation for a funding request and denied the request suggesting it come from the school’s operating budget.

Business from previous meetings:

- BCCPAC AGM and conference cancelled due to the COVID-19. All PAC people may attend the meeting via ZOOM. Invites have been emailed to all PACS.

New Business:

- DPAC has funds should be used in the Gaming Fund as well as a healthy bank account. Discussion about spending monies on parent resources, office supplies for executive working from home, and any other ideas. Superintendent Yardley suggested a teleconference speaker?
- **(042022.1)** Motion to accept the amended DPAC Constitution and Bylaws.
Motion: Gordon Terrace **Second:** Steeples **CARRIED**
- As per the new Constitution and Bylaws, DPAC members may now vote via email.

Correspondence:

- ‘From the Desk of Silke Yardley, Superintendent’, weekly newsletters and updates emailed to all stakeholders in SD5 Mondays

Questions/ Comments: none

Next meeting: May 13, 2020

Meeting adjourned: 7:34 pm.

Notetaker: Highlands Elementary

Date: April 22, 2020