

**Southeast Kootenay
District Parent Advisory Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday Sept. 11, 2019**

1. Call to Order: 6:35pm

'Acknowledgement of the meeting taking place on the traditional lands of the Ktunaxa people'

2. In Attendance

2.1 Executive: TM Roberts (Tara - Chair), Highlands (Lies - Secretary)

DPAC Reps and Parents: Jaffray Elementary/Jr. Secondary Alysha, Rocky Mountain Elementary-Tathlina, Fernie Secondary- Tanya, Highlands- Leanna

Regrets: none

2.2 Partner Groups and Guests: Silke Yardley- Superintendent, Shelley Balfour- CDTA, Wendy Turner- School Board Trustee, Debbie Therrien- Interim/outgoing Treasurer

Regrets: none

3. Agenda: Approved as circulated/amended

3.1 The minutes from April were circulated so they were replaced with May minutes.

3.2 Request from Treasurer that 10.1 be moved to 5.1 to save time

3.3 Request by CDTA to add a discussion regarding Ivan Coyote as item 10.4

4. Minutes: (May 15, 2019) meeting minutes approved as circulated/amended

5. Treasurer Report: Debbie Therrien see attached.

5.1 Options for paperless options this year for Gaming Grant reconciliation.

5.2 **Motion (09195.2)** for DPAC to pay one membership fee for BCCPAC of \$71.60 to use up the rest of gaming funds.

Motion: Fernie Secondary Second: Highlands CARRIED

5.3 Gift presented to Debbie Therrien to thank her for years of service to DPAC

6. Superintendent Report: Silke Yardley

Highlights included;

6.1 Silke is enjoying being in SD 5 and getting to know the area and schools.

6.2 K- 12 new curriculum now fully implemented, including a change to 10-12 grading practices. Grade 10s and 12/s are assessed but not grade 11s as per the new practice. Still some assessment methods to be determined, but all generally under way. It seemed that straight-A students were struggling more with new curriculum assessments than trade-type students on initial assessment. Literacy learning is also assessed similar to the other processes.

6.3 Kootenay Learning Campus is an amazing addition to the SD 5 community benefitting many students of all ages.

6.4 The Reporting Pilot is a part of the Ministry of Education and is now in their second year of the project. A committee is going to review the results of surveys from the parents and possibly the teachers at a later date, regarding effectiveness of the new curriculum. The hope is that new year will be a smooth year as it will be the 2nd full year of the curriculum.

6.5 The Superintendent met with all of the Principals in the district and distributed a survey regarding their opinion on what is needed to improve their schools. The topic chosen was Student Services due to the growing demand for individual help with students. There will be a day dedicated by the group in October to share ideas amongst schools with regards to the needs in Student Services. Also noted was concerns with Numeracy and Core Competency.

6.6 The Superintendent would like to attend PAC meetings at the individual schools to get a feeling and an understanding of the needs of different schools in the district and to get to know more about the area.

Questions/Discussion from report:

6.1 Fernie Secondary posed a question regarding finding out students reports from last year. Superintendent responded that it should have been sent electronically and if not to contact the specific school for that information.

6.4 Fernie Secondary posed a question regarding what is meant by 'Student Services' and the focus of that area. Depending on which school is being discussed, the Principals would like to network with other schools in the District regarding how they run their Student Services departments because of the importance of supporting their most vulnerable students.

7. Trustee Report: Wendy Turner

Highlights included:

7.1 Trustee announced that she is please to not be participating on the bargaining team anymore at this time due to the time commitment and has more time now to focus on other aspects of the job.

7.2 Many items to report from the June term: Motion was passed for a revised study on field trip forms and protocol, to keep extra-curricular students safer. Trustee Johns presented to the Select Standing Committee regarding the need for Mt. Baker to be replaced. A media release was sent out announcing the former Superintendent retirement and then a release on the successful applicant for the position- Silke Yardley.

7.3 Trustee Johns reported on the needs for repairs in the music and drama rooms at Mt. Baker.

7.4 The School Board had collected a lot of information on the background of Isabella Dicken School in Fernie and it is now on display in the boardroom at the School Board office. They are running out of room so the suggestion is to move the displays in to the individual schools for others to enjoy the history.

7.5 The new budget for SD 5 was approved in June and looks like in good shape with more students than had been forecasted.

Questions/Discussion from report:

7.2 Superintendent Yardley gave some background info on her career as per a request from the Trustee: She became a teacher at 40 years old. Speaks fluent German and loves teaching Grade 4-6 the most. Her career has included teaching all different grades, then moving into principal positions, the first being the first female principal in a middle school in the Okanagan. From there, was a member of the curriculum writing team in Vernon and after that applied for the job in Cranbrook.

8. Individual PAC discussion:

8.1 Jaffray- concerns regarding the safety of school buses on rural routes following a dangerous accident on Hwy 3 by Hosmer last week that involved a school bus, motorhome, and a semi. Concerns that on the highway speeds of 100km/hr, motorists are not stopping posing a danger to the school buses and students. Request for cameras to be installed on all buses. Chair McKee will write letters to Alan Rice to request a follow up to the concern. Also suggested to write a letter to RCMP requesting increased presence in school zones and by highway school buses. Trustee Turner suggested also writing a letter to the editor of the Daily Townsman.

8.2 Fernie - very good turnout to the first PAC meeting of the year. Despite enrollment being up, a new portable was not necessary. Students do feel an impact of being isolated by being schooled in portables for many years in primary school. A budget of 9-12 million has been approved for renovations to the school so an architect is now drawing up several plans.

8.3 Highlands- welcome dinner of chili and taco in a bag is Thurs. Sept. 16

8.4 TM- meeting tonight so nothing to add

Business from previous meetings:

9.1 NTR

New Business:

10.1 moved to 5.1

10.2 AGM is Oct. 9 so the executive will send out a call for candidates for treasurer and vice-chair.

10.3 BCCPAC Summit is in November so the executive needs to know by Oct. 14 who is interested in attending that conference in Vancouver.

10.4 CDTA Balfour spoke about a 4- way partnership bringing Ivan Coyote to Cranbrook for 3 shows on Oct. 16. 2 daytimes for the schools and 1 evening for parents etc. There was discussion on reaching out to Fernie which they had with no response. Further discussion was

on how approachable Ivan is and how many kids they impact by speaking about the challenges they have faced as a transgender.

11. Correspondence:

11.1 None

12. Questions/ Comments

12.1 Highlands commented that they were meeting with the Townsman next week regarding donations to PAC and what work that will entail for Christmas.

13. Next meeting: Wed. Oct. 9, 2019 6 pm for AGM and regular meeting 6:30 pm

14. Meeting adjourned: 7:38 pm.

Notetaker: Highlands Elementary

Date: Sept.11, 2019