

**Southeast Kootenay
District Parent Advisory Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 13, 2020**

Call to Order: 6:30pm

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

In Attendance:

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

DPAC Reps and Parents: Danielle – Steeples Elementary, Alysha - Jaffray Elementary/Jr. Secondary, Ute- Fernie Secondary, Tathlina- Rocky Mountain Elementary, Robin - FJ Mitchell Elementary

Regrets: Jennifer - Amy Woodland Elementary

Partner Groups and Guests: Silke Yardley- Superintendent, Wendy Turner- Trustee, Shelley Balfour- CDTA, Chris Kielpinski- FDTA,

Regrets: None

Agenda: Approved as circulated

Minutes: (April 22, 2020) Approved as circulated

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

Superintendent Report: Presented by Superintendent Silke Yardley

Highlights Include:

- Continuing to send home Superintendent report/CBO every Monday.
- Essential Services workers' children attendance numbers in schools increasing to 40 by next week and are almost in every school.
- Rocking Readers has begun for kids not reaching their reading goals for Grade 2 and under. There are 110 students benefitting from this program which gives the teachers and EAs a time to connect with the children. 70 staff are involved through Zoom twice per week and then Friday games as well. The goal of the program is to build a love of literacy. They will hold a Zoom meeting soon with all staff to examine the progress.
- Grade 12 concerns- SD5 feels like the pandemic should not adversely affect Grad. Principals are working with parents and teachers to ensure students meant to graduate are meeting all requirements to finish their courses. There will be a meeting soon to discuss what grad may look like this year.
- There will be a much-anticipated announcement Friday May 15 from the Ministry of Education and the Premier regarding what the re-opening of schools will look like for

the end of this school year and the beginning of the next. SD 5 has a working group with meetings next week to discuss an action plan moving forward. The committee consists of representatives from the FDTA and CDTA, Principals, DPAC, the Superintendent, Director of Staff, CUPE. In the planning stages and waiting for what the directive is from the Province, it looks like the younger grades will be the focus K-5 and older kids are voluntary. There will be a survey put out to parents to gather feedback as well. They are planning 4 stages of return to school. Stage 4 is where we are currently with a goal of moving to Stage 1 being full return to school. The idea of this sliding scale is to move between the stages based on what Covid 19 dictates. Parents may hear from SD5 as early as next week depending on the announcement Friday.

Questions/Discussion from report:

- TM asked if DPAC feedback is necessary at this meeting today. Answer is that not today until the directive is sent out by the Province and there is more understanding of the expectation.
- FJ Mitchell asked why they are opening schools back up in June when there may be a max of 8 school days for kids- what is the urgency? Answer is because the Covid numbers in IH Authority are only 1 case in the past 3 days. Also another reason is that essential workers need their younger children in care (school) so they can continue working but that would only be effective if there was 0-5 care available as well for younger siblings. Some vulnerable children would benefit from being able to attend school as well- students who are struggling with home learning and special needs. There are only 2 other provinces planning to bring kids back to school in June.
- RMES asked if they have to do Stage 3 before stage 2 and the answer is yes and they won't see full opening or Stage 1 until at least Sept.

Trustee Report: Wendy Turner

Highlights included:

- Adding to what the Superintendent is saying, parents will have a choice whether their kids go back to school in June. SD5 will not have a choice about making a plan etc. but the plan will have to be approved by the Board. The kids moving back in to school are the vulnerable children, K-5s and kids of essential workers. SD5 has excellent protocols in place currently to keep the students and teachers safe. Typically there will be 30% of kids the first day, 50-60% after a few days and then 80% after about a week. We all need to wait until after Friday's announcement to determine how the future looks.
- A local Aboriginal artist 'Marissa' has designed a new logo submitted by the AB Ed Dept.
- A team made up of Chris Johns Trustee, Alan Rice, and Darcy Verbeught have put together a presentation on behalf of SD5 to present to the Select Standing Committee at the end of June. The presentation addresses 3 important topics for SD%.
 - Music and band improvements for Mt. Baker
 - Isabella Dickens does not want any more portables and wants new classrooms instead.
 - Request for more funding for Student Services and Special Education.

- Finally, the Board of Trustees is required to present a balanced budget by June 30th and they are on target to accomplish that.

Questions/Discussion from report: None

Individual PAC discussion:

- Rocky Mountain – Having their AGM in June, skipping May meeting.
- Jaffray -NTR
- Highlands- Mother’s Day flower baskets were distributed
- Fernie Secondary- One of their members attended the BCCPAC meetings so she will send an email to find out who did and get feedback.
- TM- Had a PAC meeting last Thursday. They are going forward with their planned playground! Mother’s Day flower baskets were distributed.
- Steeples- Distributed flower baskets as well. Waiting for Sept for any spending decisions etc.
- FJ Mitchell- Having a PAC meeting Monday to plan for Sept.

Business from previous meetings:

- BCCPAC AGM was attended by TM and RMES. Not the same as attending in person obviously making a conference in to a 2 hour Zoom meeting. TM commented that no invite was received so that will be investigated as to why.
- Spending ideas- a suggestion to pay for Jody Carrington author of “Kids These Days” online course and materials. Is there a digital copy available? Amendment the following day that SD5 has already purchased this and there was an email sent the following day for all parents to access through an email link!

New Business:

- FDTA representative made a plea for funding for specific readers for Kids Grades 1-3. Great success with these readers and they last a long time. He is requesting that PACs consider funding for these. Highlands asked for more info to be sent out to PAC chairs regarding cost etc.

Correspondence: NTR

Questions/ Comments: None

Next meeting: June 10, 2020

Meeting adjourned: 7:26 pm.

Notetaker: Highlands Elementary

Date: May 13, 2020