

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2023

6:00-7:30 PM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Video Conferencing via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome - Called to Order: 6:04 PST

We acknowledge, respect, and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District #8.

Attendance: Natalia Nazarov - DPAC Chair/MSSS&Elev8 DPAC Rep/DPAC Gov&Policy Rep/Advocacy Coordinator; Michelle Sylvest - DPAC Treasurer/Hume DPAC Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC Secretary/CBESS&LVR parent/DPAC EdCom Rep; Lorien Quattrocchi - Hume DPAC Rep; Colleen Bayly - DPAC Rep for Creston HL and Erickson Elem/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep; Jackie Routien - DPAC rep Trafalgar; Chris Goggins - PAC Chair Redfish; Michelle Harris - MSSS PAC Chair; Deana Postnikoff - MSSS parent; Trish Smillie - Superintendent of School/CEO; Tamara Malloff - District Principal Innovative Learning; Ben Eaton - Director of Instruction, Innovative Learning; Lisa O'Conner - HL Nelson DPAC Rep; Martine Diamond - Wildflower Nelson Chair; Sheri Pawlyshyn - Salmo PAC Chair/DPAC Rep & Salmo Secondary parent; Kris Smith - parent at LV/TF; Candace Pongratz - Blewett DPAC Rep; Lisa Wilkinson - Crawford Bay School DPAC Rep; Mathilde Armour Piccirilli - Creston Wildflower DPAC Rep; Lauren Rethoret - Wildflower DPAC Rep; Cheri-Ann MacKinlay - CLES DPAC Rep; Breanne Tyler Rice - Redfish Treasurer/DPAC Op&Fin Com Rep; Jaeden Woodland - DPAC Rep Jewett; Nicole Rhynold - DPAC Rep JVH; Lenora Trenamen - Trustee North/East Shores & Board Chair; Julie Bremner - Trustee Nelson/Bealby Point; Allan Gribbin - Trustee Creston South Rural; Pamela Hanson - Salmo Secondary Treasurer & DPAC Rep; Megan Malone - Hume DPAC Rep;

2. Establishment of Quorum

- Yes, based on representatives identified in the chat as the duly elected DPAC rep for their PAC.

3. Approval of October 14th, 2022 AGM Minutes

- Natalia motioned/Lisa seconded

4. Chair's Report

- Natalia shared a statement. A Year of challenges. See full report at end of minutes

5. Treasurer's Report – presentation of Financial Statements, see screen shot below

DPAC FYE Report 2022-23		
OPERATING STATEMENT		
GENERAL ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance - October 1, 2022	12,574.53	
Total Revenue	4,900.00	
Total Expenses	2,249.52	
Closing Balance	10,325.01	
GAMING ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance - October 1, 2022	2266.03	
Total Revenue	2,500.00	
Total Expenses	1,836.80	
Closing Balance	2,929.23	
TOTAL	13,254.24	
EXPENSES		
BCCPAC Memberships	1,275.00	150.00
Parent Education		500.00
DPAC Conference	822.76	1000.00
Admin	30.00	186.80
Advocacy - Mileage	121.76	
	2,249.52	1,836.80

6. Call for Nominations & Election of Officers

DPAC Chair

- Deana Postnikoff motions to elect Natalia Nazaroff to DPAC Chair
- Sheri Pawlyshyn motions to elect Lorien Quattrocchi to DPAC Chair
- Call 3 times for nominations, Natalia and Lorien accepted nomination
- Short statement by both parties prior to vote, questions from reps
- Review of eligible voters/representatives from each school. Voting done by Direct Message to Superintendent Smillie. Wildflower Creston & Nelson each have ½ vote.
- Results of election - Natalia as Chair.

Vice-Chair

- Natalia Nazaroff nominates Colleen Bayly for the vice chair role
- Jaeden Woodland nominates Lorien Quattrocchi for vice chair role
- Call 3 times for nominations, Colleen & Lorien accepted the nomination
- Voting done by Direct Message to Superintendent Smillie.
- Results of election - Colleen as Vice-Chair

Secretary

- Natalia Nazaroff nominates Taryn Stokes to DPAC secretary position
- Call 3 times for nominations, Taryn accepted the nomination. Position acclaimed.

Treasurer

- Natalia Nazaroff nominates Michelle Sylvest to the DPAC treasurer position
- Call 3 times for nominations, Michelle accepted the nomination. Position acclaimed.

7. Confirmation of Elected Executive Officers

- Chair: Natalia Nazaroff, Vice Chair: Colleen Bayly, Secretary: Taryn Stokes, Treasurer: Michelle Sylvest

Motion to destroy the ballots put to secret vote by Direct Message to Superintendent Smillie. Outcome is to destroy the ballots.

8. Signing Officers - PROPOSED MOTION by Natalia Nazaroff: The signing officers shall be Natalia Nazaroff, Michelle Sylvest and Taryn Stokes; and these shall be the only signing officers for the Kootenay Lake DPAC. All other previous signing officers will be removed. (Proposed due to the logistics of Creston)
Seconded: Lorien; Opposed: Nil; Moved and approved

9. Review of Parent Representatives to District Committees of the Whole - parties that are interested should email the DPAC within the week expressing your interest. The DPAC Exec will discuss & appoint.

Motion by Natalia that parents interested in representative roles to partner committees to email your interest. Candace to second. Tyler suggested a discussion to clarify that these are appointed positions and inquired whether the executive minutes will be shared to indicate how this decision was made. Tyler suggested the decision should be made tonight but Natalia deferred as this process will allow interested parents to research the roles. Kris suggested this decision could be made at the next regular DPAC meeting which is in January. There are no partner meetings before the next DPAC meeting so this would be acceptable. Also shared that every Partner meeting is open to the public but the two DPAC Reps are to go to the meetings and tell the DPAC what is going on at the meetings.

Candace motions that the positions be appointed at the January meeting. Motion passed

10. Adjournment 7:28 pm PST, next AGM next October 2024

DPAC Chair Report Prepared for November 16, 2023

2022-2023 has been a very challenging year for our DPAC. We have overcome many challenges this past year. These are not to overshadow the successes we had. It was a year of learning and we are all stronger moving forward. It was an unprecedented year and we got through it.

I would like to thank the volunteers that made this year happen. We have had the unique perspective that Tamara Ziemer brought to our DPAC this year. She came to us as Vice Chair after having spent many many years as a Trustee in a Northern District. Tamara also was a DPAC representative on the Education committee.

We had the strong and steady Taryn Stokes taking on the role of Secretary once again. Taryn has also taken on the role of our webmaster. She has been a long time representative on the Education Committee & is always willing to attend extra meetings, & parent education opportunities. Taryn

attended the BCCPAC leadership summit last fall & took the time to learn more about BCCPAC and the Ministry of Education and Childcare. Thank you Taryn for being a strong voice & great representative.

Michelle Sylvest took on the role of Treasurer this year. The reports we got were always thorough and well written.

Thank you to Colleen Bayly who was a representative on the Finance and Operations committee and attended the BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM in Vancouver with me. We learned a lot and brought back that knowledge and shared it with parents in our district. Colleen is an asset to the DPAC team and I look forward to working with her again this fall.

Thank you to Eden Dupont representative on the Governance and Policy Committee and to Tyler Rice who was on the Finance and Operations committee.

We are all volunteers who sign up to do the jobs we do to help better the education of all of our children. When we volunteer for these roles we don't know what life has in store for us, and at times, we are faced with enormous personal challenges that stand in the way of us fulfilling our roles to the fullest. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that many of our executives were faced with these types of challenges and thank our volunteers for doing the best job they could do while being faced with adversity. I know first hand how the curve balls that get thrown our way can make it challenging to get anything done and having to let go of things we had planned to accomplish that year. Thank you for being understanding of our executives who have experienced extreme life challenges this last school year, including myself. We are grateful to everyone for what they were able to give.

In the 2022-2023 school year we were able to run the Advocacy 101 and Advocacy level 1 training together with SD 20 which was a great way to share our program and make connections with this neighbouring DPAC. We also opened up the level one training to the special education committee at BCCPAC. Our Advocacy program was used as an example at the BCCPAC AGM of a program that works well and should be made available to all Districts in the Province.

At this time I would like to thank our District Parent Advocates that have been helping families navigate the school system. What I would like you to know about these advocates is that they are all volunteers and have helped many families in our District. We are grateful for the work that they do and the lives they have touched.

Our DPAC worked with Dyslexia BC as well as with DPAC's from the lower Mainland to write 2 resolutions for the BCCPAC AGM regarding advocating to the Ministry for funding and early screening for Dyslexia and for remediation centers in all districts. One resolution passed unanimously and the other passed with only one vote against it.

3 weeks ago on October 3rd I had the opportunity to speak to the Minister of Education in a private meeting, a group of about 10, consisting of students, university students, teachers, parents, and Dyslexia

BC founder. My contribution was the voice of a parent and about the challenges of a rural community accessing Dyslexia supports. The few supports that exist are primarily in the Lower Mainland.

We had many parents education opportunities put on for parents by the district last year that were especially well attended in the fall months.

DPAC participated in the Strategic planning meetings across our District, in Draft budget meetings, in school learning tours, and in District Principal and Vice Principal Pool interviews. DPAC participates in many things that are outside of our monthly meetings and many people don't see or know of all the things we are called upon to participate in or all that we do.

This past year DPAC saw a lot of parent concerns coming to us that were outside our reach and mandate. This took time away from us being able to focus our attention on the items we had planned to focus on and on issues that fit inside our mandate. After COVID it feels like parents are unsure of the role of DPAC and what the parents voice is in education. This includes knowing the roles of each partner group, committee, and meeting that we are invited to attend. We are looking ahead to this new year and at parent education opportunities that will help clarify our roles and responsibilities in education as an official partner group.

I know we got a lot less done this past year than previous years as a DPAC. We faced a lot more challenges which took up much of our time that we would have spent in other areas.

I would like to thank the SD 8 Board of Education, the Trustees, for attending our DPAC meetings. DPAC is fortunate that in our District, the Board of Education understands the value of having Trustees attend our meetings and makes sure that they always have a representative present. It is always valuable to have partners coming together and knowing what is happening in the other parts of the organization.

I would like to extend a special Thank you to Superintendent Smilie for her leadership in our District. Superintendent Smilie, you have a very big job in our district and you do it so well. You are a pillar in our educational organization and we are so grateful to have you. You have really helped the DPAC get through a challenging year and we want you to know how much we appreciate you.

I would like to thank the CUPE Reps that took time to attend our DPAC meetings in order to keep the channels of communication open between partners. We had a Principal attend a meeting to see what DPAC was all about.

Looking ahead to this school year I hope to see your faces at DPAC and have a very productive year ahead for our DPAC

Спаси Господи. Thank you.

Natalia Nazaroff , DPAC Chair