

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

September 18, 2025

6:00pm-8:00pm (PST)

Video Conferencing via Zoom

Minutes

1. Call to Order, 6:04PM

2. Land Acknowledgement

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.

3. PAC Meeting Code of Conduct:

- At general meetings, members will not discuss individual personnel, students, parents, or other members of the school community
- Council will refrain from partisan political action or other activities that do not serve the interests of the school or the public school system
- Open discussion is encouraged with orderly conduct & respect for alternative points of view.
- Maintain a democratic process
- Respect all confidential information
- Work to ensure that the well-being of students is the primary focus of all decisions.

4. Welcome and Introductions - Quorum has been established

Michelle Harris - DPAC Chair; Chase Leushner - DPAC Treasurer/DESK DPAC Rep/DPAC F&O Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC Secretary/DPAC EdCom Rep; Natalia Nazaroff - DPAC Past Chair/DPAC Rep MSSS & BK/DPAC EdCom Rep; Jon Breisnes - TF DPAC Rep; Stephanie Lagace - parent TF & South Nelson; Michael Gough - ARES DPAC Rep; Christina Gassoff - BK parent, Anna - WF Nelson Rep. Trish Smillie - Superintendent of School/CEO; Deanna Holitzki - Assistant Superintendent of Schools

5. Adoption of the Agenda - Chase motions, Jon seconds, All in Favour

6. Approval of Minutes - Natalia motions and Chase seconds, Motion carries.

7. Presentation from Assistant Superintendent Deanna Holizki on Food Equity Programs in SD8

- BC Fresh for Kids (previously BC Fruit & Vegetable Program) is the only universal (free to all) program for all students in the district providing mostly BC fruits/vegetables and some dairy
- Feeding Futures funded by Ministry of Education and Child Care - funding is ongoing and is enrollment based to provide nutritious snacks and breakfast/lunch
- National School Food Program - new as of 2025 and provides additional funding to districts for food equity programs. Similar to the provincial program to promote food equity. Is a joint federal/provincial program.

- Food equity programs are different from a universal program or a convenience program and are for vulnerable students.
- The guiding document is the Canada Food Guide as revised in 2022.
- Guidelines are to purchase foods as close to home (BC) as possible.
- Since 2023 food programs have been implemented or enhanced in all schools. Over 3000 students regularly received food in 2024/2025 but this includes the universal fruit & vegetable program. Have purchased over 25 large appliances for schools.
- Commitment to fostering inclusive food programming that is representative of the culture, values and priorities of Indigenous communities.
- Local partnerships with Creston Fields Forward, Nelson Community Food Centre, etc and schools can provide for additional grants.
- Confidentiality is vital and schools will continue to determine the best way to identify students and ensure confidentiality.

8. Superintendent's Report

- Lots of excitement getting everyone settled and learning.
- Parent engagement nights are continuing. September 25 is Bullying, Mean Behaviour and Digital Bullying. About 60 minutes. See school district website. There will also be a survey coming out about how to best engage with parents. <https://www.sd8.bc.ca/familyengagement>
- September 19 is school planning day. September 30 schools are closed to observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- AEDs (automated external defibrillators) are in every school. New legislation for school perimeters and disruptive events. Holocaust education has been formalized (added) for grade 10 courses as well as CPR/AED training for grade 10 students.
- Looking forward to connecting with parents over the year.

9. Treasurer's Report

- Screenshot shared of account balances - \$2k uncashed cheques.
- Gaming grant has been confirmed by not expecting receipt until October.
- \$22,064.94/\$30.97 balances, available is \$20,061.11/\$30.97 because of uncashed cheques

10. Correspondence/Read only items:

a) BCCPAC new directors, advocacy presentation on September 24 all information is on the BCCPAC website.

11. Ongoing Previous Business

- Constitution & Bylaws and Policy committees renamed "Governance Oversight Committee". Priority to be given to the creation of a Fiscal policy.

12. New Business

a) DPAC AGM - Thursday, Oct 16, 2025 at 18:00, all positions are open

b) BCCPAC EGM in August

- Natalia attended as DPAC rep, Chase attended as the BCCPAC Treasurer
- EGM ran in a similar fashion to the AGM. Disruption from urban PACs and it was hard to be from a rural district not having the representation SD8 normally has. Did not have enough proxies to influence the vote.
- SD8 DPAC submitted 2 resolutions regarding advocating for parent advocacy and directors insurance. Parent advocacy vote failed. Directors insurance vote was amended from advocating to having BCCPAC seek legal advice about directors/officers insurance. Resolution passed with 100 votes for and 30 votes against. Details have not yet been published on the BCCPAC website with the details about the other registrations.
- Quorum needs to be 20% for some business and 10% for other business. Did not have 20% so kept having to do a recount on the first day because it was motioned to have a recount. Did not discuss all resolutions that were proposed.

c) BCCPAC memberships are up for renewal and PACs will be reimbursed - send receipts to the DPAC email. Can use gaming money.

d) Collection of PAC contact information for 2025-2026

- People need to consent to have their emails given to 3rd parties like PACs/DPACs
- Schools are not sending emails related to PACs/DPAC business. DPAC will be sending information out to PAC chairs.
- District can attach agendas to the website as well (for DPAC).

13. Committee Reports

a) Governance, Policy and Finance

- Changes to terms of reference and audited statements (auditor attended meeting) - no significant discrepancies were found

b) Education Partner Advisory

- Meeting of school board, district staff, support staff, principals, teachers - focus was on literacy with different examples of literacy programs, screeners and assessments being used in the school.
- Parent engagement evening coming up on November 27 for K-3 literacy, numeracy and early learning

14. School Reports & Discussion - major success this year and one area of struggle

- TF - first PAC meeting, AGM meeting in October, general orientation, students went to lakeside park for the day as a community building event
- ARES - annual corn roast well attended, had first PAC meeting
- Wildflower Nelson - one meeting getting garden reps in place, looking for ways to improve the sports grounds
- MSSS - significant staffing changes, new vice principal and new teachers due to retirements, well regarded for having many course offerings as a small school, looking to rebuild the band program and this is now in the schedule, school fee structure has changed this year
- DESK - first meeting, new principal attended, two new 10-12 courses political science and genocide studies, art club will restart again this year and will start a book club. AGM is in

October. They need to ask for an extension of the gaming fund spend timeline and are wondering if anyone has done this. Suggest to email community gaming as they follow up very quickly.

- BK - new playground was installed, basketball court was resurfaced and there is new grass, hot lunch program volunteer transition,

15. Next Meeting - September 18, 2025 @ 1800, AGM will be October 16 also at 1800 followed by the regular meeting. Accept nominations from the floor but are welcome to submit a bio and nomination before thanksgiving.

16. Adjourn - 7:23PM