

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting
October 16, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm (PST)
Video Conferencing via Zoom
Minutes

1. Call to Order, 6:24PM

Note: AGM was scheduled for 6:00PM. Quorum not established as of 6:14PM. Proposed 3rd Party Teller signed off at 6:15PM. Quorum established at 6:18PM. Motion to postpone AGM to November 20 meeting. Motion by Lorien. Seconded by Chase. No discussion. Vote passes.

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/DPAC EdCom Rep; Danice Weager - DPAC Rep for Rosemont; Christina - BK DPAC Rep; Lorien Quattrocchi - DPAC Rep for TF/LVR; Lisa O'Conner - DPAC Rep for South Nelson; Mathilde Armour Piccirilli - DPAC Rep KRSS; Nadia Wallis - Parent/Co-DPAC Rep for Rosemont Elementary; Deanna Holitzki - Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Tamara Maloff - District Principal Innovative Learning; Lenora Trenamen - Board Trustee for North/East Shore; Julie Bremner - Board Trustee Vice-Chair

5. Adoption of the Agenda - Natalia proposes to add Board Meeting email about Salmo Elementary/Secondary funding AGM will be November 6PM/7PM Creston.
Natalia motions, Chase seconds, All in Favour

6. Approval of Minutes - Natalia motions and Chase seconds, Motion carries. Change minutes Natalia is only the rep for MSSS, not BK.

7. Literacy Presentation by Assistant Superintendent Deanna Holitzki and District Principal Tamara Maloff

- More details on the literacy presentation that was presented to the school board this past meeting and is on the website. (starting on page 26)
<https://www.sd8.bc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2025-10/2025.10.14%20-%204%20Public%20Agenda.pdf>
- Overall in K-12 monitoring and planning meetings are held
- 2024/2025 data shows that early learners are less vulnerable in language/cognitive development.
- K/Gr1/Gr3 are achieving proficiency at a higher rate than Gr2 learners. Priority learners are not achieving proficiency at the same level as other learners. Need to make sure specific strategies are in place for these learners.
- Early Literacy Profile (ELP) is fully implemented for grades K-3
- Literacy skills dropped slightly in the last year (FSA data from Grades 4 & 7) and report cards match these trends but students feel confident in their literacy skills based on the Student Learning Surveys, so this is a curiosity to be explored.
- Have introduced a consistent reading assessment across the district for Grades 4-6. Will also be creating a new literacy assessment for Grades 6-9 this year.
- Province is investing in literacy development in the K-12 school system over the next three years.
- Early literacy screenings have been scaled up.
- Question about literacy interventions with respect to staffing and funding to replace guided readers. Is a specific issue to be followed up with the Principal. The Ministry is developing a screener for the entire province to be used for K-3. Funding for guided readers was sent out last year. Pete Bowers professional learning question.
- Question about priority learners and what the specific supports may be. First step is screenings and assessments for learners to determine effective strategies for needs. Proficiency profiles are on the ministry website. Guides are helpful for teachers to determine what the benchmarks are.

8. Superintendent's Report by Assistant Superintendent Deanna Holitzki

- Online for October.
- All schools recognized National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Details about upcoming Remembrance Day ceremonies are also in the Board Agenda package.
- Board package has the school district head-count. Enrollment is up slightly from the budget number, but enrollment has decreased over-all.

9. Treasurer's Report

- Gaming grant has been received (\$2500). \$20,361.11 in regular/ \$2,528.47 in gaming
- Still some uncashed cheques or cheques needing reissue.

10. Correspondence/Read only items:

a) Capital planning equity for rural schools. Board is writing to the MOECC about capital requests made for Salmo Elementary. Is also in the Board Agenda package. See attachment to minutes.

11. Ongoing Previous Business

- Constitution & Bylaws and Policy committees renamed “Governance Oversight Committee”. Priority to be given to the creation of a Fiscal policy.
- Collection of PAC DPAC reps from schools.

12. New Business

- None

13. Committee Reports

- None

14. School Reports & Discussion

- MSSS - two new student trustees, hot lunch is transitioning so not yet up and running fully, PAC fundraiser for Oso Negro coffee, Passport to the Kootenays books as well, BCCPAC membership renewal, new executive is mostly last year's executive
- KRSS - low parent participation in the PAC, visits from Alberta Universities, student leadership conference, student hardship fund is no longer available, PAC is helping to serve lunches made by the foods program, salad bar that is no longer be used and is available for any other school
- Homelinks Creston - planning a dance, questions about allocation of resource teacher
- DESK - nothing new
- BK - meeting is upcoming, meet the teacher and book fair, hot lunch is also getting started, holiday fundraisers in place, maintenance questions with the new playground (retorquing bolts)
- TF - two meetings, PAC is busy and engaged and all positions are full, postponing a big band trip to next year, band focus is on fundraising for next year, loss of student hardship fund is also a concern, hot lunch being discussed again but it is tough to scale up to a higher capacity, city buses are overcapacity,
- LVR - city buses are overcapacity, Foundry resources presented at the PAC yesterday, no physical location in Nelson but are trying to be a one-stop shopping site for youth services like medical, mental health, employment, etc. Foundry is doing a survey of Kootenay youth and caregivers for what the priorities should be for this region, arts is on the upswing this year, added another cohort for drama OTT, new Principal working well, school also has a Health Hub with Interior Health coming into the school for appointments

15. Next Meeting - November 20, 2025 @ 1800/1900MST. Regular meeting will be after the AGM.

Accept nominations from the floor but are welcome to submit a bio and nomination.

Discussion about DPAC emails no longer being sent by the school district. The decision about emails was brought to DPAC by the board. Wondering if clarification can be provided by the board. This was not a board governance decision and was an operational decision. The Assistant Superintendent will review with the Superintendent for the next meeting.

16. Adjourn - 7:45PM