

DPAC Minutes General Meeting

November 16, 2017.

1. Call to order @ 6:33 p.m.
2. Attendance: Pam Chudiak, Carl Cooper, Erna Jacobs, Peter Jory, Nikki van der Meer, Kerry Miller, Kari Wilkinson, Tricia Peloquin, Shannon Saunders.
3. Motion was made by Erna J. to adopt the minutes of the general meeting of October 16th, 2017, seconded by Shannon S. and all attendances were in favour.
4. A.L. Fortune Secondary Highlights:
Vice-Principal Mrs. Pam Chudiak took attendances on a tour through the school. Drumline, which is under the direction of Mrs. Michelle Reed, music teacher, performed a piece of their repertoire in the theatre. They also perform at the Salmon Arm Silverbacks games.
The Wall of Fame and Governor General Awards were highlighted.
Several classrooms were visited i.e. foods room, Grade 8 room, Science Learning Commons, After-School Program room, Room for breakfast and lunch program. Mrs. Chudiak was also explaining about X-block classes: X-block is 2 hours a week of instruction that include topics that students have suggested and want to learn more about. Every term there are new topics to choose and learn from. For term 2 for instance students can choose to learn about photography, knitting, social dance, creative metal, acting, sign language, scrapbooking, carving 101, slam poetry, table tennis, winter sports. A student can sign up for a course of his/her choosing. The goal is to learn, but also to keep students engaged in their learning and follow their passions.
5. **Mr. Carl Cooper, Director of Instruction:**
 - ❖ FSA Update –info from 2012-2017:
 - Reading performance Grade 4 and Grade 7 saw an upward trend this year, but consistently lagging behind provincial performance.
 - Writing performance Grade 4 and Grade 7 saw a slight downward trend this year, consistently but also significantly lagging behind provincial performance.
 - Numeracy performance Grade 4 and Grade 7 sees, after a downward trend up to 2014-2015, performance going up in comparison with provincial averages.

- ❖ Outdoor learning – After extensive consultation with many parties, a framework and philosophy is being developed that best suits the specific needs and desires of our students and our community of South Canoe. A survey with over 1,000 responses showed a clear interest in starting an outdoor learning school in South Canoe. Most interest came from schools that are now overflowing i.e. Bastion, Hillcrest, Shuswap Middle School. People that have signed up so far have children mainly attending K – Grade 5/6. This would be a “program of choice”; therefore, no bussing will be provided.
To upgrade South Canoe School would cost \$455,000; wages and benefits after savings would cost net \$322,485; annual operating costs \$387,485.
Compare this with the status quo bringing in portables for overcrowded schools which would cost \$1,504,000 for 8 portables. On top of that comes the yearly operating cost of \$80,000 per year for 8 portables and \$452,485 operating cost of running South Canoe. Incrementally, additional portables will be needed: 2 portables every 2 years.
- ❖ Reporting: With implementation of Renewed Curriculum and changes within Ministerial reporting regulations, there was a need within our district to review and revise our reporting and assessment policies and how we communicate student learning. With this, 2 informal and 2 formal (+1 formal reporting conference district wide) report cards per school year will go out. This provides parents with a better way of understanding where their children are at in their learning journey.

6. Treasurer’s report:

- Balance of Chequing Account \$1,870.36 as of October 31st, 2017
- Balance of Gaming Account \$1,039.49
 - ✓ Change on Chequing Account: Income \$0.09 interest earned.
 - ✓ Change on Gaming Account:
 - Income - \$2,500.00 Gaming Grant and \$0.03 interest earned.
 - Expense – Purchase “Over 18” Screening Licence \$127.21 and Screenagers Licence \$1,439.05. Reimbursement of \$20.00 to Mr. Mike McKay for coffee expenses when meeting with Kari W. and Erna J.

Screenagers will be co-sponsored by LASS. They have reimbursed DPAC for a portion of the licence fee. We have received a cheque of \$500.00, which will be reflected on the November statement.

Kari W. made a motion to approve the October 31st financial reports, seconded by Nikki van der M., all in favour.

7. **Mr. Peter Jory, Superintendent of School District 83:**

Five “check-in” sessions focussing on the school district's draft strategic plan were being held in various locations throughout the school district between Oct. 16-24 to give stakeholders a look at where the plan is now, ensure it reflects their earlier input and make recommendations for possible fine tuning. It also included a discussion about each of three major areas of focus: Students First, Organizational Efficiency and Culture of Health and Wellness. The sessions started out in Silver Creek on Oct. 16th, were at Sullivan Campus of Salmon Arm Secondary on Oct. 17, at A.L. Fortune on Oct. 18, Pleasant Valley Secondary on Oct. 19 and Eagle River Secondary on Oct. 23. The strategic plan, one of the recommendations in the Special Advisor's report, is being reviewed and will go to the Board for approval in December.

Trustee Variance:

At recent partner group meetings a reduction in the number of elected trustees on the Board was being reviewed and what such a plan would look like and the hope is to have a recommendation together for the Minister by December. Several options were being discussed: Maintaining the status quo of nine trustees from the seven "wards" across the school district, reducing the size of the Board to seven trustees, or reducing the Board to five trustees.

Some concern was expressed that some areas would not be represented as much as the more populated areas, but it is important to highlight that while trustees in SD 83 are elected from specific areas/wards, their responsibilities are as members of a corporate board with responsibilities for the governance of the entire district.

8. Parent Information Events:

"Over 18" documentary showing at A.L. Fortune Secondary saw about 40 people. Positive feedback from parents about the showing and the presence of a discussion team (school counsellor, addictions counsellor and RCMP constable). More parents have shown interest to show this documentary either at their school or in smaller gatherings at different venues. Contact Ken Jamieson at SMS for more information regarding licensing.

Parent Workshop with Carole Fullerton was successful and also saw about 40 people in Armstrong. Parents are interested to learn and help their children. Teachers who are familiar with this new methodology are hired. Carole teaches teachers, as well as teachers working simultaneously with children.

Upcoming dates for parent information events:

- **Screenagers Documentary**
Thursday, November 30th, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. at A.L. Fortune Secondary School, Enderby.
Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. at Salmar Classic Theatre, Salmon Arm.
Spread the word to bring your children.
- **Carole Fullerton Math Workshop**
Thursday, February 22nd, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. at District Education Support Centre, Salmon Arm.
- **Over 18 – A documentary about Pornography**
Wednesday, February 28th, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. at Salmar Classic Theatre, Salmon Arm.

9. Round table: Christmas concerts versus winter concerts.

As per section 76 (1) of the School Act: "All schools and Provincial schools must be conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles". Concern was raised that Christian traditions were not allowed to be expressed i.e. Christmas concerts.

Mr. Jory stated that we are one of the last School Districts to implement this section of the School Act and have to adhere to it. He recognizes the importance of traditions in this School District and is more interested in "shaping" instead of "stripping" to achieve more balance and sensitivity with respect to other than Christian beliefs in musical presentations before the Winter Break.

10. Next DPAC meeting will be January 18, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. at DESC in Salmon Arm.

11. Adjournment 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Erna Jacobs DPAC Secretary

