

**Winlaw Elementary PAC  
Meeting Minutes April 14<sup>th</sup> (DRAFT)**

**Call to Order: 4:05 pm**

**Approval of Agenda –approved**

**Acceptance of March minutes** – No March Minutes Available (Secretary position still vacant)

**In Attendance:** Eden DuPont, Shauna Robertson, Lori Thompson, Raina Gardner, Manon Perrier, Jerome Liberon, Kaila Ellis, Aviary Meyer, Lisa Stooshnof.

**Principal's Report:**

BK Violinist next week Gr. Multi-age programming going well, Swim program to start. Teachers working really hard amidst uncertainty of school closure/facilities planning upheaval to not affect their teaching or student learning.

**Chair's Report:**

- FP Survey has been created, handed out at Winlaw Dot Day (April 9<sup>th</sup> community event).
- Petition also started and available at local businesses.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Consultation in Slocan Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> (forwarded questions to facilitator Cathy May Scott to include in agenda)
- Presentation for Board Meeting, Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup>. (encourage attendance & support of parents/community, further input required)
- Spring Fling event roles & responsibilities clarified. Promotion in Pennywise (classified) and Valley Voice (editorial) submitted.
- Vendors for Spring Fling event, no food vendors to compete with concession sales. Classroom fundraiser eligible as food vendor.

**Treasurer's Report: No report, Treasurer absent**

**DPAC report:**

BCCPAC Conference next month, Lori will attend. Proxy vote form submitted.

**Hot Lunch report:**

Sushi and Samosas this month, moving away from hot meals for spring/summer weather.

No financial assistance for Hungry Kids paid to date.

**New Business:**

Facilities Planning Discussion for Board Presentation

**Objective:** Request that all communities in the Slocan Valley continue to deliver SD8 programming to serve the best interests of our children

The Slocan Valley Community Advisory Committee was developed in 2010. Has the Board fully implemented their 2011 resolution regarding the Slocan Valley Family of Schools? If not, what remains outstanding and why? Would any outstanding commitments in the resolution have changed the current situation in the Slocan Valley? Why were assurances given since 2010 that school closure was not an option, and if that had still been considered an option, what resolutions would have been followed?

Winlaw Elementary School has many unique attributes, specialized programming and particular staff resources which draws young families to this school community:

- **Input from parents/community required**

Winlaw School and Community provide these specific socio-economic benefits to our children and to their abilities to grow in a learning environment:

- **Input from parents/community required**

These socio-economic impacts of a rural school closure differentiate it from other scenarios where school closures migrate children within the same community:

- **Input from parents/community required**

The data provided by SD8, and the projections made, may not be accurate. Other community stakeholder have differing data compared to the “trends” identified by SD8. The following data has also been acquired through community surveys in the last 10 days:

- **Survey results**
- **Inaccuracies of the data, probabilities and projections**

Distances proposed to move Winlaw children up to Slocan can be compared to moving Trafalgar students to MSSS or Nelson Elementary students to Redfish or Salmo. None of the Nelson scenarios involve Nelson children compensating for low utilization or high deferred maintenance costs to schools at distances of 20 kms or more away from their community hub.

creative

Why does the proposed draft plan put responsibility and pressure on Winlaw to compensate for the underutilization of WEG? According to funding structures, utilization is a district issue, not a “family of schools” issue. How much tolerance does the **district** have to deal with the underutilization of WEG?

How will the formal statement of interest from the WKPCA and WEGCSS to utilize WEG be reviewed, scored and considered before revealing the final plan?

The closure of one of the most highly utilized schools in the district, in a thriving community, with vibrant programming and high parent involvement does not make sense. There is no other district in the province that appears to be considering

closure of a school with high enrollment in a thriving community.

OTHER QUESTIONS for community member to present on Tuesday:

- How and when will the board have a transparent debate over the Slocan Valley proposal of school closures?
- SD8 has shown compassion to out of district children in SD20 so they can attend BK and MSSS without enduring distances of 21kms to Robson and Twin Rivers. Why is SD8 not showing the same compassion to our children in the Winlaw school community who would have to travel up to 35kms to Slocan?

PLEASE CONTINUE THESE CONVERSATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY!

We've been wondering about how many people are actively engaging in the consultation process.

- Feed them the 6 questions they can respond to SD8 about. Reminders about the meeting Monday at WEG J

**Proposed Next Meeting Date: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Adjournment: 6:35 p.m.**