

**Winlaw Elementary PAC**  
PAC Minutes (DRAFT)  
Thursday May 12, 2016

In Attendance: Eden DuPont, Jon Francis, Sharon Nazarovff, Clare Kelly, Leah Curran, Manon Perriere, Amanda Wollenberg, Susan Christie, Lori Thompson, Jerome Libirion, Lisa Stooshnoff, Walter Popoff, Lenora Trenaman, Penny Tees, Sheri Walsh, Raina Gardner, Joanne Ellis, Krispen Elder, Annie Rochette, Craig Lawrence, Laure Bourely, Kaila Ellis

**Call to Order:**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Acceptance of April Minutes**

**Reports (Will cover current issues/projects)**

- Principal
  - Lots of year end energy, swim program, added skateboarding, block of Drama with Martina Avis (hired with education fund)
  - Spring Fling thanks
  - Ab Education – Jessie event in Slocan WEG and WES good feedback
    - goals is to connect directly with Elders in the community
    - Sharon Meyers (beehive project) Honey Observation hives (until end of year)
    - Linda inquiry project – teachers from all valley schools Theme: River. Start at WEG, move to Winlaw, then BK and Mt. Sentinel. Volunteered interest
    - Awards Day – Thursday in afternoon 12:30 p.m.
    - Fun Day on the Friday
    - Pines Camp is last week of school
    - Booked Grade 6 Grad sleepover – Syringa camping trip (Dinner/Movie) 14 students
    - Ready, Set, Learn event early June
    - 15 Kindergarten registered – tied orientation into Ready, Set, Learn Day
    - Collaboration time, Garden project closure piece comes up. Will be fall harvest, permaculture group came out to meet with kids.
    - Farm to school grant applied for (haven't heard back)
  - Lori comment that we need to move forward with projects regardless of closure focus.
  - School Planning Day – May 30<sup>th</sup> Morning invited Aviary, Heather, Manon, Lori, Pines amount \$80-\$100 per kid, up from last year. Details will go out on Monday.
  
- PAC Chair
  1. Results of the Spring Fling (Thanks to all that contributed, \$2649.05 proceeds, expenses about \$500)
  
  2. Raffle & Gaming Licence approved, puts us in better situation for fundraising for next year. Tickets available now – draw date June 24<sup>th</sup>, talk to Kaila for selling books
  
- PAC Treasurer
  - Gaming Account – 7520.97

Regular Account – 5821.00 (does not include Spring Fling proceeds)  
Remaining after Gaming Reimbursement will be \$8488.92  
Hot Lunch Account – 313.05 (no financial aid received to date)

- Outstanding funding requests for 2015/2016 include:
  - Swim Bus \$1000
  - Pines Camp \$2000
  - Circus \$1000
  - After expenses and reimbursements to General Account remaining \$852.08
  
- Other Expected Year End expenses for 2015/2016 include:
  - Spring Fling Expenses \$505.34
  - Year End Grad
  - Fun Day & Volunteer Appreciation
  
- Additional Requests
  - Additional Funding for Swim Bus
  - Additional Funding for Year End Field Trips
  
- Hot Lunch Coordinator
- SPC rep
- DPAC rep

### **New Business**

- Facilities Review - Winlaw Closure 60 day Consultation period  
What can we do as a community to influence the Trustees at this point?  
Letters from the students were of interest to trustees  
Write to [winlaw.consult@sd8.bc.ca](mailto:winlaw.consult@sd8.bc.ca) - Kim Morris is mediator of emails that come in –

Penny – Is there a public record of the letters, they haven't been held in correspondence because of the sheer numbers?

Lenora – Will inquire with staff. They would have to wean out personal information.

Clare - Great deal of frustration with how the process – we will have the 60 day period of Draft Plan received? What does that mean? The Board needed to have it on record that it could be deliberated – the draft plan

Lenora - The Board - what will happen with the Committee of the Whole is when relax the rules so that dialogue, not typically an interaction with the staff. Even with a resolution on the table, we can openly talk about the resolution in a more relaxed format.

Clare – What will be the process from here? What is the information that you feel is the most helpful to help make your decision in the debate, what would you like to hear from us.

Lenora - First reading – whether the plan will be approved.

Second reading – now it is open for debate, the schools that are in consideration, where the plan is debated can the sections be broken up.

Third reading -

Lenora (speaking as Trustee, not Board Chair) – deliberation amongst the Board members, that will provide me with what I need to hear from the other Trustees. Because of the legal counsel, when the board put forward, The draft plan first has to be accepted, in order to do some of the work to do it forward. Now they can move forward with some of the actions. During the recommendation process, all properties that did not have SD8 students in them are up for disposal. With regards to the leases for each facility, no public consultation period is required, only lease agreements.

Whether the motion to close, is it separate and distinct from the motion to approve the Draft Plan and will it be deliberated before the reading of the bylaw.

Penny - I hope the Board is in control of the agenda.

Clare - Request from PAC – I would like to have in writing from the District, knew what is going to happen.

Lenora - There will be full debate. Process – Our staff is working on those consultation dates – June 13<sup>th</sup>

Sheri Walsh – Already into the 60 days period. What would be useful for debate?

Sharon – Early Childhood educator, whole district, particular for me I am more emotionally attached to the valley. Keep sending the letters, objective letters stay more in tuned with. Hard to read letters that are negative, Positive programs, Show what makes learning happen at Winlaw. Talk about the learning that happens

Joanne - Devote your energies in time PAC with one voice – as the PAC should be acknowledged,

Joanne would be willing to put the numbers forward, on the research that 10-minute presentation of demographics, input on neighboring schools, why Boards choose why not to make. Impact on BK, Legitimate question to ask? You take the control over the common voice.

School could put together the montage.

Eden – What will be the format of the public consultation meeting? Ask that it becomes our own agenda, really good idea. Presentation from the PAC at the Public Consultation (Video) Agenda

Sheri – what will be useful to the Board?? Objective of the community is to get the support of the trustees

- Lots of great proposals for how to increase utilization. Do we keep pursuing this?
- Moving the REC commission?

There is precedent set that community partnerships are possible in helping make the case.

Move the first and second reading all together, recommendations, give break for staff to write in the amendments.

Walter - School Board is provided a budget, with the closure that are proposed, can you still meet the budget without closure?

Lenora - In the case of the capital budget – 1.3 million Annual Facilities Grant (not enough to maintain what we've got) tapping into. We can move from operational to capital.

Clare - We want our school to stay open badly enough, willing to do without upgrades? How open do you feel the trustees are to whether we want them to cut operational costs, just to keep the schools open?

Lenora - If the Board so chooses, can we cut back on operations, District level, not school level. Can't make decisions for schools independently. Dollars are District level, what if the community doesn't share the principles that the scoring criteria, when it comes to what suggests to be of value.

- That is the feedback that we are looking for, and that it matters to the Board
- Quite a reflection already happening.

Jerome: They take the staff data as gospel, but not considering parent collected data. Frustrating to do the work, but to be discounted. We don't hear anything back, our data has been discounted? You give us data, and indicate that it is sound. When we send you data, we expect the same, that what has been received is sound.

Lenora: We welcome your surveys, your comments, your data

Raina – Around the sale of the other properties, if they are going to be sold, what does that do to the capital budget. Does that factor into the capital budget, how does that effect the 25% goes into the District funds at District level, 75% is provincial level. We have to apply to the Ministry to tell them what our plan is, before it is approved by the Ministry. If there is a sale of these properties, to use at their discretion, earmarked remaining.

Why are we at this point of closing schools, it was really hard to decide to think about selling properties.

Lenora - Must show a plan to the Ministry. Used to be that you could just build a case, now it is a formal strategic plan. Not something that happens quickly, it will take years to assess, sell and dispose of all those properties. Process has changed, where there used to exist a more tighter reign, there is now more flexibility. Question of what properties can be sold for has changed?

400 million dollars annually for capital projects Ministry budget  
Seismic, lower mainland priorities.

Penny – inquire whether there is the option to keep Winlaw as SD8 property, rather than disposal, Winlaw is public building, public land

Raina - Explain the Motion at May 3<sup>rd</sup>, WEG is now off the draft plan?

Lenora – The motion to take WEG off the draft plan included a two year extension, motion was moved and seconded but amendment was to remove the two year period.

Sharon - It was not debated, it was discussed very carefully.

Sheri - Could the closure be added back in?

Lenora - You would have to enact another 60 day period if WEG was brought forward again for closure. It would have to move to consideration for closure. Deferred maintenance went from 50 – 80 million in Deferred Maintenance Costs. Ministry level audit, we don't have control.

Sharon - Safety is what we are concerned with when it comes to Deferred Maintenance costs. When it comes to the considerations of those costs, they are Ministry numbers, the

Walter – would it be possible to get an independent consultant in? What if the community paid for it? Someone could put it forwards?

Krispen – the quote from the Ministry, we generate 20% more funding than other school districts, generate the geographical grants – the money does not go to the schools. The majority of the funds that are generated, \$\$ go to the City of Nelson.

Lori – Larry would be willing to sit with us and talk about the Deferred maintenance costs. We want to make a submission to Operations to sit down with them.

Lenora - Because the District is trying to make a case for rebuild/renewal, the footprint is much larger than what we can manage. Part of the goal for the entire district is to reduce the footprint.

Laure: Is it possible to do an independent audit?

Where is the plan for increasing enrolment, why can't we have a 5-year plan for how to recruit more students? Rather than work at closing physical spaces,

Clare - Did the Board consider the Draft plan, Was there the discussion for phases? Current financial state – the What ifs? What if the first phase affected the second phase?

If the Board approves the plan and there is a road block, then the Board would have to review the plan. Would it be possible to rescind a closure? How flexible is this process?

Laure – gave personal account of how Winlaw has helped her transition her son, and talked about the bridging between the homeschooling community. The homeschooling community is looking very intently on what is going on here.

Sheri- homeschoolers should be encouraged to lend their voice to the winlaw.consult feedback.

Enrolment projections are based on trending, there are inconsistencies in expectations around utilization and Board making judgements on what.

Laure – the public is showing public preference for smaller schools.

Eden - Request that the consultations public presentations be recorded/video taped so that the Trustees that are not able to attend will be able to view.

Walter – letter from SD20 realistic budget, what we need to balance the budget. Bussing changes to help compensate.

Lenora – Board is working on a similar letter from our District, what considerations our Board had to make for this particular budget year. Board is trying to make sure the operational dollars are not starting to flow into the capital.

Thanks, and move to working group session to come up with tactics (Trustees, and large group of parents left the meeting at this point)

Working Session:

Motion: Mail out costs for June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to use PAC funds of \$500 (materials) APPROVED

Poster making event – Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

Phone Tree – for May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting get the support out

Leah: 5/6 class

Manon: ¾ class

Kaila Grade 2: class

StrongStart

K-1

Student Voice – Letters for How does Winlaw school make me feel?

What are your favourite thing about Winlaw School?

Cross Age – Outdoor Ed

Media Submissions – Interviews and Letters to the Editor

LOST & FOUND Confidence and Morale –

HUGS & SLUGS

Motion: Request for additional funds, for Swim Bus, and K-3 Year End Programming  
APPROVED

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12 p.m.  
Next Proposed Meeting - May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016