

Ucluelet Secondary School Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

5:30pm January 31

Location: USS

Minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 1. 5:35 pm
 2. Territorial Acknowledgement
 3. Housekeeping (parent introductions)
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 1. Motion to adopt the agenda - adopted by unanimous consent.
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 1. Minutes of December 6, 2023, USS PAC meeting
 - i. Motion to adopt the December 6, minutes adopted by unanimous consent.
4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
5. REPORTS/ITEMS
 1. Welcome to new parents
 2. SD70
 - i. Limited course offerings
 1. Jen Steven speaks to limited distance learning options USS in comparison with Port Alberni, aske SD70 to speak to USS parents concerns about options
 2. Presentation from Dave and James (powerpoint to be distributed?)
 - a. World has changed
 - b. New ways of learning
 - c. Different pathways to graduation (Dogwood, French Immersion Dual Dogwood, Adult Dogwood, BC School Completion Certificate-Evergreen)
 - d. Other ways to learn credits (in class, board authorized credits [outdoor ed], work experience, equivalency and challenge, external credits [sports, SVOP, Bronze Cross], post secondary courses, independent directed studies)
 - e. Work experience must be with employer, can't have been an employee previously, can we set up kids early in their careers to use work experience as credits
 - f. Independent Directed Studies. Small schools struggle to offer a breadth of courses. Individualized projects per students outside of the school timetable. Hospitality and Tourism, Surf, and Leadership programs with local business for credit. Pilot project

underway, 21 students signed up today, another 11 students interested over next 5 months. Students will receive various certificates (WHIMIS, Food safe, Maintenance, surfing based certificates [6 students], Leadership [4 students], etc). Extracurricular activities may be eligible for credits, to be explored further with Ms. Thompson. Tuition from MoE to school based amount of student credits. Any questions about credit options ask Principal Ryan or Ms. Thompson, very detailed conversation.

- g. Choices has limited options. Having access to courses outside this school division, is it possible? Building capacity through the learning commons, issue is expertise/time of teachers to support students. Can we zoom into ADSS classes? Bamfield has a similar pilot project for Math classes where the students zoom in. Nides was great. If students take Nides the school does not receive funding. Slightly higher ratio of teachers at USS versus ADSS. Dual credit coming back in 2024-25, as well Trades courses. Ms. Thompson exploring additional options with NIC. Parents should always reach to Principal and Vice Principal about credits. In the end the issue is the provincial funding model, along with provincial distance learning framework.

ii. Buses

- 1. PAC is concerned with safety of buses.
 - a. SD recognizes that we are not receiving the service we expect (safety, behavior, driving). Asked us what we expect as parents. Existing contract is up this summer.
 - b. Who decides to cancel the buses on days with poor weather? Superintendent, principal, and driver. SD70, it can be tricky. Weather procedures have been adapted based on recent events, local knowledge (Drew) provides SD70 (Tim) with information, Tim makes the call.
 - c. How will SD70 hold the new contractor accountable? Throughout the contract? Controls are in the contract but if we do cancel the service, what do we do? PAC suggests that a new contract include the controls to ensure that we receive the bus service we deserve. And for maintenance as well. From SD70, a five year contract helps with maintenance.
 - d. SD70 tracks school buses in real time, and has surveillance in and outside buses. Drivers appreciate the new technologies.
 - e. Can SD70 provide SD70 busses? Yes, and contract out the drivers. One idea will be for SD70 to provide five busses.

- f. Could the USS buses remain available during the day? Its possible but expensive. Drew meeting with SD70 to discuss west coast transportation issues.
 - g. Where is the maintenance currently being undertaken? In Naniamo presently. If new busses are purchased, can they be serviced in Port Alberni? Possibly.
 - h. Is the new bus new? Newish.
 - i. Is there a way to get bus breakdown information quickly? Sometimes, information goes from driver, to bus supervisor, to Drew, to communications school. Communications takes a long time, is there a better way?
 - j. Thanks for bringing the information forward. SD70 continues to work with providers to ensure safety of students using the bus service.
 - iii. Administrative hours for the Vice Principal
 - a. Were hours for the Vice Principal cut? Across the District as a budget strategy, looked at administrative time and compared with other School districts. Reduced in administrative time across the District. Can the budget cuts be reversed? From SD70, would not be supported by SD70 staff (Tim). Because of the small size of the school budget cuts affect us differently. From SD70, this particular school year, consideration was given to USS and extra time added; the board has their plan, goals, and they have to determine where the limited pot of money goes. Would it be in the best interest of PAC to write a letter to the board about this issue? SD70, sure board would receive for consideration. Wouldn't the budget be best spent supporting students? Budget does support students but must manage priorities.
- 3. Administration (10 minutes)
 - i. January and February updates, school assessments, Grade 8 wrote a thing?, student feedback, Find Your Fit next week (post secondary thoughts), Heath and Wellness going strong, NTC here tomorrow, Dave Marr is here tomorrow discussing IDS, sports are going strong, conversation next week about West Coast Transportation. Fundraising underway, gym advertising for sports teams.
- 4. Treasurer (5 minutes)
 - i. \$5233.01 Gaming
 - ii. \$1489.83 in other account
- 5. DPAC Minutes
 - i. Bus discussed at DPAC
 - ii. IDS also discussed at the meeting
 - iii. Today's presentation echoed DPAC meeting

- iv. Mr. Davie suggested we invite some other people
- 6. Committees
 - i. Fundraising report
 - 1. We had meeting, did not complete anything, we will have another meeting, Drew taking care of signs, gift card raffle, and golf event. Push back efforts a month, businesses struggling.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. TABLED ITEMS

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. TASKS

10. ADJOURNMENT

- 1. Meeting adjourned at 19:35
- 2. Next meeting March 6 or 13 2024 May meeting

Attendance: Jennifer R, Greg Roe Director of Operations (SD70), James Messenger Director of Instruction - Learning and Innovation (SD70), Dave Marr, Principal Eighth Avenue Learning Center (EALC) - Learning Alternatives, Rebecca H, Ornella C, Aaron R, Tim Davie (SD70), Nicki D, Nicole T., Jen S. Denice S, Graham A, Julie W., Rob A., Drew R., Heather R., , Sarah H., Christie U, Joanne, Sarah T, Nicole G.