



Safe Schools Community Network Meeting Minutes

DATE: FEB 15, 2023

TIME: 9:00 a.m. Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Board of Education	Not present
City of Kelowna	Not present
COTA	Lori Dawson-Bedard, 1 st Vice President COTA
COPAC	Deannie Zahara
CUPE	Simone Gauthier
District Administration	Al Lalonde, Sherri Roche, Jared Birkeland, Rick Taylor, Dan Glasscock
Kelowna Fire Department	Not present
RCMP	Cpl. Mike Cube, Cst. George Minshull, Cst. Fed Angulo, and Cst. Brandwyn Rigby - SRO Lake Country
West Kelowna Fire Department	Not present
District of Lake Country	Not present
Guests	None present
Regrets	

WELCOME

Sherri welcomed everyone and acknowledged that this meeting was being held on the traditional, unceded territory of the Okanagan Syilx people. Introductions proceeded.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION- Building Safer Communities Update

Sherri Roche:

November Meeting recap _Kelowna received a Pan Canadian Program Grant in the amount of \$2M grant to develop a 3–5-year action plan to address & prevent youth from becoming involved in gang-associated behaviour

Grant Objectives:

- Community based prevention and intervention
- Increase community awareness re: the nature, scope and challenges of gun and gang activities.
- Support recipients with the sustainability of an action plan

Current Update: Year 1 plan

Safer Schools Together team have completed an inventory analysis of supports and resources in Kelowna . The final report and recommendations are not yet complete. A few "sneak peaks" have started to emerge regarding challenges facing youth and young adults:

- Increasing prevalence of drugs and drug use
- Broadening spectrum of mental health issues
- Growing concerns re: youth interpersonal violence
- Increasing scope of youth poverty and homelessness

Lori Dawson-Bedard: If the recommendations come that schools can do more, I just hope it's funded adequately because we can't keep doing more with less.

Al Lalonde: Funding goals will hopefully include personnel to oversee the project and program coordinators for daytime/after school programming

Lori Dawson-Bedard: Expressed that to do more there needs to be resources.

Sherri Roche: We will be able to share more information regarding the Action Plan Focus Areas at our May meeting.

UPDATES:

Simone Gauthier: Nothing to report today.

RCMP team: Discussed status quo of still running at 50% capacity in CYSO program. Instituting some training for front line and general duty officers for youth programs by bringing in youth probation/Crown with topics of youth at risk and restorative justice.

Brandwyn Rigby RCMP Lake Country: Fairly response driven right now. SRO will be back in elementary schools as well.

Lori Dawson-Bedard: Spoke on the calls coming into Health & Safety about violence and threats. Organizing school visits to talk to staff.

Rick Taylor: Report on Violence Risk Assessment of schools. 3 schools participated in a pilot last year and now all the other schools are in progress. It is a school wide assessment targeted to be finished by year end.

Deannie Zahara: Letter sent regarding transportation safety by Crystal Waters Resort on Hwy 97; continuing with advocacy in our district.

Dan Glasscock: Pedestrian Safety Video was sent out yesterday. Presenting the video at one school assembly and trying to do some others in conjunction with Regional District. Planning to do a bike safety video in the near future & bike rodeos this spring. Thanks to Al, have applied for & waiting for word on a grant for Vision Zero and trying to get digital speed signs for a few of our schools.

Jared Birkeland: Was asked to speak to MDI results. Have been speaking with other colleagues at the elementary level. Casorso, along with others, have been concentrating on the percentage of students who have indicated that they do not feel they have a strong connection with an adult in the school. Focusing on ways to increase connections.

Al Lalonde:

May need to tap on RCMP and P.E. teachers for input advice on Ministry's revised Health Guidelines. Ministry has also released an Anti-Racism Strategic Plan.

Will strategizing on to implement strategies. Districts has been advised to teach consent lessons to all grades by the end of year.

Sherri Roche: The Ministry Health Guidelines and the Anti-Racism Plan will be a large focus as we move forward into next year.

Deannie Dawson-Bedard: What about the new parent/student workshops through Safer Schools?

Al Lalonde: We did have some teachers at KSS utilize the student version videos and were asked to provide feedback. Decent but covers a lot. Students reported they were not particularly engaging.

Sherri Roche: To clarify the website is called Erase - Safer Schools Together is the leadership team

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Sherri Roche: Provided an update on the City of Kelowna's Community Safety Action Plan. Teams have been formed for the first set of priority actions. Central Okanagan Public Schools is sitting on 3 Action Tables:

- Action 2.4 - Kelowna Upstream Program collaborative aimed to reduce school disengagement and youth homelessness.
- Action 7.2 - a collaborative for enhancing Community partnerships around youth and adults impacted by domestic violence and intimate partner violence.
- Action 10.2 - accessibility to mental health services for youth in our region.

Thank you for your time today. Next meeting is on May 17 via Zoom.