

The Board of Education of

School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)

Minutes - Advocacy/Education Committee

| February 22, 2021, 9:30 a.m.  Meeting via Zoom |
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Committee Members Trustee Bellina

In Attendance: Trustee Whalen

Trustee Turner

Trustee Ayling

Regrets:

Board/District Staff in Trustee McPhee

Attendance: Trustee Johns

Trustee Damstrom

Trustee Kitt

Trustee Lento

Silke Yardley, Superintendent Jason Tichauer, Director, Student Learning

Diane Casault, Director, Student Learning

Jennifer Roberts, District Principal

Darcy Verbeurgt, District Principal

Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer

Gail Rousseau, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

# **1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

## **1.1 Call to Order**

I want to acknowledge that we have gathered here in the Homelands of the Ktunaxa people.

The Advocacy/Education Committee Meeting of February 22, 2021 was called to order at 9:32 by Co-Chair Bellina.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

M/S that the agenda of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of February 22, 2021 is approved as circulated.

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of January 25, 2021 be approved as circulated.

# **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING - nil**

# **3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

## **3.1 How Are We Doing Report? - Jason Tichauer**

Director Tichauer presented the yearly report produced by the Ministry of Education on Indigenous performance. Highlights included:

* almost all of our self-identified students receive support
* starting to track different categories in relation to the goals in our Enhancement Agreement
* Indigenous students make up 1/3 of students that have an IEP
* completion rates – biggest area of success – this is a 6 year completion rate; SD5 always one of top performing districts as far as 6 year completion rate goes
* bigger gap this year; success went up for all this year
* Ministry of Education starting to track 5 year completion; they want to know how students are doing without taking the extra time to graduate; no difference this year
* starting to looking at “how” kids are completing in relation to the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning
* we do see percentage gaps in the number of kids who are finishing as adult graduates
* looking at bringing in Indigenous student data and our goals in our Enhancement Agreement into the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning
* looking at academic gaps – English 12, Math 10, want more academic options
* looking at Student Learning Survey data and seeing positive and interesting things
* *How Are We Doing Report* is public but the student by student results is private as most data is masked.

# **4. REPORTS**

## **4.1 DSAC Report - Virtual Meeting to be held February 24, 2021**

* Looking forward to connecting with the students.

## **4.2 DPAC Report - Trustee Turner**

Highlights included:

* great attendance at both DPAC and PAC meetings due to Zoom; might be something to consider moving forward
* most schools have hot lunches now operating under the district’s health and safety protocols
* PACs are doing more and more online fundraising
* all school PACs have been responding to staff and students needs during COVID; supporting families who have been affected the most
* some schools starting to make long-term, 5 year plans in creating outside school yard spaces with equipment like rock circles for outdoor classes and new playground equipment
* the NDP government is providing grants for inclusive playground equipment.

Discussion:

* concern about safety issues with circle rocks with inclement weather – any other schools hear this? Trustee Turner will ask at next meeting
* rocks are sourced within footprint; composite rocks don’t fit the description of why they have the rocks in the first place; wood circles are used as an alternative at KOES; another option
* The White Hatter presentations - what is relationship between CBAL and The White Hatter? DPAC has money that they would like to support PACs within a variety of ways i.e., presentations or whatever the district is in need of at the time
* Trustee Turner did pass comments along to DPAC about The White Hatter and how much Trustees have enjoyed the presentations
* CHEQ will be presenting to DPAC on April 7; individual community presentations are also being done in all four communities; all four early learning tables have met twice already with CHEQ to develop plans that will be delivered to each community later this Spring; Trustees will be invited to attend both sessions
* Director Casault will send out link for Trustees to register for the White Hatter.

## **4.3 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) - Survey Results, Working Committee Results and Recommendations - Silke Yardley**

Superintendent Yardley presented the PowerPoint that was shared with the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Working Group, led by Director Casault on February 1, 2021. She also shared a summary of the themes that emerged from the survey questions as discussed by the Working Group on that day. The survey was sent to many different partner groups with just under 300 responses received. District management will now divide into three groups, Intellectual Development, Human and Social Development and Career Development using these results as well as other data to come up with recommendations on how to move forward on the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. The recommendations will be brought back to the Working Group and to the Board in April.

Questions/Comments:

* professional development and continuous improvement should not only be for staff but for students as well
* clarification was provided on who the survey was sent to and how they represent SD5; the survey was sent to students, parents, teachers, CUPE, principals/vice-principals, Indigenous community, community partners, district management and exempt staff.

## **4.4 Child Care - update on Fernie- Alan Rice and Silke Yardley**

Secretary-Treasurer Rice gave an update on child care in Fernie. Highlights and discussion included:

* Board motion to investigate bringing StrongStart programs within our SD5 employee base
* currently in the process of setting up meetings/calling our coordinators; some anxiety around the timing
* not easy to hire Early Childhood Educators (ECE) in district, i.e., pay grid and job descriptions; working on this with Unions; when we are dealing with collective agreements need to be cognizant of how we hire
* we believe this is the best approach for the future
* looking at the Fernie Learning Center (FLC) this week to look at space and tenants; will give them the heads up this week so they understand Board motion; might be able to still use space as current tenants are not-for-profit
* make FLC an early learning center
* only not-for-profit groups are eligible to use SD5 space; discussion needs to happen in the Policy Committee
* StrongStarts are funded by the Ministry of Education – historically outsourced
* question about consultation ahead of time? Not-for-profits have yearly renewal in agreements; timely now to have conversation
* StrongStart programs will continue to have space in our schools
* need to check with not-for profits – childcare centers will require space in each community; each community will have input on what that looks like

# **5. NEW BUSINESS**

## **5.1 Policy 3.18 - Scholarships and Awards - Looking for Board representation on District Authority Scholarship presentations - Jason Tichauer**

***Recommendation A – M/S that Trustee Kitt serve as the Board representative on the 2020/2021 Scholarship Committee and that Trustee Whalen serve as the alternate representative.***

Trustee Johns brought up a suggestion to rename the SD5 Top Student (Cranbrook) scholarship to the Dr. Arnold Lowden Scholarship and wondered about the process. A discussion took place. Director Tichauer recommended keeping the flavour of the award, that it is not a generic award.

***Recommendation B – M/S that the Board rename the Cranbrook SD5 Top Student award to the “Dr. Arnold Lowden Top Student Award”.***

Discussion:

* award criteria will focus on citizenship and contribution for the community
* suggestion to wait until next year as the scholarship packages were already sent out; worried about creating more work at this time
* MBSS is on board with this change
* the current criteria for this scholarship is applicable

# **6. ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

## 6.1 DSAC Initiative - Vaping Strategies, approaches

## 6.2 Invite UBC to present to Board meeting to present EDI/CHEQ trends; invite DPAC and PACs

## 6.3 DSAC involved in Climate Change initiatives/Vaping strategies

## 6.4 Invite Marisa Phillips to a future Board meeting to recognize her work on the Aboriginal Education Logo - to be invited for April Board meeting – this has now been changed to the April committee day – April 27

## 6.5 Dr. Atwal's vaping presentation presented to P/VPs - scheduled for April 8

# **7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

## **7.1 Trades**

### **7.1.1 SD 47**

Receive and file.

Jason Tichauer, Brian Conrad, Frank Lento and Chris Johns working on a letter response to hopefully be done by the next Board meeting.

## **7.2 Racist School Assignment**

### **7.2.1 BCSTA to Moms Against Racism Canada**

Receive and file.

## **7.3 Budget/Funding**

### **7.3.1 SD 42**

Receive and file.

## **7.4 Executive Compensation Freeze**

### **7.4.1 SD 74**

***Recommendation C – M/S that the Board write a letter to BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) requesting BCSTA write a letter to the BC Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA) asking the Provincial Government to exempt School Districts from the Public Sector Executive Compensation Freeze Policy.  This is in recognition of Executive Staff performance, efforts and resiliency in maintaining quality public education during the Pandemic.***

Receive and file.

# **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advocacy/Education Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.