

**The Board of Education of**

**School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)**

**Minutes - Advocacy/Education Committee**

| January 25, 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 January 25, 2021 was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Co-Chair Bellina.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

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

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of November 23, 2020 be approved as circulated.

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

# **3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS (10 min maximum)**

## **3.1 Vaping Presentation**

The Nicotine Cessation program at Sparwood Secondary School (SSS) was presented to the Advocacy/Education Committee by Dr. Jaslene Atwal, Acting Principal. Highlights included:

* there was a lack of information and support to help students quit vaping
* the school did not know how many students were vaping and to what extent
* growing issue amongst students and needed to look at different approach
* conducted nicotine cessation survey and found 48% wanted to quit; 96% didn’t know how to quit
* many students using vaping as a coping mechanism for trauma
* invited all school and community stakeholders including EKASS and students to sit on task force; needed to show students the climate in the school
* students scared to reach out, scared to get into trouble; didn’t want to be labeled as a “vaper”
* student driven and judgment free approach; policing/discipline in a different way
* awareness program (education piece and health affects) happens once a month, first Thursday of the month; share updated information about vaping
* grades 7-12 attend awareness session with an average of 25 students each week
* 15 mg nicotine salts is the most confiscated item from students
* cessation program – Kic the Nic – 4 sessions, students can start at any time
* currently supporting 16 students trying to quit; getting more and more students every week; did have a conversation openly with PAC and parents; parents do call school to enrol their kids
* offering Live Better Together Program, group support and one on one support - passive programming
* vape detectors will be installed in bathrooms to keep students safe
* many ways to reach/educate students i.e., using bulletin boards to house information, providing parent toolkits (encourage students to have conversation with parents and help them through these conversations), class conversation pieces/education, how to say no, stress busters and help with anxiety - different programs for every grade
* guest speakers coming in to support from community
* goal – no vaping at SSS; education=prevention
* awareness initiatives being developed by students
* advocating for teens to get nicotine cessation support from government agencies
* helping students with nicotine piece as well as trauma piece is the focus right now

Questions/Comments from committee:

* would like to see this program in all schools; this presentation will be shown to Principals and Vice-Principals district-wide
* would like to see DSAC do something with it
* excellent presentation; congrats for all your work; data, root cause, plan and very dialed into SSS students
* great wrap around approach; great use of data; easy to adapt for other schools
* professional from research to setting goals and outcomes
* used data from many different sources, i.e., USA, IHA, Province of BC and working with 18+ people, public health nurses, local doctors - get them on board at grass roots level so they become our advocates when kids come to them for support – work as a team
* very inclusive program; will work very well in the community; would like to see this at regional pro-d day offered to teachers so they can really buy in and get it started in other communities
* Any idea what our situation is like in other schools? Looking at data from province and across the country – numbers are growing in all schools; this data is available in the McCreary Report; every two years EKASS does a survey – will have new data this spring
* share with counselling group across the district; SSS counsellor had a big part in this program
* share updates on this topic when available
* Are there resources from any of the outside agencies i.e., Teck, Sunlife, district health care plan provider or funding to help broaden it? SSS has reached out to Tammy Ogden at Teck for support in the community
* as we learn more we might want to advocate provincially around nicotine content and resources available; i.e., BCSTA, KBB, BCSSA
* suggestion for this to go to September KBB; Trustee Bellina will try and get it scheduled

***Co-Chair Whalen chairing meeting.***

**3.2 Annual School Fees Report - Jason Tichauer**

Director Tichauer updated the committee on the Annual School Fees Report. Highlights/trends included:

* report was changed last year to be more reflective of what is happening in classrooms
* not reflective of this year due to COVID
* one of largest fees is in outdoor education programs; all schools waive this fee for students who are unable to pay
* school supply fee in our elementary facilities is optional; attempt to reduce costs for families
* band instrument rentals are also optional; locks and lockers – rental agreement; nominal locker fee to show it is school property which coincides with search and seize legislation
* Does this timeline work i.e., January committee meeting to bring this report to the Board?
* suggestion to bring forward around budget time next year

Questions/Comments:

* concern was expressed that the outdoor education and compass program fee becomes self-excluding; schools will cover fees for students who are unable to pay
* suggestion to make sure it is clearly laid out on forms going home to parents i.e., call the principal to discuss if unable to pay
* Director Tichauer will follow up with schools to ensure fees forms are clear and include language that indicates students can access school funds
* these programs are heavily subsidized at the school level; can also look at other programs as well as skiing to help with financing

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 DPAC Report – Trustee Turner**

Highlights included:

* Trustee Turner complimented DPAC on the online presentation by Sean Larsen last week
* Gail Rousseau mentioned 88 attendees were online at one time; a link of the presentation will be sent to Trustees
* there was a discussion about Valentine’s Day at schools; Secretary-Treasurer Rice mentioned this was brought up at the Health & Safety meeting last week and DPAC was looking at donating bulk orders to schools and possibly the school district matching the donation for a more controlled approach; DPAC getting back to him soon
* more and more schools are now doing a hot lunch program - schools discussing plans first with the principal and then submitting plans, taking into account the safety protocols, to the Secretary-Treasurer and the Superintendent
* DPAC has had a solid turn out of approximately 9-12 representatives for their meetings this year

**4.2 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) - update Silke Yardley**

A survey was sent last week to partner groups to gather responses to questions on how to enhance student learning in our district. Thanks to Diane Casault, Laurel Giesbrecht, Jane Nixon and Gail Rousseau for their help. The survey closes at midnight January 25. On Friday, January 29 district staff will be looking at the data followed by a meeting with partners, students and community stakeholders to share the data and get input for next steps.

Areas of focus:

* Grade 2 report card data - literacy
* FSA data – Grade 4 students in writing
* Provincial Numeracy Assessment - Grade 10 students – when you look at our data 94% of our students in 2018/2019 are not meeting expectations in Grade 10; improves to 76% the next year; Indigenous data shows 96% emerging/developing in 2018/2019 and then 90% in 2019/2020; fairly extensive assessment but it does give us good information
* Student Learning Survey data is interesting – some schools did the survey before the Pandemic which will have some bearing on the results. Results show that some students were not feeling safe at school even before Pandemic and schools went to online learning.

Directors Casault and Tichauer and District Principal Verbeurgt are gathering and analyzing data in the three areas of the Reporting Order - Intellectual Development, Human and Social Development and Career Development to be able to complete our report to the Ministry of Education regarding student performance, including outcomes and measures. The survey results will be brought forward to the February Advocacy/Education Committee meeting. An electronic version of the survey results will be sent to all Trustees with a hard copy being provided to Trustee Johns, McPhee and Lento.

**4.3 Child Care**

No report at this time.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

Nil

**6. ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**6.1 DSAC Initiative - Vaping Strategies, approaches (DSAC inactive during COVID for the 20/21 school year)**

A discussion took place on reconnecting with DSAC this year on Zoom or in Teams. Director Tichauer and Gail Rousseau will meet to discuss how to bring DSAC together virtually.

***Recommendation A – M/S that the District Student Advisory Council come together virtually using the appropriate technology.***

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1 FSA**

**7.1.1 SD 61**

**7.1.2 SD 72**

**7.1.3 SD 69**

**7.2 MyEducation**

**7.2.1 SD 61**

**7.3 School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC)**

**7.3.1 SD 36**

**7.4 Executive Compensation Freeze**

**7.4.1 SD 48**

**7.5 Child Care**

**7.5.1 SD 69**

**7.6 COVID Vaccine**

**7.6.1 SD 72**

**7.7 MOE Congratulations/Thank you**

**7.7.1 BCSTA to MOE**

**7.7.2 SD 42**

**7.7.3 SD 53**

**7.8 Miscellaneous**

**7.8.1 SD 19 to BCSTA**

**7.8.2 BCPVPA to BCSTA**

**7.8.3 BCTF to BCPSEA**

**7.8.4 BCSTA to MOE**

**7.8.5 BCSSA to BCPSEA**

There was a motion to receive and file all letters.

A discussion took place on the following letters:

**Item 7.3 School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC)**

A conversation took place on this information and in particular the backgrounder piece which is included. Trustee Turner would like to have a further discussion in detail to be more prepared each year to be able to go forward on the school site acquisition charge. She feels the district is not prepared to move forward on this item with limited information on the process. A suggestion was put forward to have Secretary-Treasurer Alan Rice put together basic information so the Board could have a better understanding of this topic. This is a very complicated topic and a working session might be needed. There is a report from BCSTA; we need to look at our local government implications and look at our respective community’s needs.

Secretary-Treasurer Rice will pull together pertinent information and distribute to Trustees at least one week in advance to have time to read the information and formulate questions. It will go to the February Finance/Operations Committee meeting for discussion with the possibility of assembling a working committee thereafter.

**Item 7.6.1: COVID vaccine**

Discussion:

* this letter is very timely as to the government rolling out the COVID vaccine
* as a Board we need to endorse this and send our own letter
* make sure our staff get recognition

***Recommendation B – M/S that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education similar to School District 72’s letter of December 2, 2020 supporting and advocating for our school district employees through this Pandemic.***

**Item 7.7.2: lack of funding for graduated students under the age of 19 who are continuing the second year of their trades training program**

Discussion:

* this becomes an issue (especially in the Elk Valley) as families do not want their child to live away from home; this is considered as a hardship and is a barrier to students trying to complete their second year of trades programming after graduation
* it does affect a handful of kids when you talk about a levelled playing field
* we as a Board should be advocating for all students in regards to the lack of funding
* move this to the next Board meeting and ask Director Tichauer to do a presentation; Brian Conrad will be invited to meeting
* suggestion for students to be billeted like they do in hockey programs

**Item 7.8.3**:

Trustee Johns has a concern about why don’t we have a copy of the Sustainable Teacher Workforce Labour Market Project: Sector Labour Market Partnership Report since it was completed in March, 2019. The Trustee representative will follow up.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advocacy/Education Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.