

The Board of Education of

School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)

Minutes - Advocacy/Education Committee

| November 23, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  Cranbrook Board Office |
| --- |

Committee Members Trustee Bellina (by Zoom)

In Attendance: Trustee Whalen (by Zoom)

Trustee Turner (by Zoom)

Trustee Ayling

Regrets:

Board/District Staff in Trustee McPhee (by Zoom)

Attendance: Trustee Johns (by Zoom)

Trustee Damstrom (by Zoom)

Trustee Kitt

Trustee Lento

Silke Yardley, Superintendent Jason Tichauer, Director, Student Learning

Diane Casault, Director, Student Learning (by Zoom)

Jennifer Roberts, District Principal (by Zoom)

Darcy Verbeurgt (by Zoom)

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.

Co-Chair Bellina called the Advocacy/Education Committee Meeting of November 23, 2020 to order at 9:32 a.m.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

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

**1.3 Approval of Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of October 26, 2020 are approved as circulated.

**2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**2.1 Early Development Indicator Comparisons - Diane Casault**

Director Casault presented Early Development Indicator (EDI) district data and individual school data to the committee showing the vulnerability percentages of Kindergarten students in all 5 EDI domains i.e., physical, social, emotional, language and communication. She also showed the district scales and some of the trends. She mentioned one Wave is 3 years worth of data and School District 5 is just starting Wave 8. Kindergarten teachers gather the EDI data in February each year. This allows time to gather data on the most vulnerable kids. It will be important to examine this data along with the CHEQ data to help with early program development. Staff will also be sitting down to discuss this data along with the Student Learning Survey data and the Foundation Skills Assessment data to find patterns. Trends for School District 5 data have remained constant over all 7 waves with emotional maturity having the largest percentage vulnerability and communication with the lowest.

UBC is willing to meet with School District 5 to present trends they are seeing pre and post Pandemic. They will be doing presentations to every early years’ table.

Director Casault will also contact DPAC to see if they want to see the EDI/CHEQ data that was shown today. Trustees commented on the importance of looking at this data to help support families in achieving student success.

**2.2 Early Learning Best Practises - Diane Casault**

Director Casault shared Fernie’s best practices. The majority of it has to do with who and how many are sitting at the early years’ table. Because of the Pandemic, early years’ tables seemed to have increased their participation due to the ability to attend on Zoom. East Kootenay child supports agencies are now connecting every month and hopefully this continues once the Pandemic is over. There has always been a coordinator in the Elk Valley where Cranbrook has always had two people sharing the role.

Superintendent Yardley thanked Director Casault for sharing this information and mentioned the difference in the Fernie community for our Kindergarten students. This ties into the previous comment about the importance of the Board looking at this data and, in particular, the data of our 0-8 year olds to see how we can make a difference in Cranbrook too.

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

**3.1 Climate Action Initiatives - MBSS Students and Paul Matthews**

Four students from Mount Baker Secondary School, along with their teachers Paul Matthews and Holly Millinoff, presented climate action initiatives that have been undertaken in their school last year and outlined projects that they are currently working on this year. The students formed a climate action club last year due to the lack of any climate change movement in their school.

* Organized a school wide student climate walk out; walked to City Hall
* built a storage bin for recycling; used the recycling money to help fund their group
* organized a bake sale to support animal rescue in Australia; raised $600 dollars for the SPCA
* plant starters; composting program; planted tulips in courtyard planters
* designed their own logo; ordered t-shirts and hoodies
* working on worm composting program
* want their own composting space so it won’t interfere with snow removal
* extending composting program to 10 classrooms
* planting tulips, herbs and garlic for foods program
* want to build a greenhouse to grow vegetables for foods program
* working alongside of Wildsight
* actively working on in-house paper recycling program
* lots of discussion between Rotary and school council to plant trees
* would like Board support to help fund initiatives; have gone out to community for donations – any further action will require funding
* suggestion for an annual fund to be set up for a green alliance program
* suggestion to come to a future committee meeting to talk about other ideas i.e., expansion of green spaces, building a greenhouse, window upgrades, design a climate action course specifically around climate change, learn about sustainability, space for a recycled paper project

Comments/discussion:

* + - really excited with these ideas; work together to get district support
    - particularly like the re-design aspect i.e., greenhouse, courtyard plants etc.; more than happy to work with student group; as a district have another report in a year’s time; thank you
    - Lucerne School greenhouse – check it out; climate is not so different than ours; composting programs pull in critters and fruit flies be careful;
    - interested in paper recycling practise; Bladerunners in Cranbrook – is there a shared recycling opportunity there?
    - district is working hard to do their part as well; purchased an electric bus and looking at purchasing a second one
    - greenhouse and food security done at high school level is amazing; case study in Lacombe, Alberta – geothermal battery greenhouse; food is grown all year round; student initiative; became partnership with science class and foods class; maybe an opportunity for something like that here
    - composting and paper recycling can work together
    - lots of support from this board; lots of funding available from CBT and other environmental groups
    - liked the presentation a lot; always good to have asks at the end
    - the students would like to extend this program to all schools in the district
    - Trustee Bellina would like to see DSAC involved and go district-wide
    - Trustee Johns will follow up with Paul Mathews to have updates that are more regular

**3.2 Marisa Phillips - Aboriginal Department Logo**

This item will be put on the next committee meeting held in Cranbrook where Marisa can be honored in person. Trustees received a “swag” bag of various Aboriginal education department items. Please let Gail Rousseau know which piece of clothing you would like. Very important to get our brand out to the public.

Trustee McPhee mentioned that it is very difficult to see people presenting at the Board Office on Zoom. Jennifer Roberts reported a new camera system is being installed in both boardrooms during the week of November 30.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 DSAC Report**

The District Student Advisory Council has been hampered by COVID-19 during the 20/21 school year. Trustee Bellina suggests reaching out to DSAC students to see what they are doing in their schools this year which may help to reconnect with them in some way.

**4.2 DPAC Report**

Trustee Turner reported:

* + - excellent attendance this year so far
    - lots of reports from different schools
    - one parent group continuing to meet at their regular time
    - most PACs are meeting every 6 weeks to 2 months instead of once a month fundraising almost non existence but are looking into different ways i.e., Purdy’s chocolates
    - was appreciative about getting information to proceed with hot lunches one to two times per month following regulations we have in place i.e., as long as meals are individually packaged and delivered in a way to not put anyone at risk and as long as they are given out by learning group it works
    - PACs were extremely relieved to hear they can proceed in that manner
    - outdoor activities – need a place to put outdoor gear in schools so not extra work for custodians to keep our schools clean and sanitized
    - looking at offering evening sessions for parents
    - in light of COVID PACs are doing great work on different things
    - parents looking at holding a Zoom session on anxiety featuring Sean Larsen
    - District is offering to help promote this session with DPAC funding

**4.3 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) update**

Superintendent Yardley is starting to look at the data over the next two weeks and will work with Gail Rousseau to have something organized for January. Data will be obtained from SharePoint.

**4.4 Child Care**

No update at this time.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS - APPENDIX A**

**6.1 DSAC Initiative - Vaping strategies, approaches (DSAC hampered by COVID-19 for the 20/21 school year)**

**6.2 Annual School Fees - this item is scheduled be presented at the January committee meeting**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1 Teacher Qualification Service**

7.1.1 SD 52

Receive and file.

**7.2 BCSTA Letter to Minister of Finance**

Receive and file.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advocacy/Education Committee meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.