

The Board of Education of

School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)

Minutes - Advocacy/Education Committee

| September 28, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  Cranbrook Board Office  Committee Members Trustee Whalen (Co-Chair)  In Attendance: Trustee Turner  Trustee Ayling  Trustee Bellina (by Zoom)  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 (by Zoom)  Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer  Darcy Verbeurgt, District Principal  Gail Rousseau, Executive Assistant (Recorder) |
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# **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 September 28, 2020 was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Co-Chair Whalen.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Addition: Item New Business - 5.3 FSA

M/S that the agenda of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of September 28, 2020 is approved as amended.

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of February 24, 2020 be approved as circulated.

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

# nil

# **3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

## **3.1 How Are We Doing Report?**

Director Tichauer reported:

* this item was tabled to April, 2020 but due to COVID, Committee meetings were cancelled
* data for the previous school year usually gets released from the Ministry around Christmas time
* another good year in terms of student success for Aboriginal Education results
* completion rate in top 3 in the province
* 6 year completion rate far above average for the province; it is the highest it has ever been at 83%
* uses BC residents data – much more honest indicator of student success
* unofficial data is available for 19/20 year – early indicators say 5 year completion rate will be even higher this year

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 DSAC Report**

Due to the inability to hold face-to-face meetings with DSAC at this time, this initiative will be put on hold. Any pending initiatives regarding DSAC students i.e., climate action and vaping will be put back on the agenda when we can meet as a whole. Trustee Bellina suggested that a gathering could possibly be organized at the end of the year at Tobacco Plains.

**4.2 DPAC Report**

Trustee Turner reported:

* large turnout of 12 people at first meeting
* DPAC has revised their constitution
* DPAC was represented on the Health and Safety Committee and was very grateful for the opportunity
* some parents at high school level were confused by quarter system as there was no opportunity to discuss it before it was implemented
* DPAC purchased books for parents called “Kids These Days”, by Jody Carrington for $10 each
* fundraising is looking different this year; one school fundraising for library books
* Director Tichauer reassured parents that the food programs in schools are still being provided
* a question regarding gaming grants was brought up by PACs; Are the grants going to be the same amount as before? DPAC will inquire
* next DPAC meeting is on October 14

Questions/Comments:

* no hot lunches this year at school; too bad as it generates a lot of revenue
* Director Casault mentioned that the district has purchased the Jodi Carrington Program which goes along with the booked DPAC has purchased

***Action Item:*** Director Casault will send information about the Jody Carrington program to the DPAC chair and also to Trustees

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 District Indigenous Professional Development Day Recap - Jason Tichauer**

Thank you to Faye O-Neil for her outstanding job in organizing this day and to Joe Pierre for moderating the day. We received 186 responses on the feedback form. A draw was held for prizes for those who filled out the feedback form. Thank you to the Tech Department who provided great support for the day and thank you to everyone who supported and participated in this very important District Indigenous Professional Development Day. The day was a huge success!

**5.2 Ktunaxa Welcome Sign for Cranbrook Board Office**

We now have Ktunaxa language for signs for the exterior of our board office. Signs will be placed at the front door, outside the bus shop and the maintenance shop (garage). Faye O’Neil has a request out to the Ktunaxa National Council, the Elders in Residence and the Knowledge Holders for a voice recording of the new language. Signs will be made and then a proper reveal will be organized. It was suggestion to hold some kind of competition for staff to be able to pronounce the new words. Putting signs up is one thing but truly learning to how to use them is another. Interior signage will be coming as well. Thanks to Faye O’Neil for taking on this initiative.

**5.3 FSA**

Trustee Ayling and Trustee Turner would like to recommend an updated letter be sent to the Ministry of Education expressing the Boards’ disappointment with the Ministry of Education’s continuation with the FSA. Considering the impact COVID has had on students and staff already this year, they wonder why it would be in anyone’s best interest to continue. We need to support students right now in a meaningful way. Anxiety is high in students and the FSA is adding more anxiety for staff and students. It costs a minimum of 5 hours of instruction to administer this test in its various components. That time is needed to help students progress. In addition, this money could be used to help our vulnerable students and to help with the overall health and safety for the district.

***Recommendation A – that the Board send an updated letter to the Ministry of Education regarding the Boards’ concerns around administering the FSA in our District.***

A further discussion took place:

* Is there any money that comes to help deal with issues that are identified from the assessment?
* last year was not a full year for students; in this particular time we are going to miss kids because some are not attending school right now; don’t see practicality of pushing forward with all complexity of what we have going on in all schools
* biggest controversy seems to be with Fraser Institute – would like to know who does like the FSA and the pros and cons
* perhaps in our letter ask the Ministry for alternative ways to gather data which will work for our own purposes

***Action Item:*** Trustee Ayling would like those Trustees who want their comments in the letter to send them to her as soon as they can

* can we opt out of the FSA?
* definitely a controversial assessment; controversy is with Fraser Institute and how they rate and rank schools; parents look at this
* assessment is done to see how students are doing; written by teachers, follows new curriculum; takes about 5 hours
* if the assessment is used in a way to improve student learning then it is a benefit
* done at different grades which shows us if the students are not doing well
* we are looking at district wide assessment for our district
* we are asking teachers to put their assessments this year in MyEd so we can track data especially this year because of COVID to see how they are doing
* not sure we can opt out of the assessment
* Teachers might have been involved in putting together the test but they pulled out; if we have to do it then lets do it randomly – not every school every year that would take away the ranking as well

**6. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS - APPENDIX A**

**6.1 DSAC Initiative - Vaping strategies, approaches –** DSAC on hold due to COVID

**6.2 Annual School Fees Plan**

**6.3 District Initiatives - Climate Action – *Action Item:*** invite Paul Matthews from MBSS to present at the next Advocacy/Education Committee meeting (was put on hold due to COVID)

**6.4 Recommended Resources for the New Curriculum (2021 BCSTA AGM)**

This item was sent through the Kootenay Boundary Branch to be forwarded to BCSTA AGM where it will be discussed and debated.

**6.5 Early Learning Fernie Best Practises**

**6.6 EDI Comparisons**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1 Funding**

**7.1.1 SD 69**

Receive and file.

**7.1.2 BCSTA Letter to MOE**

Receive and file.

**7.1.3 CUPE BC to MOE**

Receive and file.

**7.1.4 SD 61**

Receive and file.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of September 28, 2020 is adjourned at 10:30 a.m.