

The Board of Education of

School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)

Minutes - Advocacy/Education Committee

| February 24, 2020, 9:30 a.m.Cranbrook Board Office |
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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 (late)

Trustee Lento

 Silke Yardley, Superintendent Jason Tichauer, Director, Student Learning

 Diane Casault, Director, Student Learning

 Brent Reimer (late)

 Jennifer Roberts, District Principal

 Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer

 Darcy Verbeurgt, District Principal (late)

 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 24, 2020 was called to order at 9:35 by Co-Chair Whalen.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

M/S that the agenda of the Advocacy/Education Committee Meeting of February 24, 2020 is approved as circulated.

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of January 27, 2020 be approved as circulated.

# **2. PRESENTATIONS**

## **2.1 Jennifer Roberts - Professional Development Presentation- Boston**

Jennifer Roberts attended the IMB Executive Briefing conference in Boston last October which focussed on cyber security and artificial intelligence (AI). This professional development was for Canadian delegates only with the benefit of Harvard & MIT partnership and facility tours. Highlights included:

* stressed the importance of having relevant and up to date security resources with continuous training for our staff
* school districts are top 5 businesses that are being targeted
* AI and computer science will be in every job in the future; how do we prepare our students for this? Our students need to be AI literate; gave examples of how AI can help us in the future in our district; potential is unlimited; we are on the cusp of change for our district and our students
* AI will do all skills that need to be automated; need to focus on core competencies i.e., interpersonal skills, speaking, creativity etc.
* increased demand for cyber intelligence in the world
* outlined various initiatives for youth in our district
* introduced a pilot project–3 entry level courses for career and tech education (CTE)
* provided information on how to handle security breaches
* just starting to use AI in education; have used it in health quite a bit
* thank you for the opportunity

## **2.2 EDI Presentation - Diane Casault**

Director Diane Casault provided copies and showed Wave 7 of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) Report. The information in this Report is gathered and used by Kindergarten teachers in our district. Director Casault outlined the 5 scales of the EDI and showed the comparison between district data and provincial data on all 5 scales and highlighted our strengths as a district. The neighborhood maps were shown which break down the information based on communities (Sparwood and Elkford are grouped together) and comparisons were highlighted between district and provincial data. This data needs to be compared with our Student Learning Survey data, our CHEQ data and our MDI data for us to get specifics for each school. Many of our schools in Cranbrook have students that come from other catchment areas so hard to get accurate data with the EDI report alone. This information helps the early years’ people figure out why things have changed over time. Director Casault has shared this report with the early years’ people and the ECE Coordinators. Meetings and follow-up discussions will happen next.

A discussion on the low vulnerability data in Fernie was discussed. There are very strong people at the early learning years’ table in Fernie. We could learn from what they are doing in Fernie to help at the early years’ table in Cranbrook. Lots of the supports that are in the valley are housed right in Fernie which allows many people to make the meetings and their roles at the table are quite clear.

## **2.3 How Are We Doing Report - Jason Tichauer**

This item will be tabled until the April Advocacy/Education Committee meeting.

# **3. ITEMS FORWARDED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

## **3.1 September 18, 2020 – Update**

Director Tichauer updated Trustees that Senator Sinclair has now been secured to present at Western Financial Place with the possibility of another keynote speaker for September 18, 2020. We are working with our community partners on multiple breakout sessions for the afternoon in various locations. A committee will be getting together soon to further plan this day.

## **3.2 Update on Cost of Busses with Seat Belts - Alan Rice**

Secretary-Treasurer Alan Rice mentioned all Trustees were forwarded a news article/ press release from Transport Canada from a commissioned review committee on bus safety. Our Elk Valley Bus Review Committee is meeting this Wednesday to discuss four main recommendations from Transport Canada:

* infraction cameras installed on busses – in process of having those installed on all our busses
* extended stop arms; we already have these on our busses
* exterior 360 degree cameras
* automatic emergency breaking – feature we can look at when we order new busses

Mr. Rice mentioned 79% of fatalities occur outside the bus in or near a school bus loading zone. The cost to install seat belts for our fleet would be $990,000 – $1,000,000 We will be waiting for more information and paying attention to the BC pilot project report before we spend the money to retrofit our fleet. This will also be discussed further at the Elk Valley Bus Review Committee.

# **4. CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS**

## **4.1 DSAC Report**

DSAC representatives Natelli (MBSS), Kya (PMS), Kaytee (PMS) and Kyra (MBSS) presented information around anti-vaping initiatives and strategies to the Committee. Highlights included:

* why students start to vape
* all schools have signage around the schools on the dangers of vaping but feel they do not really work; students do not take the time to read as they are too wordy
* showed Trustees examples of actual vapes
* talked to the Grade 12 English class at MBSS and they also said signs do not work and that students make more fun of them than anything
* kids don’t want to talk to teachers or parents; kids want to feel comfortable with someone neutral i.e., counsellors; someone who has no association with their personal life
* regular bathroom checks is a strategy happening at MBSS
* smoking pits provided at ESS and FSS – this has its pros and cons as these attract younger students which is a problem
* talked about ways to improve awareness and prevention
* have presentations/seminars grade by grade
* bring in speakers like the White Hatter
* provide more statistical information and hard medical facts to back up the diseases and long term affects; kids would pay more attention to this
* this information must be given to the younger students (Grade 5 or 6)
* it should be part of the DARE program
* counselling and support groups for kids who want to cut back on nicotine consumption

A discussion took place on a buy-back program to help them make better choices. The Committee thanked the students for coming today – their presentation was insightful and impactful and they are doing great work for our district. A discussion ensued on how and why vaping is such a concern in all our schools and the causes behind the addiction. A peer to peer approach/strategy could be a very effective way to deal with this crisis. A vaping presentation is being held March 4 at the Key City Theatre and it was suggested to bring this presentation to all our communities. We don’t want to lose sight of this opportunity to help our students. Work in this area will continue.

## **4.2 DPAC Report**

Trustee Wendy Turner gave highlights:

* Vaping presentation by Teresa Bartraw from East Kootenay Addictions is being held at the Key City Theatre on March 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. which includes free babysitting
* Two parent representatives are on the Bussing Review Committee; one from Fernie and one from Sparwood - looking for a Jaffray parent to join
* Inclusive Education Working Group – parent representatives really appreciate the opportunity to be there; be aware of potential impact of parents on that committee; people are giving their raw stories; haven’t got to making decisions yet; dealing with the job descriptions at the next meeting
* DPAC Executive have reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws and will bring revisions to the March meeting
* DPAC representative in Fernie mentioned how difficult it is to be on zoom; maybe some training can be done?
* Trustee Turner will let Tara know that this is happening

# It was noted that the district calendar needs to be updated with current events i.e., Pink Shirt Day, Black History Day.

# **5. BCSTA LETTERS**

## **5.1 Vapour Products Intention Letter**

### **5.1.1 SD 19 – Receive and file.**

## **5.2 Funding Formula/Model/Budget**

### **5.2.1 BCSTA to MOE – Receive and file.**

### **5.2.2 MOE to BCSTA – Receive and file.**

### **5.2.3 Ltr to MOE from BCTF – Receive and file.**

# **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advocacy/Education Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.