



**The Board of Education of
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)
MINUTES - STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**September 27, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Cranbrook Board Office**

Committee Members in Attendance: Co-Chair Trustee Krista Damstrom (remotely)

Co-Chair Doug McPhee
Trustee Chris Johns
Trustee Kathryn Kitt

Board/District Staff in Attendance:

Trustee Trina Ayling
Chairperson Frank Lento
Trustee Bev Bellina (remotely)
Trustee Wendy Turner (remotely)
Trustee Patricia Whalen (remotely)
Superintendent, Silke Yardley
Secretary Treasurer, Alan Rice
Secretary Treasurer, Nick Taylor (staff as of Oct. 1) (remotely)
Director of Student Learning and Innovation, Diane Casault
District Principal of Student Services, Darcy Verbeurgt
Executive Assistant (recorder) Laurel Giesbrecht

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

1.1 Call to Order

The Student Services meeting of September 27, 2021, was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Co-Chair Trustee McPhee.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded by: Kitt/Damstrom

THAT the agenda for the Student Services Meeting of September 27, 2021 be approved as circulated.

1.3 Approval of the Minutes

Moved/Seconded by: Kitt/Damstrom

THAT the minutes of the Student Services meeting of August 30, 2021, be approved as circulated.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Update on the Social Emotional Learning Centre (SELC) program

SELC team finished the year at PES. Very successful program. SELC teacher went back to classroom. Staffed supported at SES in June. We will be starting with a brand-new SELC team. Jessica Bartraw has accepted the position of the new SELC teacher. YCW will be Dana McLean. We will deliver a program like what we've designed and have used in the past. There will be collaboration between the outgoing and incoming SELC teachers. We are looking at starting in grades 2 and 3 in both English and French Immersion. The start date of SELC program is yet to be determined.

2.2 Update on Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

May budget IEP numbers = 794
Current IEP numbers = 886
level 1,2 3 = 550
level 1,2,3 Kindergarteners = 28

IEPs are a bridge from Spring to the current year. Last years team is certainly most familiar with the student. Meetings happen late September and October. IEPs updated in MyEd no later than Dec 3, 2021

There is an uptake in number of kids needing additional supports. We are up about 30% in the intensive behaviour support. COVID is having an effect on kids. We had lots of referrals in PsychEd last year. 50-70 assessments a year per psychologist. It will be hard to meet all assessments within the one-year standard. We need to get the resources to advocate for those kids. Our psychologists are going a great job. Triage does lean towards kids with intellectual disabilities and kids nearing the end of their school career. Our psychologists carry out the triage. The goal is to get to kids within one year. They stay on the list until they are served, leave the district or the team decides it's time for them to come off.

RECOMMENDATION A

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Damstrom:

THAT the Board obtain a report on the issue of student assessment in relation to school psychology.

2.3 Update on Staffing

Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) postings

- Maternity Leave May 1, 2021 – Oct 31, 2022
- 0.7 FTE continuing – starting Sept 1, 2021
- Contract offered to three SLP candidates – all declined
- Will redistribute remaining 4.4 FTE to all schools starting Oct. 4.

Behaviour Resource Teacher (BRT)

- Hired in June
- Currently working 0.5 FTE until winter break. Leave will be reviewed at that time.

Social Emotional Learning Centre (SELC) postings

- Teacher – starts Oct 4
- YCW – started Sept 20 – placed at TMRES to cover absences
- EA – still looking

Youth Care Worker (YCW)

- Total YCWs = 25
- Nine schools/programs have 2 FTE
- Four schools share two YCWs
- Mini conference for YCW on October 22

Education Assistants (EA)

- Postings are still going out every day. HR is working to ensure people are available.

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. REPORTS

4.1 SLP Data Summary

Total students served January to the end of June was 858. 29% continued from the fall or from the prior year. 51% are new referrals. 19.7% are students of aboriginal ancestry. Aboriginal ancestry students receiving support was documented as it relates to a subgroup when reporting to the Ministry.

A total of 888 FTE days were worked in schools during this 98-day instructional period. Directed hours comprise 53% of the total hours worked by the Speech Language pathologists and Assistants. Expectedly, the direct hours are more before Spring Break (59%) than after (43%) as focus moves to reporting and preparing summer home programs in the later third of the year. These data are commensurate with other jurisdictions as reported by Speech and Hearing BC.

The Speech-Language staff find the data collection time consuming. They indicate that assessments and reports are often completed in late hours and on the weekends so that they can increase the direct hour numbers at schools to ensure the numbers look good in the report. One staff member worked into her maternity leave to ensure reports and transition notes were available for the replacement SLP. It has been recommended that we cease daily data collection and term reporting. A more efficient data collection and summary process will be followed from now on.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

6.1 Updates to the Inclusive Education Working Group

6.2 Prevalence Model Discussion

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Student Services Committee was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.