

**The Board of Education of**

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

**Minutes - Advocacy/Education Committee**

| October 26, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  Kootenay Learning Campus - Fernie |
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Committee Members Trustee Whalen (Co-Chair) (by Zoom)

In Attendance: Trustee Turner (by Zoom)

Trustee Ayling (by Zoom)

Trustee Bellina (by Zoom)

Regrets:

Board/District Staff in Trustee McPhee

Attendance: Trustee Johns (by Zoom)

Trustee Damstrom (by Zoom)

Trustee Kitt

Trustee Lento

Silke Yardley, Superintendent Jason Tichauer, Director, Student Learning (by Zoom)

Diane Casault, Director, Student Learning

Jennifer Roberts, District Principal (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.

The Advocacy/Education Committee Meeting of October 26, 2020 was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Co-Chair Whalen.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

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

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of September 28, 2020 be approved as circulated.

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

Thank you letter to September 18, 2020 Indigenous Day organizers will be sent out soon.

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

## **3.1 Tracking of Grade 12s March to June, 5 year grad rate by school and district - Jason Tichauer**

Director Tichauer was asked to present results of how the graduating class of 2020 did during the Pandemic. He reported as follows:

* an unofficial data package was put together for district management at the end of June
* graduation information was pulled from MyEd school by school with help from Director Casault
* 6 year completion rates are still to come from the Ministry of Education (MOE)
* very consistent results across the district; one outlier from these results is KES; this is very reflective of a traditional year; roughly 50 kids at KES made it through and some will get through by attending an adult program this year
* all of our secondary schools were well aware of the students at risk from graduating; all of those students were at risk prior to the Pandemic

Comments and discussion from Trustees/District Management included:

* top item on the BCSTA conference call last week was student learning and the loss of hours, quality time, quality of learning, relationships etc. through the Pandemic
* we need to look at this as a district if we continue in the Pandemic
* very high grad rate for the schools; we looked at those at-risk students and Director Tichauer met with principals to talk about making sure these students graduated; we did not want them to not graduate because there was a Pandemic; schools worked hard with those at-risk students to find out what they needed to graduate
* going to be a process and going to take time; everyone doing their best
* this is good News; a press release should be done as the public would like to hear this
* need to recognize extra effort put in and celebrate success of staff
* concerns were shared around the quarter system; it does allow for students to progress rapidly but does leave some kids behind; particularly difficult for kids in math in quarter 2,3 and 4 – keep an eye on these students; maybe extra help and provisions put in place to help them succeed

***Recommendation A –M/S that the Board consider writing a press release to celebrate graduation success rates.***

# **4. REPORTS**

## **4.1 DSAC Report –** nothing to report this time; still on hold; there are some of our middle/secondary schools starting leadership classes but nothing on a district level

## **4.2 DPAC Report**

* consistent participation at PAC meetings so far
* Zoom is helping make that happen and shape meetings
* full executive this year for the most part
* good discussion on sports and schools; very factual and considerate
* thank you Trustee Johns for coming to the last meeting
* relayed motion that the Board passed on school sports protocols and it was well received; thanks to Director Tichauer, Secretary-Treasurer Alan Rice and Superintendent Yardley for their work on this

# **5. NEW BUSINESS**

## **5.1 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Implementation Approach**

Superintendent Yardley presented the new Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Policy along with the Enhancing Student Learning Reporting Order. This was a draft last year and districts were supposed to get new information from the Ministry of Education (MOE) last spring but COVID hit. The School Act has been modified to reflect these new requirements.

Each year, a board must prepare and submit to the Minister a report regarding student performance, including outcomes and measures, completed in accordance with the order between June 30 and September 30. The Board is also tasked with writing a strategic plan for the district. We will be gathering data using Sharepoint as well as the FSA results for Grades 4 and 7, the literacy exam for Grade 10, data from the numeracy exam, results from the Student Learning Survey and data on how our Indigenous students are doing. We will also be using some of our own school data. Some of the data is hard to find (i.e., transitions to post-secondary) but Superintendent Yardley will contact the MOE for help. The new plan is not to exceed 10 pages in length.

Comments/suggestions:

* literacy for high school students very important; like the way this is going
* can we include all placements for students seeking volunteer hours? We should recognize these students as well; we have some leeway to make it work for our district
* will the postponement of the FSA impact this? If the FSA does happen in Jan/Feb 2021 we will have data for the end of June; we are asking teachers to put data into MyEd three times a year now so we will be able to use this data as well
* strategic plan includes an annual operations plan, IT plan etc., - these will all fit into strategic plan; we are asking for school growth plans by mid December; school plans need to include how we are improving student learning
* MOE encouraging us to include all partner groups in developing our strategic plan i.e., students, community members, Indigenous peoples, teachers, principals, district staff etc.;
* need common vision; what does evidence say and what do we need to improve on?
* have to choose 3, 4 or 5 year strategic plan; strategic plan and individual school plans need to align with other district plans, i.e., IT, operations, etc.;
* it is legislated for the board to have continuous achievement on student learning from now on; policy, vision, reasons, purpose, guiding principles - we will draft a policy that incorporates all of this and send to partner groups; this is huge but doable; gives us good direction, ties into a strategic plan; implementation guide document itself is almost laid out as policy
* framework – view through a lens of providing equity for all students
* concern about using the transition to post-secondary as the only success indicator – members of society and life-long learners –look at other measures of success i.e., employment
* timeline is tight lots of work to be done to bring groups together
* Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer will work on this together; District Management will start looking at creating a plan with partner groups; like the idea to put it in policy
* will work on this January-March and hope to have a draft to the board at the June board meeting; lots of other plans need to happen first
* a 4-5 year plan seems doable; bring to board once a year;
* we have a lot of assessment and evaluation going into system through MyEd
* best assessment of student learning comes from the classroom; highlighting that portion of it and making sure loop is complete is the best indicator
* might make more sense for a 3 year plan while in the Pandemic
* develop a template with all stakeholders – policy vision; intellectual development, human and social development and career development; follow through in logistical order then decide on 3,4,or 5 year plan; get feedback from people; let our staff go do the work and report back from time to time with progress reports along the way
* do the policy work part way through or in conjunction with and perhaps have this as a standing item on the Advocacy/Education committee meeting agenda

***Recommendation B –M/S that the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning becomes a standing item on the Advocacy/Education committee meeting.***

# **6. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS - APPENDIX A**

## **6.1 DSAC Initiative - Vaping strategies, approaches**

## **6.2 Annual School Fees**

## **6.3 District Initiatives - Climate Action**

## **6.4 EDI Comparisons - this item will be on the November agenda**

## **6.5 Early Learning Fernie Best Practises – this item will be on the November agenda**

# **7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

## **7.1 FSA**

### **7.1.1 SD 69**

Receive and file.

## **7.2 Federal Funding**

### **7.2.1 MOE to BCSTA**

Receive and file.

## **7.3 Mental Health in Schools**

### **7.3.1 Letter from MOE**

Receive and file.

## **7.4 Exempt Salary Freeze**

### **7.4.1 SD 72**

Receive and file.

# **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advocacy/Education Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.