



**The Board of Education of
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)**

MINUTES - FINANCE/OPERATIONS/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (PUBLIC)

**April 27, 2021, 12:30 p.m.
Meeting via Zoom**

Committee Members in Attendance: Co-Chair Trustee Kitt
Co-Chair Trustee Johns
Trustee Bellina
Trustee Damstrom

Board/District Staff in Attendance: Trustee Ayling
Chairperson Lento
Trustee McPhee
Trustee Turner
Superintendent, S. Yardley
Secretary Treasurer, A. Rice
Director of Instruction/Human Resources, B. Reimer
Director of Student Learning and Aboriginal Education, J. Tichauer
Director of Instruction/Student Learning, D. Casault
District Principal/Student Services, D. Verbeurgt
District Principal/Transformative Learning, J. Roberts
Executive Assistant, (recorder) S. Gronlund

Regrets: Trustee Whalen

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

1.1 Call to Order

The public Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee meeting of April 27, 2021 was called to order at 12:39 p.m. by Co-chair Trustee Johns.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

M/S that the agenda of the public Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee meeting of April 27, 2021 be approved as circulated.

1.3 Approval of the Minutes

M/S that the minutes of the public Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee meeting of February 22, 2021 be approved as circulated.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Budget 2021-22

Secretary Treasurer Rice noted that there will be another budget session with the Board on May 11th. He has been concentrating on the enrolment numbers in particular the kindergarten group as the expectation was a higher number. The hope is he will have a preliminary budget ready for the May 11th Board meeting.

Secretary Treasurer Rice has not heard of any specific educational funding for COVID-19 from the Federal and Provincial budget announcements for next year.

Operating and capital budgets are due to the Ministry of Education by June 30, 2021.

2.2 COVID-19 District Working Committee Update

Secretary Treasurer Rice delivered a brief update on the committee and reported that the last meeting was April 12th. They discussed the difficulty of teachers talking through masks all day. More requests for barriers have been received from schools for the teachers when standing in front of the class. The district has purchased over 250 air purifiers and would like to purchase more.

A report will be ready for the May 31st Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee meeting with a clearer picture of the spending to date of the COVID-19 federal funds received. These funds need to be spent by June 30, 2021.

The next meeting of the committee is planned for the beginning of next week.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS (10 min max)

Nil.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Stage 2 Restart Protocol Update - Secretary Treasurer

Along with what was covered in item 2.2, Secretary Treasurer Rice added that the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has extended the Order and recommends "staying close to home" through the May long weekend.

Vaccines:

Secretary Treasurer Rice and Superintendent Yardley are working to coordinate our staff to be moved up on the provincial vaccination list. Currently, the ministry is focusing on "hot spots", communities with higher numbers of COVID-19 infections. The custodians continue to spray on a weekly basis at the schools to try to keep the schools as sterilized as possible.

Trustee Johns asked if there was anything the Board could do to support our staff being vaccinated sooner. Secretary Treasurer Rice reiterated that the vaccines are given to hot spots. It is a matter of whether there are a high number of exposures in our community. Trustee Turner replied that the ministry is now

encouraging 18+ year old people to register for the vaccine. She commended on how well the staff is working to make our schools as safe as possible. Trustee McPhee commented that the administration of vaccines in our community is very well executed. Trustee Bellina stated that the social media can be a deterrent to people getting immunized.

4.2 Stage 2 Restart Protocol Update – Superintendent

Superintendent Yardley indicated that our district has had three exposures in the schools last week and she encouraged everyone to be diligent in following the protocols set out. These exposures seem to be brought to the school but stops there and has not spread. The COVID-19 Interior Health trackers are very good about knowing what they require for tracing. The schools are doing amazing work and sticking to the protocols in place. We are not sure what September looks like and are hoping there will not be the need for strict protocols. The principals and vice-principals are planning their schedules for September with a backup plan for the protocols if required.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Co-chair Johns indicated that the public presentations will be in September. We should have an update for the May 31, 2021 Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee meeting. Special Education will be one item presented on.

5.2 School Life Cycle Funding

The final BCSTA report “the Case for Increased School Life Cycle Funding” is attached to the agenda. Berry Architect, who is currently working on a detailed study on Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS), has provided us with their comments on this report. Trustee Kitt asked about the district’s 5-year plan and the replacement ratings. Does the 5-year plan rank the school conditions? Secretary Treasurer Rice replied that there is a ministry formula that provides a score when we put together the long-range facility plan, which will be worked on this summer. Secretary Treasurer advised that the Ministry has announced one possibly two schools being replaced outside of an enrolment issue and serious conditions.

Trustee Johns advised that once the district has received George Berry’s report from his study of MBSS, we can discuss our next move. Secretary Treasurer Rice will be looking at the other schools in the district for life cycle funding.

5.3 Federal/Provincial Budget - COVID-19 Funding

Secretary Treasurer Rice explained that no additional funding has been allocated to education. Both budgets have pools of funding and we will now wait to hear further announcements.

5.4 Draft 2021-22 Board and Committee Meetings Schedule

Secretary Treasurer Rice gave a brief overview of the draft Board and Committee meeting schedule for the 2021-22 school year attached to the agenda. He

pointed out there are two committee meetings that will fall on a Tuesday as opposed to a Monday due to a stat holiday and a PRO-D day.

RECOMMENDATION A

M/S that the Board approve the draft 2021-22 Board and Committee meeting dates attached to the agenda. Meeting locations in schools will be considered once the Public Health Officer's COVID-19 protocols allow.

6. ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

6.1 Jaffray - Ministry of Transportation (safe crossing on Hwy 3)

6.2 Jaffray - Ministry of Transportation (lower speed limit on Hwy 3)

Joe Tank, Operations Manager, has sent a follow up letter to the Ministry of Transportation reiterating the need for a lower speed limit on a portion of Hwy 3 east of Jaffray.

6.3 Staff Travel Summary Report Review

6.4 Fernie - Ministry of Transportation (safe crossing on Hwy 3 and 13th St)

6.5 Innes Avenue Development

6.6 School Site Acquisition

Secretary Treasurer Rice noted that when the communities in our district work on their 5 year plans the district will advocate to have a "seat at the table". Additional work is required with our respective community administrators.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 District Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes

Director Reimer announced that the next meeting of this safety committee was changed to Thursday, April 29, 2021. Trustee Damstrom asked about feedback from employees in relation to fatigue with working through this pandemic. Director Reimer replied that the staff in the schools are tired. Chair Lento expressed that the expectation of staff doing more is unreasonable. We need to keep putting pressure on our staff to produce. Trustee Bellina replied that after almost one and a half years of this pandemic, we are coping but very difficult on everyone.

Trustee McPhee commented that normally when we hit a roadblock and work through it, we would come together and celebrate. We do not have that opportunity right now nor the opportunity to give a physical thank you to people with a pat on the back or a handshake. We should keep a tally on how to thank people when we are able to. Trustee Turner commented that with the next two months being so busy she is going to think only about what is needed, not wanted.

A letter of support and thank you to the staff has been sent. A suggestion was brought up to bring forward a discussion to a Board meeting on ways we could celebrate the hard work of our employees for the end of the year.

7.2 Finance Report

Secretary Treasurer Rice indicated that we are right on track with spending as typically if we had three months remaining of the school year, we would be at about 30%.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The public Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee meeting of April 27, 2021 adjourned at 1:28 p.m.