



**The Board of Education of
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Minutes – Policy Committee**

**January 27, 2020, 11:30 am
Board Office**

Committee Members In
Attendance:

Co-Chair Trustee Turner
Co-Chair Trustee Ayling
Trustee McPhee
Trustee Whalen

Board/District Staff in
Attendance:

Trustee Bellina (by Zoom)
Trustee Damstrom
Trustee Johns
Trustee Kitt
Superintendent, S. Yardley
Secretary Treasurer, A. Rice
Director of Instruction/Human Resources, B. Reimer
Director of Student Learning/Aboriginal Education, J. Tichauer
Director of Student Learning/Innovation, D. Casault
District Principal/Student Services, D. Verbeurgt
District Principal/Transformative Learning, J. Roberts
Executive Assistant, J. Nixon (Recorder)

Regrets:

Chairperson Lento

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

The Policy Committee meeting of January 27, 2020 was called to order at 12:07 pm by Co-Chair Trustee Turner.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

M/S that the agenda for the Policy Committee meeting of January 27, 2020 be approved.

1.3. Approval of the Minutes

M/S that the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of November 25, 2019 be approved as circulated.

2. POLICIES APPROVED BY THE BOARD SINCE LAST MEETING

Policy 3.14 – Provision of Menstrual Products to Students

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 Policy – Provision of Menstrual Products to Students – Student Survey Results

3.2 Policy 3.14 Provision of Menstrual Products to Students – Regulations

Mr. Tichauer reviewed the Student Survey Results and Feedback. The regulations have been set out directly as a result of the survey. Further discussions regarding the survey results included:

- Student preference of plastic versus cardboard. Trustee Bellina raised concerns over this for environmental reasons.
- The timeframe (two years) that the survey be completed again to ensure that the District is meeting student needs.

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

4.1 Revised Policy 3.33 - Use of Cell Phones and Digital Devices

Mrs. Casault reviewed the changes to the Revised Policy – Use of Cell Phones and Digital Devices. The changes included the following revisions:

- Students may use cell phones during instructional time to improve student engagement and learning at the discretion of the teacher
- Students should have all cell phones and other digital devices silenced and out of sight unless permission by the teacher has been granted
- Repeated offences may follow a progressive discipline model

Other discussions regarding this policy included:

- The use of cell phones and other digital devices in change rooms or washrooms is not permitted at any time
- The prohibited use of social media during instructional time
- The elimination of the section of the policy regarding the use of cell phones and other digital devices while driving. The Motor Vehicle Act, Section 3.1 was added to this policy to clearly define the prohibition of use while operating a motor vehicle.
- Trustee McPhee also suggested that the wording of student engagement should be removed from this policy.
- Co-Chair Turner discussed an email that was received about this policy.
- Superintendent Yardley addressed the important fact that the policy allows for leeway and flexibility for staff and schools.
- Mrs. Casault gave examples of the manner in which schools in School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) are dealing with devices in the classroom.

The revised policy will now be sent to partner groups for feedback.

4.2 Revised Policy 3.42 - Students Registered for Distance Education

Mr. Tichauer reviewed the changes to the policy. He stated that the revisions have modernized the policy and clarified that students registered for Distance Education in School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) may apply for participation in additional programs and activities that may be available in community schools.

Trustee McPhee expressed concern regarding the wording of Policy 3.42. Trustee McPhee suggested that the language should be more clearly defined.

Other discussion included:

- The clarification of the roles of Home School versus Distance Education
- The availability of Distance Education to all students
- The advantages of Distance Education to reach all learners
- The specific reasons that students might register for Distance Education

The policy, with revisions, will now be sent to partner groups for feedback.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Policy 3.37 - Health Promoting Schools

Mrs. Casault asked that the Health Promoting Schools Policy be added to the April Policy Committee Meeting due the Special Education compliance audit that is taking place in February.

5.2 Policy 6.3 Volunteers

Mrs. Casault asked that the Volunteer Policy be added to the April Policy Committee as there are many factors to be researched including Youth Safe Outdoors guidelines, etc.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.