



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

**January 27, 2020, 10:30 a.m.  
Cranbrook Board Office**

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

Board/District Staff in Attendance: Trustee Ayling  
Trustee Bellina (by Zoom)  
Trustee Turner  
Trustee Whalen  
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, L. Giesbrecht (Recorder)

Regrets: Chairperson Lento

**1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

**1.1 Call to Order**

The Special Education Student Services meeting of January 27, 2020 was called to order at 10:37 by Co-Chair McPhee.

**1.2 Approval of the Agenda**

M/S that the agenda for the Special Education Student Services Meeting of January 27, 2020 be approved as circulated.

**1.3 Approval of the Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Special Education Student Services meeting of November 25, 2019 be approved as circulated.

**2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

## **2.1 Speech Language Pathologist Conference Report**

Director of Student Learning and Innovation, Diane Casault introduced Pre-school SLP (Speech and Language Pathologist), Lesley Runzer. Lesley had attended the Apraxia Kids National Conference in Pittsburgh in July and made a presentation to the Student Services Committee (“the Committee”) via Zoom about what she learned. She thanked the Committee for giving her time to present. The next Apraxia Conference is in Dallas July 2020. Trustee Turner asked if there are any SLPs working at the school level who would be interested in attending the session in Dallas? She strongly recommended that other Speech Language Pathologists attend. This learning is such direct, valuable information that applies to children immediately. Mrs. Casault stated that as the Board is open to someone else attending this year she will share this information with the SLP group. Trustee McPhee thanked her for her time today and in sharing the knowledge that she gained with other Speech Language Pathologists in the Kootenay area.

## **2.2 Social Emotional Learning Centre ("SELC") Update**

Mrs. Casault updated the Student Services Committee on the Social Emotional Learning Centre (SELC). Mrs. Casault showed the Committee the before and after pictures of the SELC classroom as well as the newsletter that teacher, Tanya Meijer, shares with parents.

Mrs. Casault also shared the developments in the program including comfort bins, zones or regulation, breathing exercises and movement outside of the classroom.

There are still outstanding items that require clarification such as the role of the host school, Highlands Elementary. The importance of distinguishing the role of the school itself in addition to the itinerants, staff and administration.

Mrs. Casault also clarified how the selection process for the first cohort took place. The students were hand picked based on needs, parent support and referrals by the itinerant team and Student Services Coordinator. Mrs. Casault felt it was important to articulate to all schools the process for application to the program. The process needs to be transparent however not all children can be accepted.

Trustee Kitt queried Mrs. Casault regarding parent feedback. She wondered if there has been a great deal of parent involvement and how parents are responding to the program. Mrs. Casault responded that more time will be spent with parents to support and understand the program. The process needs to be transparent however not all children can be accepted.

Mr. Verbeurgt discussed the ongoing training sessions for the classroom teachers of students in the Social Emotional learning Centre. These sessions are hosted by the Behavioral Resource Teacher, Megan Stasuik, and aim to help classroom teachers' support in all areas of Social Emotional Learning.

The Social Emotional Learning Centre updates will remain on the agenda of the Student Services Committee. The goals of these updates will be to keep the

Board of Education informed of the progress of the Social Emotional Learning Centre and to evaluate the program's length, learning outcomes and supports.

### **2.3 Prevalence Model - Funding Model Review**

Trustee Johns discussed the attachments to the agenda. He stressed the importance of all Trustees being informed on how the future may look based on the funding model review. He also felt it was problematic that the correspondence that the Board has sent to the Ministry has not received a response. Trustee Johns reminded the Trustees of the uniqueness of School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) in both geographical distances and diversity.

Conversations regarding the Prevalence Model will be respectfully referred to the In Camera Finance Operations meeting.

At the time, Superintendent Yardley also briefly discussed the upcoming compliance audit of Student Services in School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay). Mrs. Yardley informed the Trustees that at least four other districts were being audited as well.

### **2.4 Laurie Middle School Update**

Mrs. Casault gave a brief update of the ongoing agenda item. Mr. Reimer also updated the Student Services Committee on the recent improvements of communication and general structure at Laurie Middle School. Mr. Reimer also addressed other concerns regarding the Academic Options (AO) program at Laurie Middle School.

Trustee Turner raised concerns regarding students in the AO Program. That are not pursuing academics. Mr. Reimer assured that the AO is not the same as a modified program and that the AO program meets the needs of a variety of students.

Mrs. Casault confirmed the Laurie Middle School Update will continue to be an agenda item for the Student Services Committee.

Trustee Johns reiterated the situation at Laurie Middle School is moving positively forward for both students and staff. Trustee Johns asked if feedback from Laurie Middle School staff such as student services teachers, classroom teachers and education assistants could be brought forth at the upcoming meetings.

More discussions regarding Laurie Middle School to be discussed at the In Camera meeting.

### **2.5 Inclusive Education Working Group**

Mrs. Yardley updated the Student Services Committee on the Inclusive Education Working Group meeting on January 16, 2020. Mrs. Yardley reviewed

the parking lot items and discussed the addition of two classroom teachers in the Working Group.

Mrs. Yardley discussed commonality of recruitment issues in Student Services Teachers hiring across the province. She also discussed the Working Group break out session where the roles of Student Services Teachers and Education Assistants were reviewed. The Working Group will meet again on February 28 to continue to look at defining these roles. There will also be presentations from teachers as they share 'A Day in the Life of a Classroom Teacher in SD5'.

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

SELC update and the audit. Add audit.

Next agenda, what is the staff at LMS, as a whole, saying as far as moving this situation forward?

LMS update needs to be part of our agenda items. Funding model, leave on and we'll update.

Inclusive Ed

### **4. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **4.1 Compliance Audit**

Mr. Verbeurgt reviewed upcoming Compliance Audit information with the Student Services Committee. The audit will take place from February 18 – 21 at the Cranbrook Board Office.

Mr. Verbeurgt also discussed the upcoming internal file reviews that are being completed in preparation for the audit.

Mrs. Yardley advised the Student Services Committee that over 481 files will be reviewed in preparation for the audit.

A report on the audit findings will be presented at the next Student Services Committee meeting on February 24.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.