

**Mount Baker  
Secondary  
School**



**MBSS PAC Minutes**

**March 7, 2023 7:00 pm**

- **Welcome & Introductions – meeting called to order at 7pm. In attendance: Patricia W., Carmen W., Dave H., Chris J., Lies S., Lori N., Liz C. Regrets: John McD**
- **Minutes from the last meeting are posted on the MBSS website**
- **Additions to the agenda - none brought forward**
- **School Board Trustee report – Chris Johns (submitted – see attachments)**
  - a. **Budget process ongoing**
  - b. **Board is concerned regrading issued regarding food programs and gender neutral bathrooms – see attached letters. Issues with adding infrastructure or making minor renovations to already dated buildings in need of replacement to address Capital spending increase is still not addressing needs in schools**
  - c. **Traffic safety issues being looked at – schools have submitted concerns which a traffic committee will look at. Representatives on the committee include school trustee, school staff, parent rep, RCMP and City rep. Looking at Vision Zero grant to access funds to deal with some of the issues.**
- **Principal's report – Dave Hill**
  - a. **Provincials for basketball ongoing – Senior girls 15<sup>th</sup> in province**
  - b. **Art and Music Show at Key City Theatre for International Women' Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> – entrance by donation**
  - c. **"Grease" currently in rehearsals – show in May with dates still to be announced**
  - d. **Course selection started for current grade 9-11**
  - e. **Scholarships now open for the internal school/district/community scholarships – link is on the website and applications close the first week of April.**

- **DPAC Report – Lies Salvador**
  - a. **DPAC will be hosting a presentation by Scott Rothermel in April via Zoom – dates to be announced. It will be a three-part parent focussed series on the impacts of video games, social media issues, and consent sexting/ sextortion**
- **Treasurer’s report – Christina Hall (attached)**
- **New Business – there will not be an April meeting as it would be immediately following Spring Break – next PAC meeting will be on May 2, 2023 at 7pm**

**Next Meeting: May 2, 2023 at 7pm**

**Information from Chris Johns, School Trustee (see attachment)**



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

February 22, 2023

Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care  
Room 124 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Singh,

RE: Gender-Neutral Washrooms

School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay Board of Education reviewed the letter of October 26, 2022 (Ref #282826) from the previous Minister of Education and Child Care, (MoECC) the Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, to Caroline Broady, President of the British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) in response to Ms. Broady's letter of June 14, 2022, regarding universal washrooms and change rooms in public schools. Upon review of this letter, the Board carried the following motion at its February 14, 2023 public Board meeting:

*That the Board write a letter expressing concern for the suggestion of allocating funds from the Annual Facilities Grant to upgrade current facilities with gender-neutral washrooms, in the Ministry of Education and Child Care's letter to the BCSTA, of October 26, 2022.*

In Hon. Whiteside's response to Ms. Broady's letter requesting funding for universal washrooms and change rooms, Hon. Whiteside indicated that the Ministry provides funding through the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) and School Enhancement Program (SEP) that can be used for washroom and change room upgrades.

In our District we struggle to adequately maintain our many ageing facilities with our limited AFG funds each year. For example, the largest school in our district (and in all of the East and West Kootenay) is in dire need of replacement –which our Board has been actively working toward since 2009. This school has a Facility Condition Index (FCI) of 0.46 and it is noted in our 2022 Long Range Facility Plan ("LRFP") that "The school does not meet current requirements.

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Attention is required to address some significant building systems, as they may be at the end of their life cycle, and at risk of failure.”.

This facility alone cost our District \$972,505 in maintenance/repairs in 2020/21 and another \$2.0M is estimated to be spent in 2023/24 (depending on which requests are approved by your Ministry). These monies include \$1.8M to update the fire suppression system that was noted as a **critical item** by our architects and which **is crucial to the safety of the over 900 staff and students who utilize that facility well in excess of 172 days per year.**

Given that the government is currently sitting on a \$5.7B surplus, our Board fails to understand why districts such as ours are expected to continually struggle to fund something as fundamental as safety for our students, whether from a catastrophic event such a fire or access to safe washrooms and change rooms.

We are requesting that you reconsider the Ministry's position on this issue and look forward to a timely response. As you will note, Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division, has also been copied on this letter, as it was suggested in the Hon. Whiteside's letter to Ms. Broady that he be contacted with further questions.

Sincerely,



Doug McPhee, Board Chair

Cc\*: Hon. David Eby, Premier, Province of BC  
Kevin Falcon, Leader, BC Liberal Party  
Sonia Furstenau, Leader, BC Green Party  
Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division  
Tom Shypitka, MLA Kootenay East BC  
Elenor Sturko, Critic for Education, BC Liberal Party  
Karin Kirkpatrick, Critic for Child and Family Development & Childcare, BC Liberal Party  
Carolyn Broady, President, BCSTA  
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education  
Clint Johnston, President BC Teachers' Federation  
Chris Schultz-Lorentzen, President, BCCPAC  
Shelley Balfour & Adrienne Demers, CFTA Co-Chairs  
SD5 CUPE President  
Lies Salvador, DPAC Chair  
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association  
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Chris Walker/Corey Bullock, CBC Radio  
Dennis Walker, 107.5 Today FM Radio  
Wylie Henderson, Rewind Radio 102.9  
Jeff Johnson, Wild B104 Radio  
Josiah Spyker/Ryley McCormack, 107.5 Today FM  
Barry Coulter/Trevor Crawley, Cranbrook Daily Townsman  
Ian Cobb, e-know Online News  
Joshua Fischlin, Fernie Free Press

\*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

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• Nicole Heckendorf • Chris Johns • Sarah Madsen • Wendy Turner

940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook BC, V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250.417.2055 • Fax: 250.489.5460 • [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca)



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

February 22, 2023

Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care  
Room 124 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Singh,

RE: Universal Food Program

School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay Board of Education reviewed the letter of November 3, 2022 (Ref #281515) from previous Minister of Education and Child Care, (MoECC) the Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, to Caroline Broady, President of the British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) in response to Ms. Broady's letter of May 31, 2022, regarding funding for universal food programs at all public schools in British Columbia. Upon review of this letter, the Board carried the following motion at its February 14, 2023 public Board meeting:

*That the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care in response to their letter of November 3, 2022, to the BCSTA, to inquire at what stage of the process the Ministry is at, addressing the Universal Food Program.*

We understand from Hon. Whiteside's letter that in November 2020 the Minister was mandated to commit to work with BC school districts to create more local school programs and to increase local food sourcing. Hon. Whiteside also indicated that Ministry staff are analyzing school and district-based data and engaging with community organizations to better understand needs.

As I am sure you are aware, BC has one of the highest child poverty rates in the country and demand for food banks in BC has worsened since Covid and the recent food pricing spikes, with an increased usage of Food Banks of 25 per cent from 2021 and 2022.

This rise in food insecurity is concerning, especially as it affects our students. Early life growth and development, general health, academic outcomes and social skills risk compromise compared to children who do not experience food

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insecurity. Food insecurity is also associated with iron deficiency anemia which has been linked to the development of a variety of chronic conditions, including depression, negatively impacting the mental health of our most vulnerable students.

It has been over twenty-seven (27) months since Premier Horgan mandated the creation of more local school programs and increased local food sourcing. For countless days, vulnerable students across BC have continued to be at risk of diminished health, happiness and academic opportunity while the Ministry analyzes data and “engages” with community organizations. **Hunger doesn’t wait, and neither should our children.**

Our District would like to know what data specific to SD5 the Ministry is analyzing and which of our local community organizations have been/will be engaged. We would also like to offer our assistance in order to move this vitally important initiative along. We look forward to a timely response to our inquiry and anticipate the Ministry’s introduction of a Universal Food Program for public schools in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Doug McPhee, Board Chair

Cc\*: Hon. David Eby, Premier, Province of BC  
Kevin Falcon, Leader, BC Liberal Party  
Sonia Furstenuau, Leader, BC Green Party  
Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division  
Tom Shypitka, MLA Kootenay East BC  
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## SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS CARRIED February 14, 2022

### **Motions Carried**

#### **Advocacy**

That Trustee Ayling write a letter expressing concern for the suggestion of allocating funds from the Annual Facilities Grant to upgrade current facilities with gender-neutral washrooms, in the Ministry of Education and Child Care's letter to the BCSTA, of November 3, 2022.

[Contact: Chairperson Doug McPhee, 250-489-9622](#)

That Trustee Ayling write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care in response to their letter of November 3, 2022, to the BCSTA, to inquire at what stage of the process the Ministry is at, addressing the Universal Food Program.

[Contact: Chairperson Doug McPhee, 250-489-9622](#)

#### **Policy**

That the Board approve the addition of Item 19 under Policy 2 (Role of the Board) Additional Responsibilities.

Provide direction at the commencement of a naming or renaming process and approve the naming or renaming of educational facilities and land. When naming new school facilities, the Board will only consider place-based names.

[Contact: Chairperson Doug McPhee, 250-489-9622](#)

#### **General**

That the Board approve the Budget Development Timelines.

[Contact: Chairperson Doug McPhee, 250-489-9622](#)

That the Board accept the Audit Tender from BDO Canada LLP for a 3-year period beginning June 2023.

[Contact: Chairperson Doug McPhee, 250-489-9622](#)

That the Board adopt the amended budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2022/2023 pursuant to section 113 of the School Act, RSBC, 1996, c.412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act"). [Contact: Secretary-Treasurer Nick Taylor, 250-417-2054](#)

*If you require a comment on any of the above motions, please feel free to contact the person listed below the motion. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions :)*

Cheers,  
Trina Ayling 250-421-3863

MBSS Treasurers Report:

## MBSS PAC- GAMING ACCOUNT

### Financial Report: As of March 6, 2023

Balance as of March 6, 2023: _____	\$18,634.74
Less Scholarships for 2021-2022 school year:	-\$3000.00
Less Scholarships for 2022-2023 school year	-\$4000.00
Monies allocated for Prom	-\$3500.00
Monies allocated for Art and Photography supplies	-\$1200.00
Unallocated funds:	\$6934.74