



**The Board of Education of  
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
AGENDA - REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

April 9, 2024, 3:00 p.m.  
Cranbrook Board Office

**Pages**

**1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

**1.1 Call to Order**

**1.2 Greeting**

Acknowledgement that we are gathered on the Homelands of the Ktunaxa People.

**1.3 Chairperson's Opening Remarks and Recognitions**

**1.4 Opening Round**

Members of the Board, District Management, District Staff and local Union Presidents share a reflection of gratitude.

**1.5 Consideration and Approval of Agenda**

**1.6 Approval of the Minutes**

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Approval of the minutes from March 12, 2024

**1.7 Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings**

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**1.8 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

**2. RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS/TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**3.1 Advocacy Education Committee**

No meeting in March

**3.2 Policy Committee**

No meeting in March

3.3	<b>Student Services Committee</b>	
	No meeting in March	
3.4	<b>Finance Operations Personnel Committee</b>	
	No meeting in March	
3.5	<b>BCSTA /Provincial Council</b>	
3.6	<b>Communications Media Committee</b>	
	No report	
3.7	<b>Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee</b>	
3.8	<b>Key City Theatre</b>	13
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4.	<b>SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD</b>	
	Reporting on (finances/budget, capital projects, facilities, operations/maintenance/transportation)	
4.1	<b>Updates</b>	
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	5.1.2 <b>Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL)</b>	
	5.1.3 <b>Strategic Planning Process</b>	
5.2	<b>Recommendations</b>	

**6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

6.1 Updates

6.2 Recommendations

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Letter from Saanich Board Chair, Tim Dunford

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**8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 April 11 Budget Meeting

8.2 April 19 School Not in Session

8.3 April 18-21 BCSTA AGM

8.4 April 22 RSA Day

8.5 April 23 Committee Meetings

8.6 April 25 Budget Meeting

8.7 April 29 BCSTA Visit to District

8.8 Fernie Bylaw No. 2507 (Information Only)

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8.9 Transportation of Independent School Students (Information Only)

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Letter attached

**9. QUESTION PERIOD**

**10. CLOSING ROUND**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

What have we done at this meeting to help our students become more interested in school and to support them in their personal learning journey?



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

**March 12, 2024, 3:00 p.m.  
Kootenay Learning Campus - Fernie**

Present: Chairperson Doug McPhee  
Trustee Trina Ayling  
Trustee Bev Bellina (remotely)  
Trustee Irene Bischler  
Trustee Alysha Clarke  
Trustee Nicole Heckendorf  
Trustee Chris Johns  
Trustee Wendy Turner (remotely) in at 3:14 p.m.  
Trustee Sarah Madsen (remotely) in at 3:06 p.m.

Staff Present: Superintendent Viveka Johnson  
Secretary Treasurer Nick Taylor  
Director of Student Learning and Indigenous Education Jason Tichauer  
Director of Student Learning and Innovation Diane Casault  
Operations Manager Joe Tank  
District Principal Student Services Darcy Verbeurgt (remotely)  
District Principal Early Learning and Child Care Laura-Lee Phillips  
District Vice Principal Human Resources and Health & Safety Jaslene Atwal  
Executive Assistant to Secretary Treasurer and Superintendent (recorder)  
Jane Nixon

**1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chair McPhee called the March 12, 2024, regular public meeting of the Board of Education to order at 3:01 p.m.

**1.2 Greeting**

Chair McPhee acknowledged that we have gathered here in the Homelands of the Ktunaxa People.

**1.3 Chairperson's Opening Remarks and Recognitions**

Chairperson McPhee acknowledged International Women's Day.

**1.4 Opening Round**

Members of the Board, District Management, District Staff and local Union Presidents shared a reflection of gratitude.

**1.5 Consideration and Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION R-24-033**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Johns:

THAT the agenda for the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of March 12, 2024, be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1.6 Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of the Public meeting of the Board of Education of February 13, 2024

**MOTION R-24-034**

Moved/Seconded by Clarke/Bischler:

THAT the minutes of the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of February 13, 2024, be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1.7 Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings**

**MOTION R-24-035**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Ayling:

THAT the Board accept the closed records of the in-camera meeting of the Board of Education of February 13 and February 26, 2024.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1.8 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Nil

**2. RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

### 3. COMMITTEE REPORTS/TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

#### 3.1 Advocacy Education Committee

Co-chair Trustee Ayling reviewed the minutes of the February 26, 2024, meeting of the Advocacy Education Committee.

##### **MOTION R-24-036**

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Bellina:

THAT the spring of 2024 Sparwood Secondary rafting trip be approved with the understanding that the river will be run two days prior to the students taking the trip. Furthermore, this trip is only approved if there is guaranteed and adequate, emergency services available and the most experience river rafting guides are used.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### **MOTION R-24-037**

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Clarke:

THAT the report of the Advocacy Education Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 3.2 Policy Committee

Co-chair Trustee Turner reviewed the minutes of the February 26, 2024, meeting of the Policy Committee.

##### **MOTION R-24-038**

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Madsen:

THAT the draft Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy be distributed for public consultation prior to approval.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### **MOTION R-24-039**

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Turner:

THAT the report of the Policy Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 3.3 Student Services Committee

Co-chair Trustee Bellina reviewed the minutes of the February 26, 2024, meeting of the Student Services Committee.

##### **MOTION R-24-040**

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Bischler:

THAT the report of the Student Services Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **3.4 Finance Operations Personnel Committee**

Co-chair Trustee Bischler reviewed the minutes of the February 26, 2024, meeting of the Finance Operations Personnel Committee.

#### **MOTION R-24-041**

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Heckendorf:

THAT the report of the Finance Operations Personnel Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **3.5 BCSTA/Provincial Council**

#### **MOTION R-24-042**

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Clarke:

THAT the report of the BCSTA Provincial Council be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **3.6 Communications Media Committee**

#### **MOTION R-24-043**

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Johns:

THAT the report of the Communications Media Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **3.7 Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee**

The planning committee will meet on March 13, 2024, to prepare the agenda for President of the BCSTA to tour Mount Baker Secondary School at the end of April 2024.

#### **MOTION R-24-044**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Turner:

THAT the report of the Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **3.8 Key City Theatre**

**MOTION R-24-045**

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Bellina:

THAT the report of the Key City Theatre Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.9 Legacy of Learning**

Trustee Johns reviewed the Legacy of Learning report included in the agenda package.

**MOTION R-24-046**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Ayling:

THAT the Board accept the Legacy of Learning report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.10 French Immersion Update**

Trustee Heckendorf reviewed the minutes included in the agenda package.

**MOTION R-24-047**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Clarke:

THAT the report of the French Immersion Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.11 Traffic Safety Committee**

**MOTION R-24-048**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Turner:

THAT the report of the Traffic Safety Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.12 Trustee Reports/Bouquets**

Trustees reported on their activities for the month.

Trustee Bellina acknowledged the work of the Board of Education and District Management. Trustee Bellina also acknowledged the recent Science Fair in Sparwood.

Trustee Clarke acknowledged the work of Student Services at Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary School.

Trustee Johns acknowledged the Human Resources Department for continuing to attend the career and job fairs in the area.

#### **4. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

##### **4.1 Updates**

###### **4.1.1 Feeding Futures Advisory Committee**

Secretary Treasurer Taylor provided an update on the Feeding Futures Advisory Committee. The minutes of the February meeting of the Feeding Futures Advisory Committee were attached to the agenda package.

He also provided the following updates:

- The Chef position in Fernie has been offered to a qualified candidate.
- Interior Health has offered the District various used kitchen equipment from the East Kootenay Regional Hospital.
- Small kitchen space in Isabella Dicken Elementary will be redesigned into a food preparation area.

##### **4.2 Recommendations**

###### **MOTION R-24-049**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Johns:

THAT the Secretary Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report can be found on the School District's website at [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca).

##### **5.1 Updates**

###### **5.1.1 Child Care**

District Principal Phillips provided an update on the licencing of the Fernie Learning Centre. She also reported that she will provide a report on New Spaces Funding applications once the information is available to the public.

###### **5.1.2 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL)**

Director Casault reported on the Friday, March 8, 2024, meeting of the itinerant teachers to review the status and ongoing goals the of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning.

###### **5.1.3 Strategic Planning Sessions**

Superintendent Johnson will be reviewing feedback and will provide suggestions to the Board of Education after spring break.

##### **5.2 Recommendations**

**MOTION R-24-050**

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Clarke:

THAT the Superintendent's Report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**6.1 Updates**

**6.1.1 Steeples Elementary Washroom Renovation**

Chairperson McPhee acknowledged the completion of the accessible washroom at Steeples Elementary. He extended gratitude to Operations Manager Tank and the Cranbrook Operations Department.

**6.2 Recommendations**

**MOTION R-24-051**

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Johns:

THAT the Chairperson's report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Business Arising from Delegations**

Nil

**8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.1 March 18-28 Spring Break**

**8.2 March 29 & April 1 Easter**

**8.3 April 11 Budget Meeting**

**8.4 April 19 Yellow Friday (School Not in Session)**

**8.5 April 22 RSA Day**

**8.6 April 23 Committee Day**

**8.7 April 25 Budget Meeting**

**8.8 April 29 BCSTA Visit to District**

**9. QUESTION PERIOD**

Nil

**10. CLOSING ROUND**

Trustees, District Management and local Union Presidents were offered an opportunity to share a final comment on the meeting.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION R-24-052**

Moved/Seconded by Clarke/Johns:

THAT the March 12, 2024, regular public meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 3:49 p.m.

*What have we done at this meeting to help our students become more interested in school and to support them in their personal learning journey?*

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Doug McPhee, Chairperson

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Nick Taylor, Secretary Treasurer



## 1.7. RECEIPT OF RECORDS OF CLOSED MEETINGS

### **In-camera Meetings:**

#### **March 12, 2024**

- Secretary Treasurer's Report
  - Personnel
  - Land
  - Legal
  - Matters if in the opinion of the Board the public interest requires consideration in camera

#### **March 12, 2024 Special**

- Personnel
  - Matters if in the opinion of the Board the public interest requires consideration in camera

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Taylor'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nick Taylor  
Secretary Treasurer

## **Key City Theatre Society (KCTS) Report, March 28**

- Spring break theatre camp was “one of the best ever” according to Executive Director, Galen Olstead
- An interactive, partial Rocky Horror Picture Show is scheduled for November 1st –with an “after party” put on by Pride.
- Tickets for Taylor Swift Concert contest available now \$20 each

## SD#5 Report for April 2024 from Legacy of Learning

- Working with Viveka Johnson on meshing Legacy of Learning resources with curriculum needs
- Rescue mission on the history of the Cranbrook Tri-School Girls' Bugle Band, Working with partner Cranbrook History Centre to gather documentation [Legacy of Learning] and artifacts [Cranbrook History Centre] representing 77 years of Bugle Band's more than 2,500 members from SD#5 – initial work (25 hours) \$625
- Initial preparations for changeover of displays in Board Rooms 1 & 2 (1 hour) \$25
- Assembly of Mount Baker High School portfolio for Board use with B.C. School Trustee Association visit (4 hours) \$100 [ plus 60 images which would cost a non-partner an additional \$1500]
- Scanning of Mount Baker (Tri-School) Girls' Bugle Band documentation – 543 scans (9 hours) \$225
- Discussion of furthering request regarding Fernie Secondary Zephyr digital files; to contact Mr. Baty again with copy to principal Nicole Neufeldt and Trustee Nicole Heckendorf

Total – 39 hours = \$975 + \$1,500 in-kind

Historical education fact:

SEEN AROUND TOWN, August 11, 1933, Fernie Free Press:

Dick Phillips [Trustee] ordering a meal of hay and oats for his horse over the telephone in the council chamber last week while the rest of the school trustees stood by to continue business.

## **Trustee Report**

Mar 12 –SD5 Board meeting, public budget input & Executive session

Mar 13 –District visit planning session and Leadership evaluation process session

Mar 13 –CUPE executive meeting

Mar 14 –BCPSEA bargaining session via Zoom

Mar 28 –KCTS Board meeting

April 3 –TMRES PAC meeting

March 11<sup>th</sup> - FJMES PAC Meeting

March 12<sup>th</sup> - Board of Education Meetings

- Public Input for 2024/25 Budget

- Executive Session

March 13<sup>th</sup> - CUPE meeting

- SSS PAC meeting - presentation by Transgender student (excellent)

Then Spring Break!

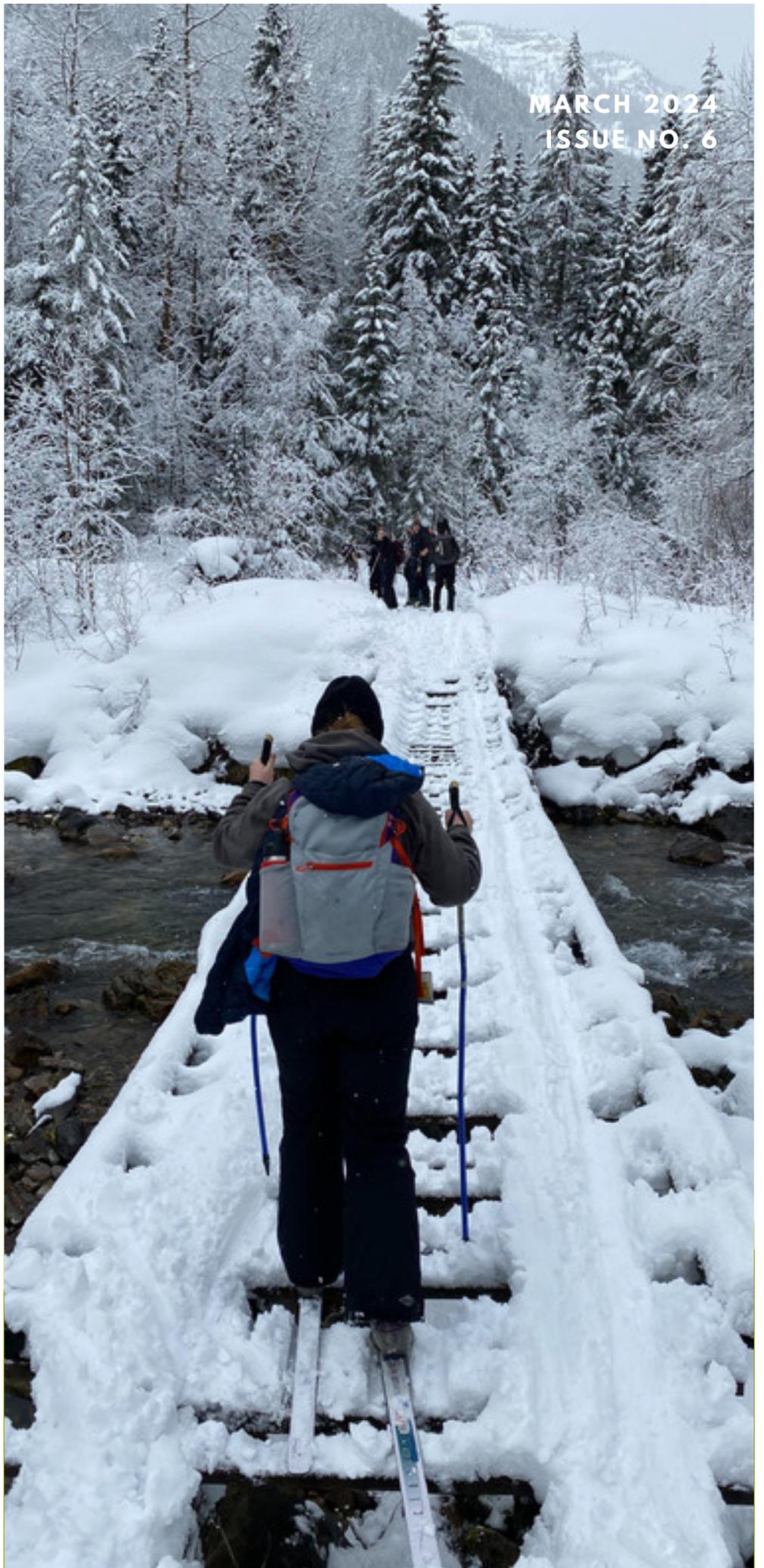
Bev Bellina

Trustee Sparwood

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

# LEARNING TOGETHER

## NO. 6





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In the Schools  
A picture says a thousand words...

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# LEARNING TOGETHER IN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)



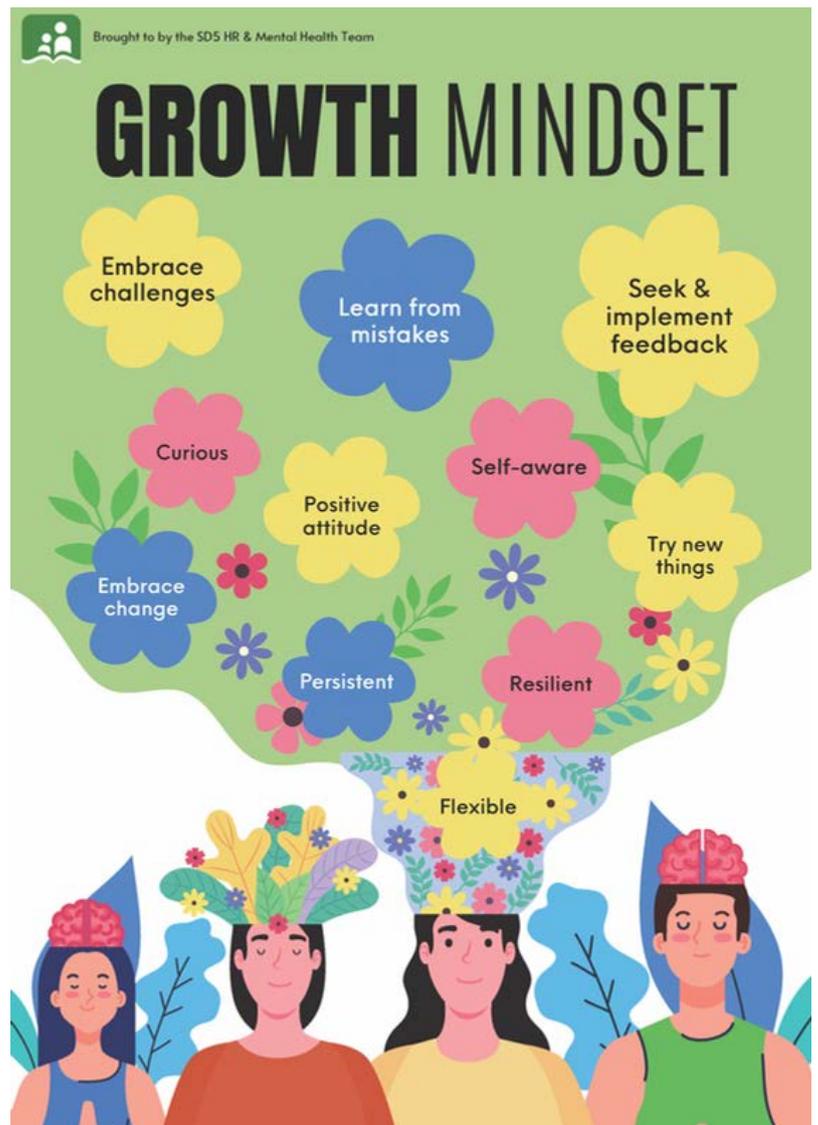
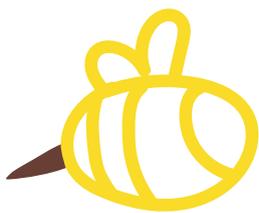
As the days get longer and warmer, and with spring inching closer, I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for the dedication and resilience you have shown throughout this year. Your commitment to learning, growth, and community is always present.

With spring break just around the corner, I encourage each of you to take this time to recharge, rejuvenate, and reconnect with your loved ones. Whether you are planning a getaway or enjoying a staycation, make sure to indulge in activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Spend quality time with family and friends, explore the outdoors, or simply take a moment to unwind and appreciate the beauty of our region.

To our dedicated educators and staff, I extend my gratitude for your commitment to our students' success. Your passion, creativity, and efforts continue to inspire and empower our school communities. As you take a well-deserved break, remember to prioritize self-care and self-reflection. Your well-being is essential and I encourage you to embrace this time to rest and recharge.

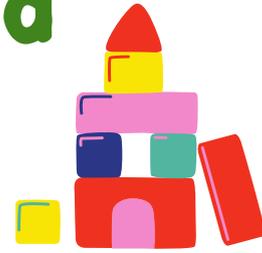
Lastly, to our families, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your children's education. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital role in their academic journey, and we are grateful for your collaboration.

**Viveka Johnson,**  
Superintendent



# Early Learning and Child Care

District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care,  
Laura-Lee Phillips



Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative that recognizes that families need positive connections with the school system and community agencies that provide relevant resources and information. All public elementary schools in School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) will be offering an opportunity for three-to-five year old children to connect with their neighbourhood schools. Ready, Set, Learn is a partnership between the province, the District and the early childhood teachers in our communities.



## READY SET LEARN

### ELK VALLEY



Ready, Set, learn is open to all 3 to 5 year olds and their parents or guardians to receive an information/activity package.

<p><b>Fernie - May 9</b></p> <p>Email or call Isabella Dicken Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ides.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-423-4651</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sparwood - Apr. 30</b></p> <p>Email or call Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fjmes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-425-7818</li> </ul>
<p><b>Elkford - May 13</b></p> <p>Email or call Rocky Mountain Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rmes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-865-4625</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jaffray - April 17</b></p> <p>Email or call Jaffray Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>jess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-429-3211</li> </ul>





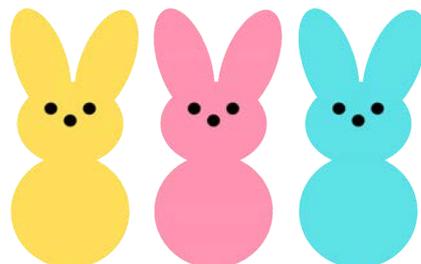
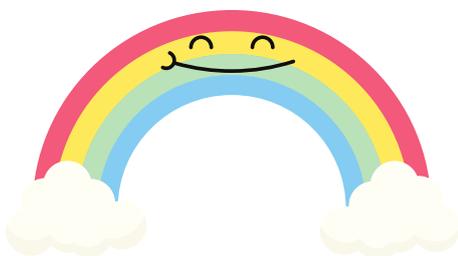
## READY SET LEARN

### CRANBROOK



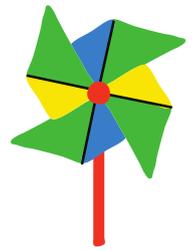
<p><b>Amy Woodland Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>awes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-7258</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kootenay Orchards Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>koes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-8551</li> </ul>
<p><b>Highlands Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-489-4391</li> </ul>	<p><b>TM Roberts Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tmres.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-489-4575</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pinewood Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-6201</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gordon Terrace Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gtes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-8248</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Steeple Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ses.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-3352</li> </ul>





# Early Learning and Child Care

District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care,  
Laura-Lee Phillips



## What is SEY2KT?

The SEY2KT (Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions) Team brings together educators from school districts and communities. The SEY2KT Team reflects a local context for partnership, builds strong relationships and collaborates in planning.

The communities of Sparwood and Elkford have many Early Years initiatives, including Come Read with Me (CBAL), StrongStart in the Community, and Play in the K. These early learning initiatives design experiences and transition processes for children and families that focus on seamless transitions from early childhood to kindergarten. Play in the K welcomes preschool learners and families into the school community. The goal is to collaborate and create partnerships and connections with our families so we can all work together to make our schools and communities even better!



# News from District Teachers

## District Literacy Teacher, Erin Jones

Erin Jones, district literacy support teacher, has been supporting a grade three class at Ecole Isabella Dicken Elementary. The students were introduced to a class-wide fluency and comprehension intervention known as “Partner Reading & Paragraph Shrinking”. For one hour each day, over two weeks, both the teacher and the students were supported in engaging in the evidence-based activity to increase reading proficiency.



In response to the Acadience screening data, the district literacy support teacher saw a class-wide need to increase fluency; she used the screening data to intentionally pair students, create text sets and introduced a 20 minute fluency routine.

The students have just been re-assessed and of those that were present (3 students were away), 80% have increase their fluency, and 67% have increased their accuracy! Way to go grade threes!



# News from the DRC

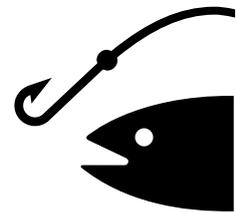
## District Resource Centre Librarian, Maxine Malmberg

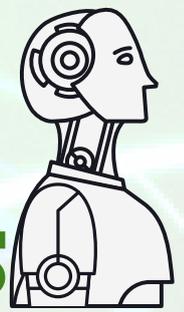
### Fly Tying Kits and Rods

Classes at Fernie Senior Secondary School have been designing and making their own flies using the Fly-Tying Kits from the District Resource Centre (DRC).

This is a great way to learn involve students in design, biology, ecology and place-based learning.

Check out this and other items on our Equipment List at this [link](#).





# DISTRICT DESIGN LABS

Teachers of Transformative Learning **Ryan McKenzie and Kim Froehler**

## Exploring World War I Through Interactive History Posters

Grade 10 students in Dr. Gonsalvez's class at Sparwood Secondary engaged in a meaningful project that combined history and technology to learn more about World War I. Students created interactive posters using Makey Makeys and Scratch programming, allowing them to delve deeper into historical events while also honing their technological and creative skills.

To navigate through the recordings, brass fasteners were strategically placed at the bottom of the posters, serving as tactile buttons. By connecting the Makey Makeys to these fasteners, students enabled users to seamlessly play each recording with a simple touch.

The interactivity of the posters invited viewers to explore history in a dynamic and accessible manner. Overall, this project helped students gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of World War I while also developing essential technical skills.

## Empowering Young Authors: Grade 4 Students Dive into Book Creator

Grade 4 students at Frank J Mitchell Elementary immersed themselves in the various features of Book Creator.

Book Creator is a user-friendly digital platform that allows individuals to create and publish their own digital books. It provides a range of tools and features for users to design interactive and multimedia-rich eBooks, including options for adding text, images, audio, and video. Book Creator is used to enhance literacy skills, foster creativity, and encourage digital storytelling among students of all ages.

Students in Ms. Chiasson's class quickly grasped the fundamentals, discovering the ease with which they could customize their digital creations. With each lesson, their confidence grew as they experimented with different layouts, fonts, and multimedia elements.



# BOOK CREATOR





# AROUND THE DISTRICT



## Meet the Fernie Maintenance Department

### Brandon Teichgrab - Carpenter

Brandon has lived in the Elk Valley for 20 years and has been a Journeyman Carpenter for the District for the last four years. In his free time, Brandon enjoys the outdoors. He likes skiing, biking, camping, golfing, snowmobiling, among other things. When forced inside you can find him reading a book by the fireplace or on the squash court; except on Sundays. Sundays are for football.



### Bill Wilson - Carpenter

Bill has been a Carpenter and part of the Maintenance Team for the District since 2015. Bill was born and raised in Fernie. He has been in the trades for most of his adult life. Bill loves the outdoors and is an avid fly fisherman. He loves to explore this beautiful place he calls home.



### Mick Roberts - Painter

Mick has been with the District for three years in the Maintenance Department as a Painter. He has always called Fernie home! Mick has lived and traveled to some amazing places. When not at work he enjoys staying active by skiing, hiking, mountain biking and Tae Kwon Do.



### Mark Podrasky - Trades 1 Grounds/Maintenance

Mark Podrasky has been with the District since 1985. He started out as a bus driver and then became a bus driver/dayshift custodian working in every school in the District from Jaffray to Elkford. He is currently in the Grounds/Maintenance Department. Mark and his wife, Gail, enjoyed following their two boys in all school sports and now are doing the same with their three granddaughters. He loves to spend time outdoors with family and friends with a little bit of curling and golf mixed in.



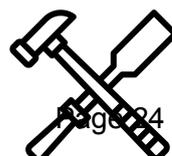
### Neil Gernon - Electrician

Originally from Ireland, Neil grew up in the Elk Valley. After living in Alberta and the interior of BC for years, he moved back to Fernie permanently in 2014 to work as an Electrician. Neil started with the District in 2022 and spends his free time biking and camping with his family.



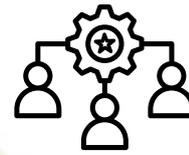
### Perry Harrad - Custodial Supplies and Irrigation Systems

Perry started working for the District in 1981 and retired in 2019. His many jobs with the District included labourer, bus driver, custodian, irrigation technician, snow removal and custodial supply coordinator. After a three year break, Perry came back to help out the Maintenance Department with Custodial Supplies and the Irrigation Systems. Perry enjoys mountain biking, hunting and fishing.



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Human Resources Update



The Human Resources (HR) Department has been thorough in recent months, encompassing a variety of CUPE and teaching roles with the District.

In January, the HR Department expanded its recruitment outreach by attending the University of BC Education Career Fair and the University of Alberta Education Career Fair, both geared toward teacher recruitment. These platforms provided valuable opportunities to engage with potential candidates and showcase the myriad opportunities within the District.

The HR Department also dedicated time to the fourth-year teacher candidates from the East Kootenay Teacher Education Program (EKTEP) in Cranbrook, and the West Kootenay Teacher Education Program (WKTEP) in Nelson. The HR Department delivered sessions on the benefits of working with the District, resume building, interview skills, and addressing unconscious biases. Furthermore, the HR Department has been personally meeting 1-on-1 with many teacher candidates during practicum placements.

Moreover, the HR Department secured a grant through Make a Future to enhance the District's recruitment initiatives, particularly in incentivizing French teacher recruitment.

The participation and interactions at these events have been positive and have resulted in maintaining ongoing communication with teacher candidates. The HR Department is excited to share that potential applicants from teacher career fairs have expressed interest in visiting the East Kootenay region to gain firsthand experience of the communities in this area.

To broaden the outreach, The HR Department has also distributed mass mailings to Cranbrook and the Elk Valley. These mailings highlight available job opportunities and emphasize the diverse employment options within the District.

The recruitment endeavours underscore the dedication to attracting top talent to School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) and ensuring the continued success of the educational community.

So far this year the HR Department has posted and filled 179 CUPE jobs, 257 teacher jobs, and 11 exempt jobs. The HR Department has even started posting the hard to fill jobs for next year!





# IN THE SCHOOLS

# Spring



## News from Schools Across the District

### Cross Country Ski Trip

The Sparwood Secondary Outdoor Education class enjoyed a great 10km cross-country ski trip before spring break. The terrain was challenging and the students rose to the occasion. It was a fantastic day!



### Avalanche Education

Senior Physical Education students at Elkford Secondary practiced avalanche safety and skills at Fernie Alpine Resort.



### Pinewood House Team Olympic Games

Pinewood held their first annual House Team Olympic Games. Each team participated in 8 crazy relay events! Staff and students had a great time.



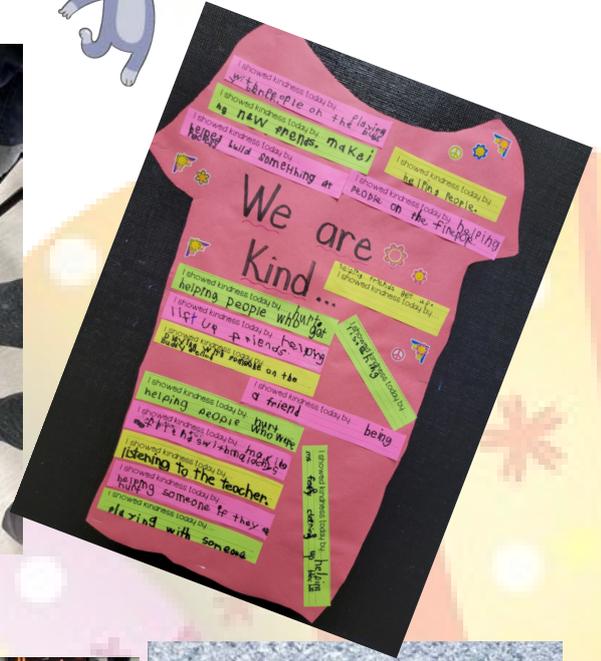
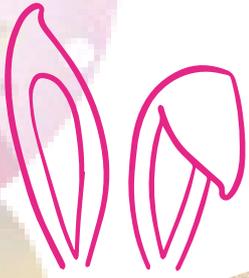
The Grade Six production of Little Mermaid at Ecole Isabella Dicken Elementary

### Mount Baker Secondary Outdoor Program

Grade 11 students in Mount Baker's outdoor program spent the day learning about route finding, terrain assessment and avalanche companion rescue skills near the boundary of Kimberley Alpine Resort.



# A picture says a thousand words...





Ecole TM Roberts School participated in the “Stick to Reading Program” with the Cranbrook Bucks. The Bucks players came into various classrooms in Cranbrook to promote literacy by reading stories to students.

Mrs. Henderson’s class was the lucky winner of the grand prize of spending a day with the Cranbrook Bucks!



March 14, 2024

Doug McPhee  
Board Chair  
School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
Via email: [doug.mcphee@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:doug.mcphee@sd5.bc.ca)

Dear Doug,

At the March 13, 2024 meeting of the Saanich Board of Education, the Saanich Board carried the following motion:

*“That the Board forward a letter to the Board of each of the eight school districts identified as being in a similar low enrolment growth position, explaining the February 14, 2024 advocacy motion, and requesting that they consider being a signatory to an enclosed draft letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care as a collective communication addressing unfunded inflationary costs. “*

This letter is being sent to the Board Chairs in the following eight school districts:

- School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
- School District 22 (Vernon)
- School District 45 (West Vancouver)
- School District 48 (Sea to Sky)
- School District 60 (Peace River North)
- School District 67 (Okanagan-Skaha)
- School District 72 (Campbell River)
- School District 79 (Cowichan Valley)

At the February 14, 2024 meeting of the Saanich Board of Education, the Saanich Board carried a motion which included that the Board work with senior staff *“to connect with other school districts facing a similar scenario (low enrolment growth) to explore the possibility of a collective communication to the Minister of Education and Childcare”*.

As you know, the funding formula in BC is disproportionately leveraged to enrolment change with the vast majority of funding being determined through per pupil funding allocations. Each year, funding rates are adjusted by an amount that does not fully reflect inflation, and historically has only reflected wage inflation. This means school districts are dependent on continual enrolment growth so that “net funding” from enrolment growth can be allocated to fund all other inflationary costs.

In a district where enrolment is stable or only growing slowly, program budgets cannot keep pace with inflation and a balanced budget can only be maintained longer term through continual reductions to programs. This is particularly challenging for medium sized school districts with stable enrolment or low growth, which do not benefit from either the scale of a larger district or the greater supplemental funding provided to smaller districts and districts with declining enrolment.

I am sending this letter to request that your Board consider approving being a signatory to the draft letter to the Minister of Education and Childcare included as an attachment to this letter. This letter will be prepared on a composite letterhead that displays the logos of each participating district in the upper header in order of district number. If your Board plans on participating please provide the appropriate logo for inclusion in the composite letterhead.

We thank you for considering this request and ask that you reply by April 26, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Dunford', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Tim Dunford  
Saanich Board Chair

TD/klg

cc : V. Johnson, Superintendent  
N. Taylor, Secretary Treasurer

**Attachment: Draft letter to Minister of Education**

**To: Minister of Education and Childcare**

We are writing to convey our concerns regarding the inequity and negative impacts of the current funding model for medium sized school districts with lower enrolment growth.

The funding formula in BC is disproportionately leveraged to enrolment change with the vast majority of funding being determined through per pupil funding allocations. Each year, funding rates are adjusted by an amount that does not fully reflect inflation, and historically has only reflected salary inflation. This means school districts are dependent on continual enrolment growth so that “net funding” from enrolment growth can be allocated to fund all other inflationary costs.

In a district where enrolment is stable or only growing slowly, program budgets cannot keep pace with inflation and a balanced budget can only be maintained longer term through continual reductions to programs. This is particularly challenging for medium sized school districts with stable enrolment or low enrolment growth, which do not benefit from either the scale of a larger district or the greater supplemental funding provided to smaller districts and districts with declining enrolment.

The Province’s Independent Funding Model Review Panel acknowledged on page 53 of its 2018 report that *“the current model does not consider potential economies of scale in those districts where enrolment is increasing and larger numbers of students attract significant amounts of funding”*. The recommendations relating to this observation and other observations impacting funding equity have not yet been implemented. In addition to the specific concerns raised in this letter, we acknowledge that other school districts are also being impacted in other ways due to other inequities in the funding model. In recent years, these inequities in the funding model have been compounded by greater than historical inflationary cost pressure.

We urgently request that these issues with the funding model be addressed for the 2024-25 school year, so that all school districts are able to maintain existing programs and implement strategies necessary to support student achievement in their respective communities.

**Signed by Board Chairs of medium sized low growth school districts**

**Copy: Minister of Finance**

# Public Notice

## NOTICE OF ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

### BYLAW NO. 2507

RECEIVED

MAR 27 2024

School District No. 5  
Southeast Kootenay

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No.1750 has been scheduled for first, second and third reading on **TUESDAY, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 PM** at the **Senior Citizens Drop In Centre** located at 562 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Fernie, BC. Council meetings are available for all members of the public to attend or watch electronically via a Zoom webinar link posted to the City of Fernie website prior to each meeting. Council meetings can also be viewed via a Facebook live stream from the City of Fernie Facebook page. Please visit [www.fernie.ca/meetings](http://www.fernie.ca/meetings) for more information.

**LOCATION:** 1292 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 6, Block 41, District Lot 4588, Kootenay District, Plan 734A  
**BYLAW:** *Bylaw 2507, cited as Zoning Bylaw No. 1750, Amendment Bylaw No. 271, Bylaw No. 2507, 2023.*

**PURPOSE:** The applicant wishes to rezone their property from R1 – Single Family Residential to R1SL – Single Family Residential Small Lot. The proposed zoning allows for the applicant to subdivide the subject property.

### INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

A copy of the proposed amendment to Zoning Bylaw No. 1750 and other relevant documents may be viewed on our “Latest News” page on the City website at [www.fernie.ca](http://www.fernie.ca) and at City Hall, 501 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

For information about the proposed amendment to Zoning Bylaw No. 1750 please contact the Planning Department at (250) 423-6817 or via email at [planning@fernie.ca](mailto:planning@fernie.ca).

The proposed amendment complies with Section 464(3) of the Local Government Act and this Notice is provided in accordance with section 467 of the Local Government Act. Public input will not be considered for this amendment Bylaw as prescribed by the Local Government Act.



*This Notice is published in accordance with Section 467 of the Local Government Act.*





March 22, 2024

Tom Shypitka, MLA  
Kootenay East  
302, 535 Victoria Avenue N.  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 6S3

Dear Mr. Shypitka:

## **RE: TRANSPORTATION OF INDEPENDENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

In response to your letter dated February 27, 2024, with respect to the transportation of children attending independent and private schools, the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay), (the “Board”), has discussed and consulted with District staff regarding your concerns.

Transportation resources are currently being maximized to provide service to students of the public school system. School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (the “District”) currently has total student ridership registrations that exceed available capacity on the Cranbrook school buses. Therefore, the District does not have additional capacity for students not attending District schools.

[Policy 20 - Transportation of Students](#), clearly states that “Transportation services will be available for those students enrolled in the District.” The Board considers Policy 20 as a commitment to provide transportation to students enrolled in the District as the safest means of transportation for students. The District’s [Administrative Procedure 560 – Transportation of Students](#), *Section 7*, clearly defines courtesy riders. Courtesy riders are only considered to be students enrolled in District schools.

The Board will continue to focus its efforts on transporting public school students in kindergarten to grade 12 under this mandate and budgetary restrictions. The Board would like to note that transportation of students in British Columbia is not a legislated requirement of school districts. Some school districts in the province have chosen not to provide student transportation, whereas the Board has committed to the safe transportation of District students at significant cost.

Independent schools are administered under the *Independent School Act* by an authority as defined under this Act and requires that independent school students be classified to these specific independent schools. The *Independent School Act*, in the definition of an independent school, clearly states that they “do not include a public school...”

Doug McPhee (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Irene Bischler  
• Alysha Clarke • Nicole Heckendorf • Chris Johns • Sarah Madsen • Wendy Turner

Additionally, independent schools receive funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, in addition to the fees they charge families. These fees are available for independent schools to support alternative student transportation initiatives.

To summarize, the Board does not support the transportation of students enrolled in programs outside of the District as the Board is not responsible or beholden to the safety or educational success of these students. The District is only responsible for the educational success and safety of students registered with School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay). The District prides itself on providing an inclusive, accessible, and equitable educational experience for all District students.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

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



Nick Taylor, CPA  
Secretary Treasurer

CC: School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board of Education Trustees  
Viveka Johnson, Superintendent  
Rob Morrison, Member of Parliament  
Leah Poirier, Parent  
Vanessa Fer, Principal St. Mary's Catholic Independent School  
Kim Jacobs, Administrative Assistant (Catholic Independent Schools of the Nelson Diocese)  
Pamela Guilbault, Superintendent (Catholic Independent Schools of the Nelson Diocese)  
Doug Steele, Kootenay Christian Academy  
Cranbrook Christian School Society (Board Chair)