



**The Board of Education of  
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
Minutes - Advocacy/Education Committee**

**Date: August 28, 2023, 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Cranbrook Board Office**

Committee Members in Attendance: Co-Chair Trustee Wendy Turner (remotely)  
Co-Chair Trustee Alysha Clarke  
Trustee Bev Bellina  
Trustee Sarah Madsen

Board/District Staff in Attendance: Chairperson Doug McPhee  
Trustee Trina Ayling  
Trustee Irene Bischler  
Trustee Chris Johns  
Superintendent Viveka Johnson  
Secretary Treasurer Nick Taylor  
Director of Student Learning and Innovation Diane Casault  
Director of Student Learning and Aboriginal Education Jason Tichauer  
District Principal Student Services Darcy Verbeurgt  
District Principal Early Learning and Child Care Laura-Lee Phillips  
Executive Assistant to Secretary Treasurer and Superintendent (recorder)  
Jane Nixon

**1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Co-Chair Trustee Turner called the Advocacy Education Committee meeting of August 28, 2023, to order at 2:56 p.m.

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Additions:

**5.3 Private School Funding (Select Standing Committee)**

**7.5 Educational Resources for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Education**

**7.6 Neurodiversity training for educators, early childhood educators, and educational assistants**

**7.7 New sequence of committee meetings**

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Clarke:

THAT the agenda of the Advocacy Education Committee meeting of August 28, 2023, be approved as amended.

**1.3 Approval of Minutes**

Moved/Seconded by Clarke/Bellina:

THAT the minutes of the Advocacy Education Committee meeting of May 29, 2023, be approved as circulated.

**2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nil

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 DSAC Report**

The last DSAC Meeting was held on May 17, 2023 as reported to the Committee on May 29, 2023.

**4.2 DPAC Report**

Co-Chair Turner attended the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting in June. She reported on the following items:

- Concerns over sufficient air conditioning in buildings
- Laurie Middle School trades discovery day
- Gordon Terrace Elementary School bylaw review
- Kindergarten orientation
- Miscellaneous field trips
- Elections of PAC executives (upcoming)

- Audio visual equipment at Fernie Secondary requires an upgrade
- Highlands Elementary School would like to invite Secretary Treasurer Taylor to present at PAC meeting regarding funding

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

Superintendent Johnson discussed the update to the current Framework for Enhancing Student Learning for 2023-2024. She is currently reviewing data from student learning survey, FSA and graduation rates.

District schools are working on their growth plans and goals.

#### **4.4 Child Care**

Director Casault gave an overview of Child Care in the District and introduced Laura-Lee Phillips as District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care.

District Principal Phillips provided an initial update for Early Learning and Child Care.

Chairperson McPhee requested District Principal Phillips provide a “next steps” document for trustees to present to school PACs.

Director Casault asked for direction on whether the District will be providing Child Care in-district or if there will be a third party partnership. Discussion included:

- ECE job descriptions
- Union or non-unionized staff for ECE
- Fernie and Sparwood by community not for profit groups applying for Child Care grants
- CUPE 4165 will complete a survey to see the number of CUPE members willing to work in after school care positions
- In-house programs at Cranbrook elementary schools similar to Just 4 Kids that currently operates in Amy Woodland Elementary School
- Third party partnerships
- Before and after school care done in-house and early childhood needs to partner with non-profits
- The consideration of public perception and funding from the government
- The consideration of meeting with the City of Cranbrook regarding child care and school boundaries
- Ongoing capital concerns

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Post Secondary Education Degrees with Electives Specialization**

Currently, the College of the Rockies does not offer a five-year program. This is a decision made by the University of Victoria not the College of the Rockies.

#### **5.2 Summer Correspondence Received**

Refer to the following items:

- 7.5 Educational Resources for Gender Based Violence (GBV) Education**
- 7.6 Neurodiversity Training for educators, early childhood educators and educational assistants**

### **5.3 Private School Funding (Select Standing Committee)**

Discussion on the Select Standing Committee Report on independent and private school funding. Chairperson McPhee suggested that the Committee should exercise caution about an advocacy letter regarding private school funding. Private schools provide building and schools at a lower cost to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

The Advocacy Committee will continue to investigate and discuss the philosophy of the Board of Education on private school funding. This item will be added to the September Committee meeting agenda.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 Increase Funding Request for StrongStart**

#### **7.1.1 SD70 to Minister Singh**

Received and Filed

### **7.2 BCSTA Presentation Questions**

#### **7.2.1 BCSTA to Select Standing Committee**

Received and Filed

### **7.3 BC Teacher Shortage**

#### **7.3.1 BCSTA to BCTF**

Received and Filed

### **7.4 Inclusive Education Guidelines**

#### **7.4.1 BCSTA to Minister Singh**

Received and Filed

### **7.5 Educational Resources for Gender Based Violence (GBV) Education**

Trustee Ayling discussed the letter received on August 4, 2023, from Minister Rachna Singh, in response to the letter written by the Board of Education on March 29, 2023, regarding educational resources for gender-based violence.

**RECOMMENDATION A**

Moved/Seconded by: Bellina/Clarke:

THAT the Board of Education write a letter in response to the Minister of Education and Child Care's letter of August 4, 2023.

**7.6 Neurodiversity Training for educators, early childhood educators and educational assistants**

Trustee Ayling discussed the letter received on July 24, 2023, from Minister Rachna Singh, in response to the letter written by the Board of Education on May 31, 2023, regarding neurodiversity training for educators, early childhood educators and educational assistants.

**RECOMMENDATION B**

Moved/Seconded by Clarke/Madsen:

THAT the Board of Education write a letter in response to the Minister of Education and Child Care's letter of July 24, 2023.

**7.7 New sequence of committee meetings**

Members of the Advocacy Committee provided both positive and negative feedback on the new sequence of committee meetings.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved/Seconded by Madsen/Bellina:

THAT the Advocacy Education Committee meeting of August 28, 2023, adjourn at 3:51 p.m.

*Have we continued to enhance high standards, noble expectations, elevated commitments and quality performances to support student achievement?*