**Southeast Kootenay School District 5**

**District Parent Advisory Council**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday February 12, 2025**

**Call to Order: 6:33 pm**

**‘Acknowledgement that we are meeting on the homelands of the Ktunaxa peoples’**

**In Attendance:**

**Executive:** Lies- Mt. Baker (Vice-Chair/Secretary), Chris- Isabella Dicken (Treasurer)

**Regrets****:** Lisa Rogers (Chairperson)

**DPAC Reps and Parents:** Rianne- Frank J. Mitchell, Don- Jaffray, Kaitlin- KO, Danika- RMES, Halina- ID, Jamie-GT, Nancy- FFS, Tiffany- SSS

**Regrets:** Sally- Highlands, Danielle- Steeples

**Partner Groups and Guests:**, Viveka Johnson- Superintendent, Larry Dureski- CDTA

**Regrets:** Wendy- Trustee

**Agenda:** Approved as circulated.

**Minutes:** (January, 2025) Approved as circulated

**Treasurer Report:** Approved as circulated

**Superintendent Report:** Viveka Johnson

Highlights include:

* Kindergarten registration opened on the 3rd along with out of catchment requests.
* We will prioritize AWES families that want to keep siblings together when we look at the out of catchment requests.  This will be done by the end of the month because we need to know where students are as we start our budget process this drives our staffing process.
* Letters were given out to AWES teachers last week to solidify where their new assignment will be (in their current schools), this was done early so that if they want to apply on a teacher- initiated transfer to another location they have plenty of time to put in the request.
* Mike Kelly is the new Director of Instruction:  Curriculum and Assessment
* Kaley Wasylowich was temporary and is now continuing in her role as District Principal of Learning Support Services.
* CRCs were brought up and the process usually takes around 10 days if parents have filled in the online link that we send out directly.  Sometimes it takes longer if RCMP have to due a deeper dive.
* The District has a not-for-profit number if PACs need one for fundraising or gaming grants:  891358277 RR 0001 (please reach out to our ST if you have questions [nick.taylor@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:nick.taylor@sd5.bc.ca)).

**Questions:**

* RMES- Criminal Record Checks are taking a few weeks- Viveka will look in to it.

**Trustee Report:** Viveka presenting for Wendy Turner

Highlights Include:

* The British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) released a report based on input from 45 school districts in BC.  The report, “One Province, One Plan: Substance and Overdose Safety in BC schools”, outlines the growing concern of substance use and overdose in public schools and calls on a pressing need for a “unified and province wide” approach.
* The four key areas of focus recommended from this work are:

1. Provincial Policy Development - support in developing a “cohesive guideline addressing substance use in schools”.

2.Substance Use Resources - making resources available for schools, communities, and families across the province.

3. Expansion of Foundry BC Services - expanding the availability of mental and wellness service across the province.

4. Funding - implementation requires that school are allocated “adequate and sustained” funding.

For more information on the report, visit [https://bcsta.org](https://bcsta.org/)

At the District Level

* During the discussions held on February 11th, 2025, the Board of Education supported:
* A letter of support for the Cranbrook Pickleball Club's Winter Facility Project.
* A leadership course titled, Warriors 10-12, be added for course credit in the district. This is a course open to Indigenous students and parallels Leadership 10-12, open to all students, but has additional Indigenous content and cultural support.
* A draft BC Accessibility Plan has been developed and approved.  It can be found on the district website and includes a reporting tool used to identify physical barriers to district properties.
* The 2025 Sparwood Secondary rafting trip has been approved subject to adequate safety provisions and the engagement of experienced river rafting guides.

Other Business of Note:

Planning is ongoing:

* Designing new Fernie Elementary School.
* Designing and planning the Daycare and renewed elementary classroom spaces on the Mountain View Elementary site in Sparwood.
* Construction continues with the childcare facility on the Steeples Elementary site in Cranbrook.
* The School District has secured a parcel of Crown Land in Elkford with plans to develop childcare facilities and housing for teachers.
* The Rockies Mountain Metis Association is working with the School District to formulate a cooperation agreement which could provide funding and purpose for additional childcare spaces in Cranbrook.

Initial planning for the 2025-26 Budget is underway.  The Amended Budget for 2024-25 was adopted, given the required 3 readings this week and full consideration is now focused on 2025-26.

Dates to Note:

• Yellow Day - February 14 (Don’t forget Valentines)

• Statuary Holiday - February 17

• Budget Meeting of the Board - February 19

• Committee Day - February 24

• Professional Development Day - February 28

• Yellow Day - March 7

• Spring Break - March 17-28

Yellow Days are Days which are not in session for student attendance

**BCTF Report:** Larry Dureski

Highlights include:

* Derrick DeGear (BCTF Field Services Dept.) toured the SD with Larry. Attended GT and Mt. Baker among other schools.
* During Spring Break, 5 local teachers are attending the BCTF AGM in Vancouver.
* Larry attended the Menta Health First Aid course for new to Union workers (Administrators) in Richmond.
* Larry has been doing staff room visits to hear how things are going in local schools.
* Provincial bargaining begins March 1st for Provincial team, not local.
* Regional Specialists Day takes place April 28, 2025

**Individual PAC discussion:**

* **KO-** The past PAC meeting was the first with Kaitlyn as Chair. They have a new fundraising coordinator. Have Top Crop hanging basket fundraiser and hot lunch. Fundraising for new playground. New nomination for DPAC Rep- Sam Atwall.
* **Jaffray-** Dr. Seuss Day will be March 3 and will be used book day as well- selling books for $0.20 each. Doing a cookie dough fundraiser with incentive for a pizza party or bowling day to sell the most. Doing a movie night in the gym soon.
* **FJM-** Busy with fundraisers; Kernels, and Valentines treats. During the last PAC meeting, hey wrapped and wrote 900+ suckers and greetings. Good group of kindy parents coming in to the school for volunteerism.
* **Mt Baker-** Bathroom issues with vaping and grouping in the washrooms has resulted in the doors being removed. It it part of a solution to put in vaping detectors? There are other washrooms available for those not wanting to use the washrooms minus the doors. Feb. 18th scholarship applications are open. Jr. Forest Firefighter program is underway and one to two students will then be offered work as a Jr, Firefighter.
* **FSS-** Some new teachers which is great but need a couple more still. Purdy’s fundraiser, raised $1000. New outdoor club at high school which is partly PAC supported. Question posed is that is the school website platform able to support registration?
* **Isabella Dicken-** Kids attended PAC meeting to ask for funding for Fort Steele Trip and it was granted. A volunteer is advocating for the back pack buddy program and the panther pantry program to ensure kids have meals while not at school. Looking at covering Spring Break. Request came in that parents could write in questions re concerns about school communication. Principal and Vice reviewed the major concern regarding racism. Talk about ‘Brave Space’. Dual track school with french immersion starting in Grade 4.
* **SSS-** Pancake and Plaid Day was held for semester change. FR Rentals and PAC sponsored. Students volunteered too. PAC has been doing some fundraising brainstorming. PAC will take care of doing the yearbook this year. Lots of parents attend PAC meetings but the struggles are getting people to volunteer for the Exec.
* **RMES-** Fundraising for the playground is constant but a great group of parents. Local protein powder and supplement fundraiser went well. Candy gram fundraiser is this week. Looking for a platform for fundraising like Raffle Box online. Need to be registered as a non-profit. Is it worth doing all the work? Viveka shared the SD5 non profit number. Discussion regarding charitable vs non profit. Viveka will check with Nick Taylor regarding use of the number.

**General Questions”**

* **Jaffray-** Are EA’s going to be working in the after and before school programs? Not neccesarily as they have to be ECE’s and also not able to work overtime. They are working with CUPE to see how and if it could work. Will most likely be 3rd party running them.
* **ID-** Discussion regarding the non for profit number for the school district. Lies and Viveka to discuss how that looks and how it will work for PACS.
* **General** question regarding a line on popcorn makers. Recommended to reach out to Steeples as they have just purchased one in the past year. Lies will facilitate.

**Business from previous meetings:**

* Ntr

**New Business:**

* Tentative dates for Gary Anaka- April 8th and 15th. Look for posters etc. to confirm.

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:38pm.

**Notetaker:** MBSS-Lies

**Date****:** Wednesday February 12, 2024

**Next meeting**: Wednesday April 9, 2025