



**The Board of Education of
School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
MINUTES - EDUCATION/POLICY MEETING
February 20, 2012, 10:30 a.m.
Board Office**

IN ATTENDANCE - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chair Trustee Brown

Co-Chair Trustee Damstrom

Trustee Besanger

Trustee Ayling

Bill Gook, Superintendent of Schools

Diane Casault, Director of Instruction/Student Learning

Janice McElwee, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

REGRETS

IN ATTENDANCE – BOARD/DISTRICT STAFF

Trustee Bellina

Trustee Johns

Trustee Lento

Trustee Whalen

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:48 a.m.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Nil

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

4.0 POLICIES PASSED BY THE BOARD SINCE LAST MEETING

Policy 2.9 – School Closure

5.0 ITEMS FORWARDED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Draft Policy – French Immersion

Mrs. Casault met with Trustees Ayling, Brown and Besanger to make revisions to the draft policy presented at the last committee meeting. The revised draft policy was shared with members.

Additional revisions:

- change ‘*each school is **required** to have a protocol*’ to ‘*each school is **encouraged** to have a protocol*’
- insert a period after ‘student educational success’ and delete rest of the sentence

The Draft Policy French Immersion, with changes noted above, will now be sent to partner groups for feedback.

5.2 Policy 4.4 - Budget

It was noted that the recently passed Policy 4.24 Budget made the already existing Policy 4.4 Planning the Budget redundant.

Recommendation A

“That Policy 4.4 Planning the Budget be referred to the Board of Education for deletion and Policy 4.24 Budget be renumbered as 4.4”.

5.3 Policy 5.5 – Extra Curricular/Curricular Field Trips

A revised version was distributed to members with changes from the last committee meeting.

Feedback from partner groups on 5.5d (Field Trip Application – Board Approval), 5.5e (Field Trip Application – Superintendent Approval) and 5.5f (Field Trip Summary) was discussed.

Revisions:

- Move educational objectives to the top of 5.5d & 5.5e
- Add the student/chaperone ratio (15:1) to 5.5d & 5.5e

- Add ‘all students given an opportunity to participate’ to 5.5d & 5.5e
- Make the application form more like a checklist to make it easier for staff members to use and to submit required information on time

Trustee Brown will provide information on a central bank for volunteers who have had criminal record checks cleared.

The revised policy and application forms, with the changes noted above, will now be sent to partner groups for feedback.

5.5 Draft Policy – Child Protection

Discussion included:

- feedback from partner groups was related more to the attached checklist, which is not part of the actual policy
- the draft policy is very reflective of samples provided at provincial meetings and has been approved by community agencies
- concerns were expressed from the CFTA regarding confidentiality been broken by MCFD in several instances and the negative impact this has on staff members involved
- MCFD has also asked counselors to interview students, which is not appropriate
- There is an avenue for staff to report to MCFD that they have not been treated correctly by the agency. Mr. Verbeurgt will get the information to share with staff.
- CFTA indicated they did not feel it was not the responsibility of the teachers to report mistreatment to MCFD. It is the district’s responsibility to advocate on behalf of their staff members.
- The District needs to step forward to outside agencies regarding the breakdown of confidentiality. Trustees would like a report from district management about the facts in these cases and their recommendations as to what should be done.
- incidents should be reported to Doug McPhee, Safety Officer for the district
- When staff members are implicated, there are very clear procedures outlined in both Collective Agreements on how to proceed (not covered by policy). Collective Agreements use same language as what is in the School Act.

Recommendation B

“That the Draft Policy Child Protection be sent to the Board of Education for approval.”

5.6 Policy Feedback Process – Thought Streaming

- Trustees were pleased with the new ThoughtStream report, which collates all feedback received from partner groups into one report.

- Mrs. Turner, Co-chair of CFTA, advised she does not have time to input the feedback she receives from her members into Thoughtstream and therefore will continue to submit the feedback via emails directly to Trustees.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

6.1 Draft Policy – School Board Operation

Mr. Gook advised the draft policy was a document that Trustees can review and then decide whether or not they want to use/implement any of the information it contained.

It was decided to refer the draft policy to the Orientation and Self Evaluation Committee for review.

The draft policy refers to Roberts Rules of Order in several places. Mr. Gook will try to find a simplified version of Roberts Rules of Order for Trustees.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Field Trip to Belize - SSS

This field trip was cancelled by the sponsor teacher due to job action.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.