



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

**February 22, 2021, 10:30 a.m.  
Meeting via Zoom**

Committee Members in Attendance: Co-Chair Trustee Damstrom

Co-Chair McPhee  
Trustee Johns  
Trustee Kitt

Board/District Staff in Attendance: Chairperson Lento

Trustee Ayling  
Trustee Bellina  
Trustee Turner  
Trustee Whalen  
Superintendent, S. Yardley  
Secretary Treasurer, A. Rice  
Director of Student Learning/Aboriginal Education, J. Tichauer  
Director of Student Learning/Innovation, D. Casault  
District Principal/Student Services, D. Verbeurgt  
L. Giesbrecht (recorder)

**1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

**1.1 Call to Order**

The Special Education Student Services meeting of February 22, 2021 was called to order at 10:47am by Co-Chair Trustee McPhee.

**1.2 Approval of the Agenda**

M/S that the agenda for the Special Education Student Services Meeting of February 22, 2021 be approved as circulated.

**1.3 Approval of the Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Special Education Student Services meeting of January 25, 2021 be approved as circulated.

## **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **2.1 Inclusive Education Working Group (IEWG) (Diane/Darcy)**

IEWG met on January 27, 2021. Minutes attached. Jason Tichauer attended as a special guest to discuss alternate education. Darcy summarized the pro-d allocations and how teachers, ABED workers and EAs would access those funds.

Budget discussion included the reallocation of existing funds and not necessarily access to a new pot of money.

- Mental health of students and teachers was discussed as well as the potential supports that may be necessary. We discussed the potential of counselling services, in supporting the mental health, in particular for students with an H designation.
- Student services support and Learning Assistants funding hasn't changed only allocation, how do we make Student Services work manageable?
- We will continue to support EA's by making certain that pro-d is out there to support those EA's.

We will look at a 3 year road map at the next meeting.

We've shared the Teacher's Handbook with the IEWG. As a group, we reviewed the parking lot questions and had them prioritize those remaining. We're currently working on the development of the Inclusive Education handbook. Next meeting on Wed. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Extra funding was available for Youth Care Workers (YCW) this year due to COVID. This also made a significant difference in the work load of the SSTs. Budget is looking at how to allocate resources and keep these YCWs in place going forward.

We are already looking internally for supports. Externally, Employee and Family Assistance Program (FSEAP) is available for our employees. We need to ensure that staff are taking the time to use these.

Learning Assistants/Student Services Teachers – Could these roles be separated? In the past, there was a clear distinction between learning assistant teachers and the student services teachers. Part of the burnout is from putting those roles together and then at the school level expecting things to be sorted out as far as staffing. District has done a great job of adding to the funding. This is a large area that needs further discussion, as well as a conversation with Alan and Darcy. If there is a need for a distinction, we need to look at that SS allocations level. When budgeting, we need to look at keeping this role as a priority.

### **2.2 Social Emotional Learning Centre (SELC) (Diane/Darcy)**

SELC team is wrapping up at Steeples Elementary School (SES) this week. The SELC team met to go over the next group. A lengthy discussion was had over where to go next. T.M. Roberts Elementary School (TMRES) and Pinewood Elementary School (PES) were both discussed. Some translational work would have to be done with the French Immersion class at TMRES. Carissa Hart will be involved to work on this. We've opted to go with PES this round. There will be a lot of carry over as far as language, etc. at PES as 4 of their staff will be involved. This session will start just before spring break and will wrap up in June.

Mental health and social emotional health is becoming a priority now more than ever. We need something for every school in the district that aligns with our secondary career/life programming. There must be a tie in with the grad program around social emotional learning and the expectations that we as a system have around this.

We have active school district representation on the Foundry. Still working on site acquisition. Program would be available for high school to age 24. It is hoped that there will be a report in 2 to 3 months. We are not using the online services locally as of yet. Major delays have been COVID related. Funding has been in place for over a year.

In looking to the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, there is a recognition that there should be a focus on mental health.

The student learning survey, in the area of human and social development, does tie into mental health and into the curriculum. A summary report on this area will be presented at the next committee meeting in April.

### **2.3 Behaviour Resource Teacher update (Diane/Darcy)**

1.0 continuing BRT in Cranbrook to start in September posted last week.

0.5 position has been posted 17 times. With no applicants to date. One of the reasons that we are struggling with filling this position is the 0.5. A 1.0 position may be easier to fill. We need to look into the cost of making this a 1.0 position and having them travel to the different areas. District staff will be presenting this in the budget meetings.

Could we redistribute these funds and put towards the SSTs? Are there other options that we could look at? We need to look at the people we already have.

## **3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

## **4. REPORTS**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

## **6. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS - APPENDIX A**

**6.1 Prevalence Model Discussions**

**6.2 Inclusive Education Handbook**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32.

DRAFT