



**The Board of Education of
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Minutes – Student Services Committee**

**February 27, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Board Office**

**Committee Members
In Attendance:**

**Co-Chair Trustee McPhee (Chair)
Co-Chair Trustee Johns
Trustee Ayling
Trustee Bellina (by phone)**

Regrets:

**Board/District Staff in
Attendance:**

**Trustee Blumhagen
Trustee Brown
Trustee Helgesen
Chairperson Lento
Trustee Whalen
Lynn Hauptman, Superintendent
Diane Casault, Director of Student Learning/Innovation
Jason Tichauer, Director of Student Learning/Aboriginal Educ.
Darcy Verbeurgt, District Principal of Student Services
Janice Paetz, Executive Assistant (Recorder)**

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

The Student Services Committee meeting of February 27, 2017 was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Co-Chair McPhee. This meeting is being held on the lands of the Ktunaxa People.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

SS-2017-02

M/S that the agenda for the Student Services Committee meeting of February 27, 2017 be approved as circulated.

1.3. Approval of the Minutes

SS-2017-03

M/S that the minutes of the Student Services Committee meeting of January 30, 2017 be approved as circulated.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Autism Update

Discussion included:

- currently 121 on autism spectrum (increases every month)
- Interior Health Children's Assessment Network (IHCAN) assesses children for autism
- BC/Alberta Children's Hospitals also follow children through their development as they enter school and throughout their education – they provide schools with information as to what these children's needs might be
- Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders (POPARD) provides services as well (handle the very complex students)
- SLP's and Student Service Teachers attend Social Thinking conferences
- Communication piece: Darcy communicates directly with PVPs, Student Service Coordinators and Student Service Teachers – they in turn communicate with other staff and parents (i.e. School Based Team meetings).
- parents receive a list of services in the community and contact information for the school when they receive the diagnosis from IHCAN
- the IEP is the gateway to services and will list services that will be provided
- R & R did not address students who were most in need – these students were already being dealt with by IHCAN and other services,
- changes with our autism services are mostly with the R & R Program and the select very few students it serviced
- there appears to be some miscommunication out there as people thought the R & R was across the board, which isn't the case – only 5-7 students a year were addressed by the program.

Other Discussions beyond Autism Update:

- suggested to find a psychologist (position currently posted) that can be part of the local assessment team (only posted for this year as part of the Priority Funds)
- education requirements for School Psychologist vs Clinical Psychologist and the challenges
- our wait list is managed depending on what the needs and presenting issues are with the child
- WISC Test (usually done in Gr.4, but can be done earlier) - what can we do for students who are struggling prior to this (K – Gr.3)? We don't spend a lot of time doing assessments in the early grades as we already usually know what the issues are at that point due to the high focus on these early years.
- funding budget allocations for schools are provided in March and updated regularly until Sept and district management suggestions are given on how to utilize the allocation for a variety of resources
- Severe mental/cognitive delays and severe behaviour issues are considered when budgeting for staffing. EA's are to be used for practicing what the teacher has implemented.
- LIF adds EA's for areas where additional help is needed
- testing and/or an assessment does not mean that child automatically gets an Education Assistant.

2.2 Report on SD5 Practices for IEP Development, Review and Meetings

Discussion included:

- we are required to complete an IEP after Sept.30th of the current year
- the IEP is a bridging document from spring to the fall and then re-evaluated
- quite often strategies and goals are worked on throughout the student's education and don't change significantly each year
- review of a Ministry designation checklist
- review of the IEP and Transition Planning Year @ a Glance document
- Trustee Lento – not interested in status quo. IEP's done in February and March is not good enough. LIF funding is designed to address students with special needs and with the recent Supreme Court ruling, suggests a redesigned model of services with the following motion:

Recommendation A

“That 2017 students with existing IEP's have their IEP for the 2017/2018 term be reviewed and/or revised following the long weekend in May and completed by the end of June, and that the necessary supports, resources and release time be provided for in the 2017/2018 budget.”

- Trustees would like a report from Mr. Verbeurgt on how we can implement this motion and the budget implications of doing so at the next Committee meeting. Still waiting to hear from the Ministry as to what's going to happen with funding going in to next year. Might need longer than a month to pull this information together.
- Trustees would like a list of categories and funding allocated for each category
- review of the Red Binder and its tabs/contents
- suggest changing wording in IEP development and transitions year at a glance document to 'must' do (not encourage, if time, etc.)
- IEPs at the high school level and transition plans for those students moving on to post-secondary education and/or in to the community
- assessments are usually good for approximately five years
- there is tremendous pressure on SST during May/June – it is going to cost the Board significant funding to continue services and implement this motion.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

Nil

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

Nil

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.