

School District No. 5

[Southeast Kootenay]



What We Heard...

Spring 2023



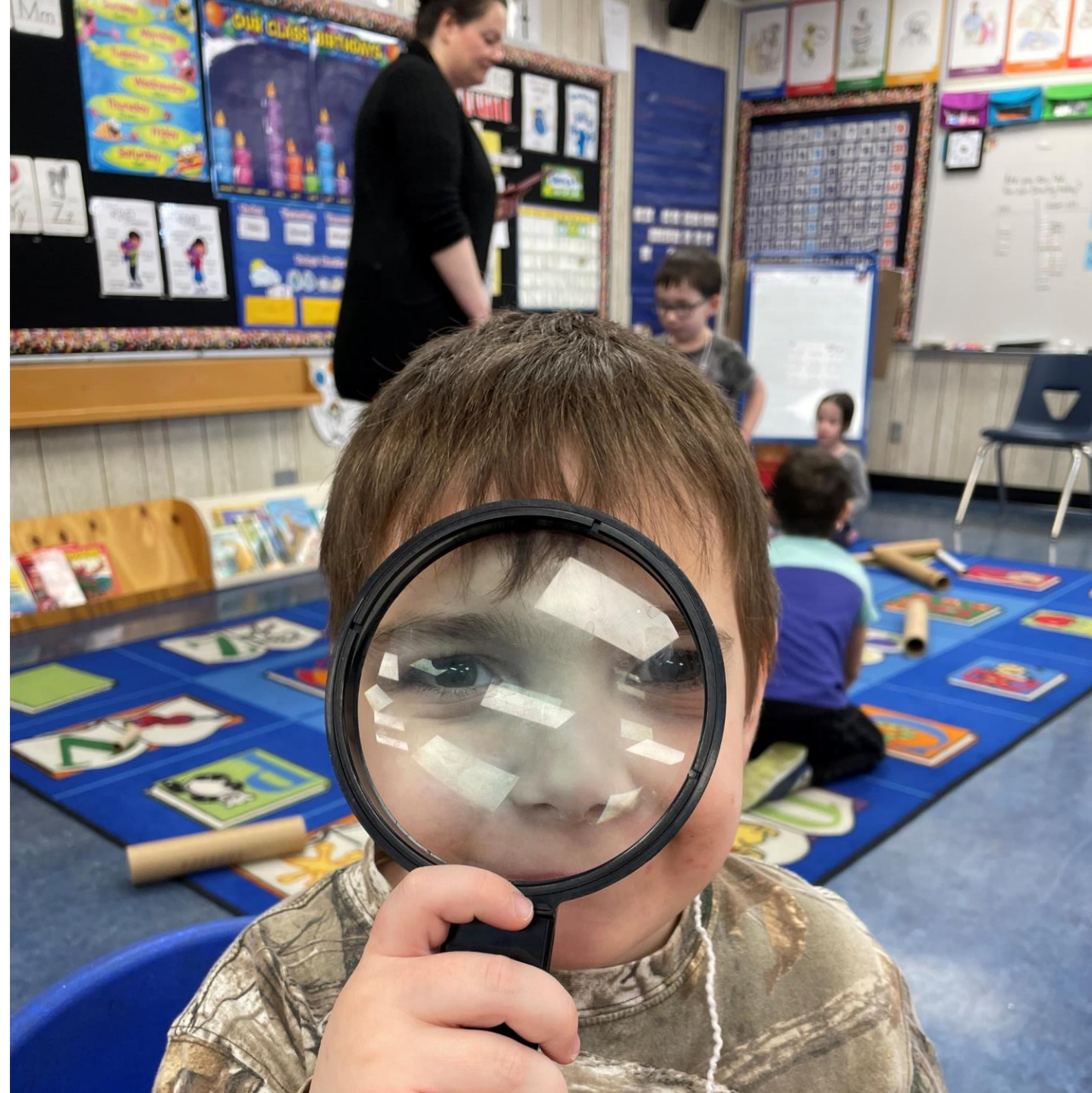
What We Heard...

Community Engagement



Community Engagement Nights

- During the spring of 2023, the District hosted five engagement nights in all communities.
- Sessions were facilitated by Superintendent Viveka Johnson, school principals and vice principals and students.





Key Themes from Engagement Nights

- ✔ Equitable access to programs (for example French Immersion in the Elk Valley)
- ✔ Recruitment and retention strategies
- ✔ Increase in outdoor learning
- ✔ Reduced screen time/movie days especially when there are unqualified TTOCs covering
- ✔ Information sharing - How does the district do compared to the rest of the province (graduation rates and in post secondary)
- ✔ Before and after school care options for families
- ✔ Balancing rigour and social emotional learning
- ✔ Understanding the new reporting order (Kindergarten to Grade 9)



Online Survey

- **During the spring of 2023, the District conducted an online survey to engage stakeholder groups, staff and families of the District.**



What attributes does the school district have that you appreciate most?

- ✔ A welcoming community
- ✔ Transparency
- ✔ The desire to constantly improve
- ✔ Caring staff, excellent teacher, support staff and administrators
- ✔ Extra-curricular activities
- ✔ Options for families
- ✔ Collaborative, connected to the community



What attributes does the school district have that you appreciate most?

- ✔ Support for students with disabilities
- ✔ Access to resources (counselling, SLP,
- ✔ I feel valued (both my job and personally)
- ✔ Outdoor learning opportunities
- ✔ Communication
- ✔ Partnership with Ktunaxa
- ✔ Amazing bus drivers



What attributes does the school district have that you appreciate most?

- ✔ Literacy and Numeracy focus and support
- ✔ Supporting families in need
- ✔ Sense of community
- ✔ Hands on creative ways of learning
- ✔ School sports
- ✔ Music programs
- ✔ Focus on Indigenous education and promoting health and wellness
- ✔ High level of care of students by staff



What attributes do you think the school district is missing?

- ✔ Community engagement
- ✔ A clear plan for the future
- ✔ Guaranteed access to speciality programs (for example French Immersion in Fernie)
- ✔ A middle school in Fernie
- ✔ Daytime custodians
- ✔ Stricter anti-bullying rules
- ✔ A new high school
- ✔ More outdoor learning spaces
- ✔ Accountability as to what is being taught in the classroom, less free time



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Financial transparency
- ✔ Higher expectations, full weeks of school
- ✔ Greater focus on teaching students how to read
- ✔ Strong district administration
- ✔ Challenge our students more
- ✔ Academic excellence-(too much focus on social issues, not enough on academic instruction)
- ✔ Available transportation for field trips



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Stricter consequences for bullies
- ✔ More outdoor learning spaces
- ✔ Less crowded classrooms/schools (Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School)
- ✔ Increase in duplication of services between Cranbrook and the Elk Valley
- ✔ More support for local community partners in the co-delivery of programs
- ✔ More academic focus, too many movies and free time
- ✔ Hiring practices (retention and recruitment strategies)



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ A good meal for every student
- ✔ More supports for neurodiverse students
- ✔ Transparency with SOGI curriculum
- ✔ Some buildings have a disconnect between parents and staff
- ✔ Open communication
- ✔ Restorative practices when dealing with conflict
- ✔ Understanding the why behind behaviour



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Accessibility issues at GTES
- ✔ Too many short weeks
- ✔ Safe places/safe spaces
- ✔ More funding for arts and sports
- ✔ More attention paid to Elk Valley (Cranbrook and Fernie get all the attention)
- ✔ Resource support
- ✔ More counseling



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ More alternative education options (Elkford)
- ✔ Increase in Speech Language Pathologists
- ✔ Stricter phone policies (they shouldn't be allowed in class)
- ✔ District-wide events to enhance the district community.
- ✔ Increased engagement when property was purchased in Fernie or consultation regarding the expansion
- ✔ More engagement with the community (i.e. take music into senior homes)
- ✔ Lack of discipline
- ✔ Need more compassion



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Youth Train in Trades access/dual credit for the Elk Valley
- ✔ More Educational Assistants
- ✔ Food program to ensure all students have healthy choices
- ✔ More after school activities
- ✔ Equality (i.e. Elkford seems to get things last)
- ✔ Bussing for high school students during the winter



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Teach life related skills such as taxes, mortgages
- ✔ More mental health support for students
- ✔ Focused directives from the district
- ✔ Better retention and recruitment/less turnover throughout the year
- ✔ Before and after school child care
- ✔ More engagement at the school level
- ✔ Engagement that considers the diversity of our students



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Look at catchment, some schools are bursting while others are empty
- ✔ Equitable maintenance of all schools
- ✔ Allow parents access to schools on weekends and all summer for sports
- ✔ Increase administration time for larger student populations
- ✔ A living wage for CUPE employees (Educational Assistants)
- ✔ Schools that can house everyone without portables
- ✔ Board meetings in all communities



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Higher Expectations (currently are low... be honest as to how our kids are doing.) (everything is always so positive)
- ✔ Transparency in budgeting
- ✔ A wide variety of learning experiences
- ✔ Provide real life training - ditch the everyone wins mentality, this is not real life kids need to learn how to cope with disappointment
- ✔ Include TTOCs in district emails and pro d events and social events
- ✔ Jobs should go to the best candidate not by seniority (teaching)



What does the ideal school district look like?

- ✔ Options and alternatives not a one size fits all approach
- ✔ The ideal school district creates a culture that enables all children to flourish
- ✔ Student and staff needs first
- ✔ Where all employees are treated well and FEEL appreciate