



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

**January 30, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Board Office**

**Committee Members
In Attendance:**

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

Regrets:

**Board/District Staff in
Attendance:**

**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.
Brent Reimer, Director of Human Resources
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 January 30, 2017 was called to order at 10:17 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-2017-01

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

1.3. Approval of the Minutes

n/a

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

n/a

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

3.1 Policy 1.16 Terms of Reference – Student Services Committee

Trustee Lento expressed his vision going forward:

- new game plan for our most vulnerable – it's going to cost money
- all IEP's in place in June so everyone is ready for September
- What are we going to do differently? We must meet the needs of our students.
- we need to spend money on resources and supports for these students.

A discussion/review of the Terms of Reference policy deemed all terms to be satisfactory.

3.2 Autism Update

Mr. Verbeurgt reviewed the Autism Spectrum Disorder Program Update.

Discussion included:

- five broad areas to move forward in the handout
- first arrow bullet is report from November – second arrow bullet is current update
- variety of supports and programs (i.e. POPARD and IHCAN)
- we are not going to follow the R & R program curriculum going forward
- We will continue to use strategies from R & R but not the entire program as it is very scripted. We need strategies that can provide the same services to all students and not just a few.
- the consultation process and how the decision not to proceed with R & R was reached
- EA training and pro-d opportunities relating to autism
- ADS Committee stopped meeting last March due to Mr. Verbeurgt's LOA - plans are underway to continue with this committee
- Mr. Verbeurgt will be working with principals to ensure there is communication with staff and parents regarding the changes in programs/services
- There is a shortage of SLPs – Mr. Verbeurgt has been pushing up the SLP's FTE in recent years – there have been a lot of variants that have played into this i.e. Sound Connections program. We have a 0.4 FTE posted since October 2016. There are currently 5 FTEs in place (6 people) plus 0.4 shortage. More and more students are being diagnosed with autism requiring more services from SLP's.
- we still have 4 SLP-EA, who service students who are not on IEPs.

3.3 Impact of Supreme Court Ruling on Additional Student Services Staff and Associated Services

- Mr. Reimer advised they are negotiating as we speak.
- We have been instructed to continue with current language until further notice.
- Mrs. Hauptman advised that talks at provincial level appear to be very productive
- There has been funding provided through the Priority Measures Funds - once the Board approves the Priority Report, postings will go out as soon as possible.

3.4 Program Review

- timing of IEP's being completed – MOE requires that an IEP be completed after Sept.30th - IEP's are due as needed/required, which can range from Sept.30 to June 30
- IEP reviews are done in June – used as a bridging document for the following year
- there are some transition periods from March – June for those moving buildings
- some goals are life long – may be specific objectives in each school year
- quite often the most challenging cases are dealt with first in the new school year
- Mr. Verbeurgt and the Student Service Coordinators work with Student Service Teachers throughout the year on IEPs (we have done 4 sessions this year to improve upon last year)
- the past notion of IEPs being due Sep.30 does not work in today's world
- we do an annual review of Cat H (Intensive Behaviour/Serious Mental Illness)
- we do a quality review of goals/objectives for kids with autism
- we do annual goals/renewals for Cat D (Physical Disabilities/Chronic Health)
- Trustees would welcome a report as to what is happening throughout the year.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1 Trustee Brown advised the transfer payment from Health Authority, currently under negotiation, has since been postponed. Have we been approached? Should we be preparing a submission for mental health concerns in schools?

Ministry of Health has data showing our numbers are increasing for mental health issues. Suggested we write our local MP responsible for Health to advocate.

Recommendation A

“The SD5 Board of Education write a letter to the Minister of Health (cc our local MP) asking for additional provincial funding for mental health.”

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.