



**The Board of Education of  
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)**

**MINUTES - REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

**May 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m.  
Meeting via Zoom**

Present: Chairperson Lento  
Trustee Ayling  
Trustee Bellina  
Trustee Damstrom  
Trustee Johns  
Trustee Kitt  
Trustee McPhee  
Trustee Turner

Regrets: Trustee Whalen

Staff Present: Superintendent, S. Yardley  
Secretary Treasurer, A. Rice  
Director of Instruction/Human Resources, B. Reimer  
Director of Student Learning/Aboriginal Education, J. Tichauer  
Director of Instruction/Student Learning and Innovation, D. Casault  
District Principal/Student Services, D. Verbeurgt  
District Principal/Transformative Learning, J. Roberts  
Executive Assistant (recorder), S. Gronlund

**1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chairperson Lento called the May 11, 2021, regular public meeting of the Board of Education to order at 3:01 p.m. and acknowledged that we have gathered here in the Homelands of the Ktunaxa people.

**1.1.1 Chairs Opening Remarks**

Chair Lento welcomed the guests to the public meeting.

On behalf of the Board, he expressed sadness on the passing of an educational servant to our district, Frances (Fran) Lawrenow. Fran began her career with the district working in the library at Muriel Baxter Elementary and retired in 1999 as school secretary at Highlands Elementary.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, sends his condolences to Trustee Whalen on the tragic passing of her father just one month after losing her mother. We also send our condolences to her husband Sean and their family.

The Chair expressed his gratitude to Secretary Treasurer Rice and Superintendent Yardley for scheduling COVID-19 vaccines for SD5 Cranbrook staff over the weekend.

The Chair expressed gratitude to all mothers on Mother's Day for their unending love.

**1.2 Consideration and Approval of Agenda**

Additions: **6.2 Special Education Funding Letter**

**MOTION R-21-78**

M/S that the agenda for the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of May 11, 2021 be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**1.3 Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of the Public meeting of the Board of Education of April 13, 2021.

**MOTION R-21-79**

M/S that the minutes of the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of April 13, 2021 be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**1.4 Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings**

**MOTION R-21-80**

M/S to accept the closed records of the in-camera meeting of the Board of Education of April 13, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**1.5 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Nil.

**1.6 Receiving of Delegations/Presentations**

**1.6.1 Heather Halliday**

Chair Lento introduced Heather Halliday. Heather began by indicating she is representing 200+ parents of school district 5 and concerned citizens. She proceeded with her presentation to the Board explaining the concerns that have been voiced on discrimination and the rights of children while attending school. A few of the referenced documentations in the presentation were the health risks of mask wearing, the BC Human Rights Code, a seven-page document with notice to school faculty, and court cases on discrimination and human rights.

Heather expressed her appreciation for the Boards time and expressed she will be forwarding her presentation package. She recommended the Board take the time to read the referenced documents to encourage facts over fear. She also asked that her question be answered. *Is it mandatory for all school faculty to read the Stage 2 Return to School Guidelines and/or the Provincial Covid 19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings?*

Chair Lento thanked Heather for her presentation and because of the serious nature of her presentation he granted her extra delegation time. He gave the trustees a chance to ask questions.

Chair Lento indicated that he would respond to the presentation in Item 6 of the agenda.

## **2. COMMITTEE REPORTS/TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

### **2.1 Advocacy/Education Committee**

Co-chair Trustees Bellina and Ayling reviewed the minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting of the Advocacy/Education Committee.

#### **MOTION R-21-81**

M/S that the Board write a general letter in support of the need for Child Care in Elkford.

**CARRIED**

#### **MOTION R-21-82**

M/S that the Board send the BCSTA letters written to various ministries to the appropriate committees or to district personnel for further discussion.

7.1.1. President Higginson to Minister Robinson – February 3, 2021

- Public Sector Executive Wage Freeze

**To Finance/Operations/Personnel In-camera Committee**

7.1.2. President Higginson to Ministers Fleming and Whiteside – February 3, 2021

- Safe Routes to schools

7.2.4 Minister Fleming to President Higginson (response) - March 25, 2021

- Active Transportation and Schools

**To Finance/Operations/Personnel Public Committee**

7.1.3. President Higginson to Ministers Kang and Whiteside - February 3, 2021

- Funding for Trades

7.7 Minister Kang to President Higginson (response) – March 26, 2021

**To Trade’s Working Group: Chris/Brian/Jason/Frank**

7.1.4. President Higginson to Minister Whiteside – February 10, 2021

- Action on Anti-Black Racism

7.2.3 Minister Whiteside to President Higginson (response) – March 24, 2021

**To Advocacy/Education Committee** (Letter of support?)

7.1.5. President Higginson to Minister Whiteside – February 10, 2021

- Timelier Response from Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB)

**To Finance/Operations/Personnel In-camera Committee**

7.1.6. President Higginson to Ministers Farnworth and Whiteside

- Funding to improve access to educational program in correctional facilities

**Receive and File (not applicable as no correctional facilities close to us)**

7.1.7. President Higginson to Ministers Dix and Whiteside – March 3, 2021

- COVID-19 Vaccine Priority for Workers in the Public Education Sector

**To Board of Education Regular Meeting May 11, 2021**

7.1.8. President Higginson to Minister Whiteside – March 10, 2021

- Moving Forward after COVID-19

**To Advocacy/Education Committee** -Attach report “Moving Forward, Rebuilding Education After COVID-19.”

7.1.9. President Higginson to Minister Whiteside – March 31, 2021

- School Life Cycle Funding

**To Advocacy/Education Committee – Recommendation**

**A letter is in the process of being written – Recommendation from April 27, 2021 Advocacy**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION R-21-83**

M/S that the Board send a letter to BCSTA in support of their recommendations to the BC Government for increased school life cycle funding.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION R-21-84**

M/S that the Board accept the report of the Advocacy/Education Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2.2 Policy Committee**

Co-chair Trustee Ayling reviewed the minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting of the Policy Committee.

**MOTION R-21-85**

M/S that the Board of Education’s position and response to the Child Care Policy be referred to and discussed at the next public Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Chair Lento indicated the need of developing a special committee with 5 sub committees, representing each of our district communities, to gather information and facts on child care resources to be determined by the Superintendent. If actions are required by the Board, they will be brought to the Board’s Finance/Operations/Personnel standing committee for consideration.

**MOTION R-21-86**

M/S that the Board accept the report of the Policy Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2.3 Student Services Committee**

Co-chair Trustee Damstrom reviewed the minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting of the Student Services Committee.

**MOTION R-21-87**

M/S that the Board accept the report of the Student Services Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2.4 Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee**

Co-chair Trustee Johns reviewed the minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting of the Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee.

**MOTION R-21-88**

M/S that the Board approve the draft 2021-22 Board and Committee meeting dates attached to the agenda. Meeting locations in schools will be considered once the Public Health Officer's COVID-19 protocols allow.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION R-21-89**

M/S that the Board accept the report of the Finance/Operations/Personnel Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2.5 BCSTA /Provincial Council**

Trustee Bellina has submitted her report to the Board. The BCSTA AGM was unique this year with 60 school boards coming together virtually and managing to vote online. Trustee Bellina reviewed the Kootenay Boundary Branch Motions that were passed.

Jodi Olstead and Mike Roberts are leaving the BCSTA, we wish them both well.

**MOTION R-21-90**

M/S to accept the report of the BCSTA/Provincial Council.

**CARRIED**

**2.6 Communications/Media Committee**

Trustee Ayling noted the letter to BCSTA regarding exempt compensation will be sent tomorrow.

**MOTION R-21-91**

M/S to accept the report of the Communications/Media Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2.7 Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee**

Trustee Johns encouraged the Board to view the video on the SD5 website celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> year of MBSS.

He is looking forward to receiving the final report from Berry Architect outlining some options for MBSS.

**MOTION R-21-92**

M/S to accept the report of the Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2.8 Key City Theatre**

Trustee McPhee reported on the “Raise the Curtain” raffle of 1000 tickets at \$20 each. The money raised will go towards purchasing new curtains for the theatre. The Key City Society is working on a vision statement for the theatre. There will be another meeting to discuss this on May 20, 2021. Renovations are being done to the interior of the theatre. There will be an area to support local artists along with a directory listing names of artists and where to find their work.

**MOTION R-21-93**

M/S to accept the report of the Key City Theatre.

**CARRIED**

**2.9 Legacy of Learning**

Trustee Johns is working with School District 6 for both long- and short-term plans. This is proving difficult under the COVID 19 safety protocols.

**MOTION R-21-94**

M/S to accept the Legacy of Learning report.

**CARRIED**

**2.10 French Advisory Committee**

Director Casault provided a brief update on the French Advisory Committee. The schools with French Immersion are looking at a program review.

The three schools in Cranbrook; TM Roberts Elementary, Parkland Middle, and Mount Baker Secondary are meeting together and the two in Fernie; Isabella Dicken Elementary and Fernie Secondary are meeting. The last meeting is in May to look at the next steps moving forward.

**MOTION R-21-95**

M/S to accept the French Advisory Committee report.

**CARRIED**

**2.11 Trustee Reports**

- Trustees reported on their activities for the month.
- Trustee Damstrom thanked the district staff for their work. The basketball courts are being paved. The coffee fundraiser is still ongoing – contact her if you are interested.
- Trustee Ayling made note of the High Ground conference she and Trustee Whalen attended online in March.
- Trustee Turner reported that April was a busy month with meetings.
- Trustee Bellina noted she has forwarded her report for inclusion in the June meeting.

### 3. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

#### 3.1 Stage 2 Restart Protocol Update - Secretary Treasurer

Secretary Treasurer Rice met with the District Health Committee on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and advised that there is nothing new to report.

#### 3.2 Budget 2021-22

Secretary Treasurer Rice is working on the 2021-22 Budget. He had a budget session with the Board today and will have another session on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Chair Lento reminded the Board that the 2021-22 Budget is due to the Ministry of Education by June 30, 2021.

#### MOTION R-21-96

M/S that the May 11, 2021 Secretary Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

### 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

#### 4.1 COVID-19 Vaccinations - SD5

Superintendent Yardley thanked Secretary Treasurer Rice, District Principal Roberts, and Executive Assistant Jane Nixon for scheduling the Cranbrook staff COVID-19 vaccinations this last weekend. The Elk Valley staff will be scheduled for vaccines next week.

#### 4.2 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Update

Superintendent Yardley gave a brief update on the FESL session she had with over 20 people from the working group delivering feed back on the draft FESL. We had a couple of student leaders attend and give great input. This process is moving forward with the final draft going to the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting on May 31, 2021.

#### 4.3 Pathway's Report

The Pathway's report can be found on the School District's website at [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca).

Superintendent Yardley thanked the staff for their work this year. Many students do not have the afterschool activities they are used to and are very excited to be at school. We appreciate all the staff, parents and students for their work in this unique year.

Each Director and District Principal delivered a brief update on their departments.

Discussion:

- Trustee Johns asked about the science fair in Ottawa. District Principal Verbeurgt replied that the fair begins soon, and he will share the virtual link. This science fair will have finalists from over 100 regional fairs across Canada where they will share what they have invented or discovered.

- Do we have a plan of ramping up the participation? Director Verbeurgt replied that there have been many ways of spreading the word.

Superintendent Yardley updated the Board on how the district is promoting the good things happening in our district. One of the ways is inserting information on some of the district accomplishments in the Elk Valley and Cranbrook papers.

**MOTION R-21-97**

M/S that the May 11, 2021 Superintendent's Report to the Board of Education be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Lento mentioned that the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer continue to work on district policy governance with Dr. Sloan and that the Child Care policy developed by Audrey Ackah of the BCSTA addressing the School Act changes and Minster's order has been approved by the Board and submitted to Dr. Sloan for his review.

Secretary Treasurer Rice will follow up on the status of the template policy on child care developed by Audrey Ackah from BCSTA.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 Business Arising from Delegations**

**MOTION R-21-98**

M/S that the Board refer the documentation and question from Heather Halliday's presentation to Superintendent Yardley for review and response.

**CARRIED**

**6.2 Special Education Funding Letter**

Trustee Johns thanked Secretary Treasurer Rice and District Principal Verbeurgt for their input drafting the special education funding letter.

**MOTION R-21-99**

M/S that the Board approve the Special Education Funding letter be sent to Ministers Robinson and Whiteside.

**CARRIED**

**7. TRUSTEE BOUQUETS**

- Trustee McPhee to District Principal Verburgt for the time and effort he puts into the Regional Science Fair. He pointed out the amount of amazing learning that occurs from these fairs.
- Trustee Bellina to District Principal Verburgt also for his work on the Science Fair. She really enjoyed watching the fair online. To Secretary Treasurer Rice and Sandy Gronlund for their support connecting her with the BCSTA AGM.
- Trustee Ayling also to District Principal Verburgt for his work and Trustee Johns for delivering meals to Trustee Whalen in these difficult times for her and her family.

- Trustee Johns to the BCSTA AGM he attended and hats off to all the employees that have received their COVID-19 vaccines to help keep our district safe.

**8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

**9. QUESTION PERIOD**

Prior to entertaining questions, Chair Lento congratulated Chris Kielinski on being acclaimed as President of the FDTA. The district looks forward to the on going outstanding working relationship with our teachers.

Chris Kielinski, FDTA president, thanked the people instrumental in arranging for the SD5 staff to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Connie Merz, from the CDTA, also thanked the district for arranging the vaccinations for teachers and providing them with peace of mind.

**10. LATE ITEMS**

Nil.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION R-21-100**

M/S that the May 11, 2021, regular public meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Frank Lento, Chairperson

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Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer