



The Board of Education of School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)
MINUTES - Policy Committee Meeting
May 27, 2013
Board Office
10:00 am

Committee Members in Attendance

Co-Chair Trustee Brown
Trustee Besanger
Trustee Ayling

Committee Members – Regrets

Co-Chair Trustee Damstrom

Board/District Staff in Attendance

Trustee Bellina
Trustee Johns
Trustee Lento
Trustee Whalen
Bendina Miller, Superintendent of Schools
Darcy Verbeurgt, District Principal
Gail Rousseau, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

The Policy Committee meeting of May 27, 2013 was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Co-Chair Trustee Brown.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

Addition:

4.1 Social Media Policy for Staff

POL-2013-007

"M/S that the agenda for the Policy Committee meeting of May 27, 2013 was approved as amended."

CARRIED

1.3. Approval of Minutes

POL-2013-008

"M/S that the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of April 26, 2013 were approved as circulated."

CARRIED

2. POLICIES PASSED BY THE BOARD SINCE LAST MEETING

Policy 3.12 Video Surveillance

Policy 3.35 Sexual Orientation/Gender Identify

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1. Revised Policy 2.13 Alcohol- Buildings, Grounds, Functions and Fundraising (Partner Group feedback)

A PAC meeting was held last Friday at Highlands Elementary School. At that meeting a fundraising event on September 28th at the Columbo Lodge was discussed which would include having alcohol on site. As our revised draft policy 2.13 states that no alcohol is allowed in school buildings or grounds and no alcohol at fundraising events on or off school property, Steve Rogers, Principal of Highlands school and Trustee Chris Johns gave some background and updated Trustees on the kinds of questions/comments that the parents had including:

- to what extent does the board have jurisdiction over PAC events?
- who governs the PAC?
- does our Board insurance cover these events?
- this is an adult only event; no kids involved; liquor license provided by Columbo Lodge; liquor sales goes to the Columbo Lodge
- does the School Board have the ability to tell PACs what to do in regard to fundraising and do they have the ability to govern events outside school hours?
- really want to work together to make this a viable option for everyone
- is there a Risk Management Plan for events?
- does the Board have a risk management policy?
- Columbo Hall is already booked; donations are already coming in
- what is Steve's role as Principal?

Discussion:

- parents have no issue with the policy up to that one sentence "The use of alcohol in a fundraising venture is also prohibited...". Perhaps we should just delete this sentence
- Superintendent Miller advised that PACs are governed by school boards

- policy has not been approved and is still a draft; this feedback with help in the review of this policy
- alcohol is served at retirement functions
- can we legally put this sentence in the policy? Superintendent Miller advised that you can put it in the policy but do you want to?
- Suggestion to change wording to "fundraisers off school property involving adults only" or something to that effect
- acquire board approval for every alcohol fundraising event
- alcohol served does not have to be part of the fundraiser; if you don't allow benefits of selling you are still upholding educational priorities
- BC Liquor Distribution Branch provides funds for dry grad every year to all of our secondary schools
- shouldn't promote use of alcohol in any educational setting
- school's Protection Program needs to be informed
- need to find out legally what we can write in policy; Superintendent Miller to check with BCSTA and Schools Protection Program
- remove from title "functions and fundraising" but we would still have to be able to answer questions if PACs can fundraise off grounds with alcohol
- the need for a co-developed risk management plan between both DPAC and SD5
- we are all liable at any time; we need to work under due diligence
- there are enough rules and regulations out there that we shouldn't have to recreate them
- policy needs to be very clean and straight forward
- we have to address this by the board meeting in June

RECOMMENDATION A

"M/S that the discussion on revised Policy 2.13 Alcohol - Grounds, Buildings, Functions and Fundraising be tabled until the June Board meeting in order to obtain legal advice from the BCSTA and from School's Protection Program which will be provided prior to the meeting."

- 3.2.** Revised Policy 1.2 Procedural Bylaw
Draft Policy School Board Operations

Mr. Norum has not been able to meet with the sub-committee so this item will be tabled to the next meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

Nil

- 4.1.** Social Media Policy for Staff

A discussion was held regarding inappropriate Facebook postings by staff:

- refer to BCSTA social media policy
- SD5 could draft social media policy; charter of rights and freedoms indicates we can prescribe it by law as long as it is preventing something that is harmful to our students
- Staff should be not be "friending" students
- Lots of great articles written by the BCTF in their teacher magazine around safe social media practice
- difference between Facebook groups with limited attendance and regular Facebook; staff are discouraged to have individual Facebook accounts
- social media is much more broader than just Facebook

Committee Action:

- staff to start doing initial research around a social media policy and bring information to the next policy meeting
- Doug McPhee to send out another alert to all staff around safe social media practices
- put this on the P/VP summer meeting agenda and staff meeting agendas in September

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

Nil

6. LATE ITEMS

- 6.1.**
- Further discussion around a risk management plan

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.