

**Mount Baker
Secondary
School**



MBSS PAC Minutes

October 4th, 2022 7:00 pm via Zoom

- Meeting started at 19:01
- Welcome & Introductions
- In Attendance: Liz (Chair), Christina (treasurer), Dave Hill, Jill Carley, Ally T., Lori N., Shellie S., Jennifer M., Chris Johns

- Additions to the agenda – Scholarship thank you letters, Information from Foundry Virtual Care and Variety Club

- PAC Executive for 2022/23 school year – Nominations: Liz – Chairperson, Christina – Treasurer, Lies – DPAC Rep - Elected

- School Board Trustee report – Chris Johns (documents attached at end of minutes)
 - a. Speeding issues in Jaffray a concern – Ad Hoc Committee to look at traffic safety at all SD5 schools – including speeding, traffic flow, and crosswalks
 - b. Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL) approved– available on SD5 website
 - c. Trades Funding – looking to improve access for student’s wanting to pursue trades after graduation. Cranbrook students have an advantage, because of proximity to the College of the Rockies.

- Principal’s report – Dave Hill
 - a. Enrollment is much higher this year – had to hire extra staff, but all vacancies now filled
 - b. Wild Days – fun event that is finally back - kids do silly games (bus pull, slip and slide)
 - c. Athletics up and running – Volleyball, Boys Soccer, and Rugby in progress. Shortage of bus drivers in the district is causing issues with getting to tournaments.
 - d. School Growth Plan (part of FESL) is available on school website. Focus is on improving literacy especially reading comprehension and looking at why the Indigenous students seem to have lower grades in English 12 and a higher intake into workplace math – looking at understanding why and how the school can improve/encourage access to other courses.

- DPAC Report – Lies Salvador (submitted)

- a. DSAC had first meeting Sept 28 – 10 students in attendance
 - b. Next DPAC meeting is to elect new executive: Lies Salvador (LMS, MBSS) – Chair, Tara Stare (TM) – VC, David (Isabella Dicken) – Treasurer, Melissa (GT) – Secretary
 - c. Best Buy has school tech grants available - deadline October 13th
 - d. RDEK Area C Residents – don't forget to vote for school trustees in upcoming municipal elections on October 15th
 - e. \$60 Million will be distributed “equitably” not “equally” in our district with the goal being that the funds reach those who need it the most. Our district receives \$694,000.
- Treasurer's report – Christina Hall
 - a. Received \$15560 in gaming funds this year.
 - b. School will be asked to submit requests for funding by the next PAC meeting.
 - c. Received a donation from Cranbrook Rotary for \$5600 to purchase cross country skies for the Outdoor Ed Program
 - New Business:
 - I. Changes to Gaming Fund Guidelines – this will be the last year for Scholarships as a designated use of gaming funds.
 - II. Donation from Cranbrook Rotary Club - \$5600 for Cross country skies
 - III. Request for funds for Basketball uniforms – cost will be about \$2300 but thinking of other sports items that need replacement, so tabled this request for now.
 - IV. Scholarship Thanks – received thank you letters from about 80% of PAC Scholarship recipients.
 - V. Community Information – Foundry, Variety Club – (information attached)

Meeting adjourned at 19:40.

Next Meeting: November 1, 2022 at 7pm

ATTACHMENTS SUBMITTED BY CHRIS JOHNS, SCHOOL TRUSTEE

June 17, 2022

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside Minister of Education
PO Box 9080 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E2 educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ministers:

The Honourable Anne Kang

Minister of Advance Education & Skills Training PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt. Victoria, BC V8W 9E2 AEST.minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: FOLLOW UP TO LETTER SENT SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 TRADES FUNDING BEYOND GRADUATION ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

In September 2021, School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board Chairperson, Frank Lento, sent a letter expressing the District's concerns regarding trades funding beyond graduation in the Elk Valley Communities.

A copy of the September 23, 2021 letter is attached. To date, we still have not received a response to this correspondence.

At the June 14, 2022 Regular Public Board Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 5, the following motion was passed:

THAT the Board send follow up correspondence to the Ministers requesting a response to the letter sent in September 2021 regarding trades funding beyond graduation in the Elk Valley Communities of School District No. 5.

Please provide an acknowledgement of receipt of this letter in addition to a response to the concerns raised in the September 2021 letter.

With respect,

Frank Lento
SD5 Trustee, City of Fernie
Board Chair
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Email: frank.lento@sd5.bc.ca

Attachment

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Krista Damstrom
• Chris Johns • Kathryn Kitt • Doug McPhee • Wendy Turner • Patricia Whalen

940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250-426-4201 • Fax: 250-489-5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca

SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

September 23, 2021

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt. Victoria, BC V8W 9E2 educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ministers,

The Honourable Anne Kang

Minister of Advance Education & Skills Training PO Box 9080 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2 AEST.minister@gov.bc.ca

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

RE: Trades Funding Beyond Graduation - Elk Valley Communities of SD#S

School District #5 (Southeast Kootenay) has a long and proud history of offering dual credit opportunities to many of our students. Within the past few years, however, we have seen funding and program decisions made which have made it increasingly difficult for some of our students to practically enter these dual credit programs before their K-12 experience has finished. We acknowledge that School District #42 and other districts have written similar letters expressing concern about trades funding for students beyond graduation and we have likeminded concerns, albeit in a localized context.

All our dual credit opportunities are currently available only through the main campus of The College of the Rockies (COTR), located in Cranbrook. We have an excellent working partnership with COTR and value the programs that we have been able to co-develop and coordinate with this fine post-secondary partner.

As you are aware, School District #5 encompasses much of the East Kootenay region. Our district is made up of five distinct communities all situated within the stunning Kootenay Rockies. This beautiful and sometimes remote region does make travel between communities, especially in the winter, a difficult enterprise. For students who live in Cranbrook, the ability to participate in on campus activities at COTR is relatively convenient. For students who live in our Elk Valley communities, however, the distances are problematic. From Fernie, it is 100 kilometers to Cranbrook. From Sparwood, 135 km and from Elkford, 170 km. These distances on winter roads are unacceptable for most families who would consider having youth enrolled in dual credit programs.

Currently, the options for students living in these Elk Valley communities who wish to enroll in Youth Train in Trades programs are limited to moving temporarily to Cranbrook or to wait

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until after graduation to start their program. To have 16- or 17-year-old students billet out with families or to live in student residence is simply not acceptable to many families. To drive up to two hours each way daily is simply not an option. We feel that students who have clearly laid out plans, prior to graduation, to apply to a Youth Train in Trades program should be funded as Youth Train in Trades students to start their programs at College of the Rockies in the fall after graduation.

Regarding the Post Secondary Transition Programs for Funding Purposes Policy, we acknowledge that there is an exceptional circumstances clause. The fact that we have students who currently need to fund the cost of living away from their homes or risk driving multiple hours a day to attend the Cranbrook campus or risk not being funded as Youth Train in Trades students is unacceptable to us. This is compounded by the fact that within our smaller secondary schools, it is much harder for students to finish all necessary prerequisites before Grade 12. We feel that students who need to travel within District to attend a Youth Train in Trades program should easily fall within this Exceptional Circumstances clause and should be funded beyond graduation.

Currently there are no dual credit opportunities based in any of our Elk Valley communities. There are not currently College of the Rockies campuses located in either Elkford or Sparwood. Another option for our Elk Valley students who wish to enrol in Youth Train in Trades programs is to have options within their community, or in a neighbouring community. There is a track record of dual credit programs successfully being run in secondary schools, within district and within the province. We would welcome the opportunity to be part of a dialogue with the Ministry, with the Industry Training Authority and with College of the Rockies about offering dual credit opportunities within the communities of Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie.

Thank you very much for considering our requests. Sincerely,

Frank Lento, Board Chair

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Krista Damstrom
• Chris Johns • Kathryn Kitt • Doug McPhee • Wendy Turner • Patricia Whalen

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SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS CARRIED
Sept 13, 2022

Motions Carried

Finance Operations

That the location of the Board of Education meetings on October 11, 2022 be amended to Cranbrook.

And further,

That the location of the committee meetings on October 24, 2022 be amended to Cranbrook.

Contact: Chairperson Frank Lento, 250-423-7607

That Secretary-Treasurer Taylor follow-up with the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) on the correspondence of May 18, 2022 regarding the speed reduction on Highway 3, Jaffray.

Contact: Secretary-Treasurer Nick Taylor, 250-417-2054

General

That the Board accept and approve the 2021/2022 BDO Canada Audited Financial Statements and approve the appropriations as disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Contact: Secretary-Treasurer Nick Taylor, 250-417-2054

That a special meeting to be held on September 26, 2022, to approve and adopt the 2022/2023 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning document and to authorize the Superintendent to submit the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning to the Ministry of Education

Contact: Chairperson Frank Lento, 250-423-7607

That the Board re-send the "trades funding beyond graduation letter of September 2021 to the Minister of Education & Child Care and the Minister of Advanced Education Skills and Training, as we have not yet received a response to this letter.

Contact: Chairperson Frank Lento, 250-423-7607

If you require a comment on any of the above motions, please feel free to contact the person listed below the motion. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions :)

Cheers,
Trina Ayling
250-421-3863

Attachments from Community Groups

I'm Bronwyn and I work with [Foundry Virtual BC](#). Foundry Virtual is an online mental health and wellness resource for BC youth ages 12-24 and their caregivers. I was advised to connect with schools in Cranbrook and I saw your name as the PAC chair. I hope it's okay I'm reaching out.

I'm emailing because I'm co-facilitating a group with Foundry Virtual for teens 12 – 19 called "Let's Talk Substances". It's a weekly Zoom group on Mondays from 6:30 – 7:30pm for youth who want to make changes to their substance use (e.g. alcohol, smoking, vaping, cannabis use, and other drug-use). The group is based off [SMART Recovery](#), an evidenced-based substance use recovery model. It is a drop-in group and we welcome youth at all stages of recovery (e.g. youth who are not sure they want to make changes, youth who are making changes, or youth who want support sticking to their change).

I'm wondering if you would be willing to share this with other members of the PAC/ other caregivers in your school community?

Find more information and the registration link here:

<https://foundrybc.ca/virtual/groups-workshops/#:~:text=LET%27S%20TALK%20SUBSTANCES!>

Reach out if you want to connect for a call 😊

Bronwyn Lawrence

She/her (Pronouns)

Peer Support and Family Engagement Coordinator

Foundry Virtual Care

E: blawrence@foundrybc.ca

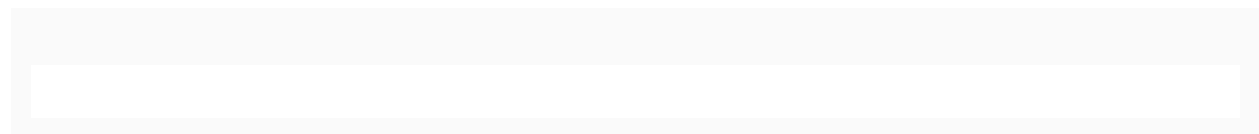
The content of this e-mail, including any files attached, is confidential and may be privileged. Any unauthorized copying or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you receive this email in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete this email".

Please note that I worked part time, so my response may be delayed. If you require immediate support, contact the Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868

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My name is Anna. I'm reaching out to you on behalf of Variety – the Children's Charity of BC to share a brand-new program we've created for schools in BC.

Please know that you have not been added to our mailing list. This is a personal message from me as the creator of this new initiative, to say hello and to introduce you to ...

[The Variety Schools Program](#)

We are kids helping kids – the future leaders of tomorrow and the change makers of today.

When you participate in the Variety Schools Program, your students:

- Continue to develop strong social-emotional skills by connecting with others from diverse backgrounds and abilities
- Practice positive social awareness and responsibility by working collectively to make your community a more inclusive and accessible space where all kids can thrive

Social justice is important to Variety BC and we care about teaching the next generation important values (such as kindness and empathy) that help to shape young lives into caring and compassionate adults ... just like you.

That's why school communities across BC are coming together to support kids with unique needs by taking their advocacy and learning even further and hosting a fundraiser in support of Variety BC. Your school can make a life-

changing impact in the lives of kids right in your very own community ... kids like [14-year-old Emerson from Northern BC](#), who was the 97th person in the world to be diagnosed with the rare Hao Fountain Syndrome and [6-year-old Herman from the Lower Mainland](#), who is now able to see a speech-language pathologist thanks to the incredible generosity of others.

We've put the FUN in fundraising and made it easy with our pre-built "pick-and-go" campaigns, complete with action planning tools, posters, A-Z fundraising ideas and more! Plus, we're here to help you take your fundraising event to the next level with free classroom workshops, school assemblies and a Resource Library coming soon, full of lesson plans and age-appropriate activities recommended by fellow educators.

[Download your FREE Fundraising Toolkit here.](#)

Will Mount Baker Secondary join this movement of young change-makers and help us work toward a more inclusive and accessible home for BC's kids?

To get started, [tell us more about your school here](#) for a customized experience that suits your community's interests and needs.

Need an upgrade? Variety Schools is giving back and helping you make learning more inclusive and accessible for your own students. [Apply to receive up to \\$10,000 from Variety BC.](#)

I can't wait to hear all about how Mount Baker Secondary plans to champion inclusivity this year!

Warmest,
Anna

Anna Polden



Anna Polden

Variety Schools Program
Variety - the Children's Charity of BC

anna.polden@variety.bc.ca

Direct: 604.268.3898

variety.bc.ca

Rather speak by phone? Schedule a phone call directly in my calendar!

<https://calendly.com/annapolden-variety/call-anna>

Variety BC is situated on the traditional territories of the hə́ŋqəmiŋə́m̓ and Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh speaking peoples. We are committed to honouring the history of this land and to our path forward in truth & reconciliation.

