



**The Board of Education of
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
MINUTES - EDUCATION/POLICY MEETING
November 29, 2010, 10:30 a.m.
Board Office**

IN ATTENDANCE - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co Chair Trustee Ayling

Co Chair Shawn Damstrom

Trustee Ellis

Trustee Gordon-Hooker

Trustee Bellina (by phone)

Trustee Lento

Bill Gook, Superintendent of Schools

Glenn Dobie, Director of Student Learning

Janice McElwee, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

REGRETS

IN ATTENDANCE – BOARD/DISTRICT STAFF

Doug McPhee, District Safety Officer

Jason Tichauer, Principal/Vice Principal Representative

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:27 a.m.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Nil

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

4.0 POLICIES PASSED BY THE BOARD SINCE LAST MEETING

Nil

5.0 ITEMS FORWARDED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Pesticide Update

- In Trustee Johns absence, Trustee Gordon-Hooker gave a brief update based on information received from the Cancer Society.
- The next steps have not yet been determined as they are still gathering information from a variety of sources.

5.2 Revised Policy 2.1 – Tobacco Free District

- Mr. McPhee reviewed changes made to the policy based on feedback from partner groups.
- Note: The sample letter to students was provided as information only and does not form part of the policy.

Recommendation A

“That the revised Policy 2.1 Tobacco Free District be sent to the Board of Education for approval.”

5.3 Revised Policy 2.10 – District Health/Safety Program

- Mr. McPhee reviewed changes made to the policy based on feedback from the last meeting.
- Updated/current health and safety information is available to all staff members on the First Class District Safety Conference.
- Discussion included the annual review of safety procedures, the use of current WCB Regulations, and on-going training/updates for employees.
- Ms. Turner noted the annual training requirement for staff reps as per WCB Regulations and believes reference to the WCB Regulations should be included in the policy.
- Mr. McPhee will incorporate today’s suggestions and will bring back to the next meeting.

5.4 Draft Policy – Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

Tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints.

5.5 Playground/Garden Installations

Tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints.

5.6 Revised Policy 2.9 – School Closure

Tabled to the next meeting due to time restraints.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

6.1 Draft Policy – Student Registered for Distance Education

The Draft Policy was previously sent to the Board for approval. Between that time and the Board Meeting, a letter was submitted by a PAC representative, which raised several questions. Mr. Dobie addressed them as follows:

- It is not feasible to have a complete list of student activities as other activities will always come up and the activities between schools vary.
- The Principal has the ultimate decision as to what activities will work for Distance Education students.
- There can't be complete consistency between schools as each school is unique in its activities and the make-up of its classrooms (i.e. Bill 33, IEP's, etc.).

Discussion included:

- Decisions must be consistent with the Collective Agreement and Bill 33.
- Can we provide guidelines for when a Principal might say no?
- How do parents find out what activities are available? School newsletters are available from Brian Hamagami at the Discovery School. It is also possible that Brian could include that information in his weekly email to parents. Whatever the process, it needs to happen in a way that does not create extra work for Brian.
- Mr. Dobie and Mr. McPhee will work on the wording and bring back to the next meeting.

6.2 Policy 5.5 Curricular and Extra-Curricular School Trips

Issues have come forward in regards to one line in the policy under Supervision as it indicates that a team can be coached by and travel out of town with an adult who is not a staff member.

“All Curricular and Extra-Curricular school trips must have at least one responsible adult who has undergone a criminal record check and successfully completed the orientation program under the auspices of the School District.”

- The Board's legal council has advised that we are clearly remiss not having a district employee present. It becomes a liability issue for the Principal, District Management and the Board of Education.
- Both SD6 and SD8 have policies requiring a district employee to be present.

- In discussions with all P/VP, there is no issue at the elementary level except in Jaffray; however, the middle and secondary schools indicate this would greatly impact their school teams as more than half have a coach who is not an employee. They agree on the need for an employee and the liability, but worry about the impact this will have on their teams/cost of trips.

Discussion included:

- \$11,000 already dispersed to schools to help with extra costs and \$4,000 has been set aside to support teams travelling to sanctioned provincial tournaments. The Superintendent decides who and how much, however it is difficult to disperse until next spring until we know how many teams have qualified for provincials.
- Extra-curricular has value, but it may cost more to maintain it.
- Students are representing the District and their community and both have an obligation to support them.
- Additional funding and where that might come from (surplus?).
- Need to ensure our students are safe and within legal parameters.
- Searching backpacks/bags prior to trips and who has the authority to do that.
- Mr. Tichauer, Principal/Vice Principal Representative, pointed out that this issue tends to refer to trips away from school, but most of the coach's time is spent with students during practice at the school.
- Wording needs to be maintained as "school district employee", not just staff member. The coach may not work at that particular school or they could be a TOC.
- Orientation program/information package varies from school to school.
- New staff members should be orientated every year on the policy.
- Mr. Dobie will ask schools to send in their current coaching package for review.
- Mr. Dobie and Mr. Tichauer will make revisions and send out the revised policy to all partner groups.

6.3 Draft Policy – Distribution of Information

Mr. Dobie advised that the draft policy has been tabled since 2008, pending the arbitration ruling. The policy reflects the current practice in the District.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding:

- The District's perception of the policy vs that of the CFTA.
- What the current practice is for distribution of information since the ruling.
- BCPSEA's direction to all school districts to include the policy as it is written.
- Additional arbitration cases filed on the distribution of information and their relevance to the passing of this policy.
- Not prudent to delay passing the policy based on things that might not materialize.
- Organizations/unions have other options/avenues to send information home.
- Trustee Ayling requested to see the arbitration ruling prior to making a decision. After further discussion, it was agreed that Trustees would be provided with a copy of the arbitration ruling prior to the December Board Meeting.

- As well, Ms. Turner will submit her points/concerns in writing to Trustees prior to the December Board Meeting.
- Name of the policy will be changed to ‘Distribution of Union Information’.

Recommendation B

“That the Draft Policy Distribution of Union Information be sent to the Board of Education for approval.”

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

Nil

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.