



**The Board of Education of
School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
MINUTES - EDUCATION/POLICY MEETING
October 29, 2012, 10:30 a.m.
Board Office**

IN ATTENDANCE - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chair Trustee Brown

Trustee Ayling
Trustee Besanger
Bendina Miller, Superintendent of Schools
Diane Casault, Director of Instruction/Student Learning
Janice Paetz, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

REGRETS

Co-Chair Trustee Damstrom

IN ATTENDANCE – BOARD/DISTRICT STAFF

Trustee Bellina
Trustee Johns
Trustee Lento
Trustee Whalen

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 a.m.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

7.3 BC Friends for Life

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

4.0 POLICIES PASSED BY THE BOARD SINCE LAST MEETING

Policy 3.15 French Immersion

5.0 ITEMS FORWARDED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2012

Motion EP 2012-1

“That the Minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting held on September 24th be approved.”

5.2 Field Trip Application – Greece (Spring 2013) – Mt. Baker, Parkland and Laurie Schools

The additional information requested was submitted by the school (Grade level and Educational Objectives).

Lengthy discussion included:

- Educational objectives and their merit in the policy.
- Are these trips ‘curricular’ or ‘extra-curricular’?
- Do the educational objectives students learn on these trips give already privileged students an advantage to those students who couldn’t go on the trip?
- Does every child have the opportunity to go on these trips? Fundraising isn’t always an option for every child.
- Should we expect educational outcomes when the trips happen during spring break on the teachers’ own time?
- There are educational objectives on every field trip that schools take, even sports teams.

The Committee agreed to take out ‘curricular connections’ on the application form and leave in educational objectives.

Recommendation A

“That the Field Trip Application to Greece in the Spring of 2013 by Mt. Baker Secondary, Parkland and Laurie Middle Schools be sent to the Board of Education for approval.”

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

6.1 Laurie Middle School Enrolment

Trustee Whalen expressed concerns regarding the enrolment difference between Laurie and Parkland Middle Schools. The Laurie staff is very concerned and is considering trying to market Laurie as a 'Fine Arts' School to draw more enrolment.

Discussion included:

- Comments have been heard that LMS is the school where troubled students attend and Parkland is seen as the more affluent school. (Noted there are also perceptions where Laurie is seen as the better school.)
- Should the District be looking at changing the boundaries?
- As per Ministry of Education regulations, parents can choose where their child goes to school so boundary changes won't necessarily make a difference.
- Becoming a magnet school requires a very strong commitment on behalf of the staff. They have to build Fine Arts throughout the entire curriculum and a Fine Arts culture throughout the school – it is not a simple project. The District would require an application from the school.
- Drops in enrolment can come from various factors such as lower numbers from feeder schools, normal attrition, etc.

Actions:

- Trustee Whalen will bring this information back to the school.
- Mrs. Miller will speak with Mr. Standing.
- Ms. Therrien will try to make better connections with the PACs involved.
- District Management will determine how many students currently attending Parkland are in the Laurie catchment area and vice versa.
- This item will be brought back to the November meeting.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Field Trip Application to Turkey (Spring 2013)

This field trip has been cancelled due to low enrolment numbers.

7.2 Field Trip Application Forms Updated

Mrs. Casault explained some minor changes which have been made to the application forms to streamline the process.

7.3 BC Friends for Life

Trustee Whalen shared information on the FRIENDS for Life Programs.

Mrs. Casault gave a brief overview of the FRIENDS programs. Most elementary schools in the District are currently using the Gr.4/5 program.

Mrs. Casault also advised that she is currently gathering information as to what programs are running in our schools. The report will be brought back to the Board once it is completed.

8.0 LATE ITEMS

7.3 BC Friends for Life

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.