

**The Board of Education of**

**School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)**

**MINUTES - ADVOCACY/EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 28, 2019 9:30 a.m.**

**Board Office**

Committee Members Trustee Bellina

In Attendance: Trustee Turner

Trustee Whalen

Regrets: Trustee Ayling

Board/District Staff in Trustee McPhee

Attendance: Trustee Johns

Trustee Kitt

Trustee Damstrom

Silke Yardley, Superintendent Jason Tichauer, Director, Student Learning

Diane Casault, Director, Student Learning

Jennifer Roberts, District Principal

Gail Rousseau, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

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# **1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

## **1.1 Call to Order**

I want to acknowledge that we have gathered here in the Homelands of the Ktunaxa people.

The Advocacy/Education Committee Meeting of October 28, 2019 was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Co-Chair Whalen.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Additions to Agenda:

4.3 Rotary Presentation October 31

4.2 DPAC Report – additional information

M/S that the agenda of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of October 28, 2019 is approved as amended.

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes**

M/S that the minutes of the Advocacy/Education Committee meeting of September 23, 2019 be approved as circulated.

# **2. PRESENTATIONS**

## **2.1 East Kootenay Adolescent Substance Use Survey Results - Silke Yardley**

Superintendent Yardley reviewed the East Kootenay Adolescent Substance Use Survey results with Trustees. Concerns were outlined as well as areas that have improved compared to previous reports. The discussion included:

* good sample size - 73% of our students participated
* tobacco use amongst adolescents going down but vaping is on the rise
* surprised at the 20% increase of lifetime substance use for selected grades
* concerned about rates by gender for lifetime rates of substance use; two-spirited rates are much higher
* Aboriginal use rates – Director Tichauer will be sharing this information with his staff
* what we are doing is working somewhat, but in some areas the statistics are still too high
* need more education around drinking and driving
* lots of resources have been sent to schools and we currently have programs in our schools to help educate; need to educate parents
* we have created a new policy and signage which will be ready for schools within two weeks
* SD5 rates are slightly lower than regional rates
* discussion around vaping detectors at Provincial Council meeting

More research will be done and brought back to future meeting.

## **2.2 CHEQ Data - Diane Casault**

Director Casault presented a summary of the findings of the Cheq Data report to the Committee. The full district report goes more in depth and every school gets their own report. Kindergarten teachers receive this data as well. This data will help us figure out how we can make it better for the students coming into kindergarten. The snapshot shows 75% completion rate by parents. We would like this percentage to be higher. This is our third year doing this survey which gives us good comparison data. A discussion took place on the nutrition and sleep results and what we are doing as a district to support this. Two events will be organized, one in Cranbrook and one in the Elk Valley to discuss the Cheq report findings which is scheduled to be released on November 1, 2019. Director Casault will share with district management and schools. It will be interesting to see the correlation between the Cheq Report findings and the EDI.

# **3. ITEMS FORWARDED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

## **3.1 School Bus Safety Update - Alan Rice**

Information was presented by Secretary-Treasurer Alan Rice on seat belt use on busses. Information was received by Bill Graham who is currently doing work for us on this issue with provincial and national safety boards. The information included:

* historical studies of bus accidents say the outcome would not have changed if seat belts were used; could have actually caused more damage
* Statistics show more accidents occur when students are pedestrians
* all SD5’s busses are flat nose busses which provides a larger range of view
* if you purchase a bus with seat belts it is mandatory for students to wear them
* bus drivers would be responsible to ensure students wear them; some districts hire someone to monitor
* cost of retrofitting is approximately $30-40K per bus
* financially/logistically and safety wise it might not be the best thing to do
* discussion arose regarding recent Hosmer accident –a road nearby was an alternative stop but in winter this will not work due to unplowed roads; no other option at this point unless we cancel this stop
* Mr. Rice will research the cost of new busses with seat belts installed
* possibly look at routes where we might want to have students in seatbelts i.e., on the highway; safety has to trump everything else
* distractions on busses from kids not in seats is another issue
* need to ask the Ministry of Education for their guidance on this issue and if there are any current guidelines or reports
* report back at future meeting

# **4. CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS**

## **4.1 DSAC Report**

## The meeting on October 30 was cancelled due to no bussing available. The next meeting will be held after Christmas.

## **4.2 DPAC Report**

Trustee Turner reported:

DPAC is in jeopardy of being disbanded unless they have a chair and a vice-chair come forward and greater attendance and support from parents. A discussion took place on how to support DPAC and it was decided to form a working group to meet with Tara McKee and Lee Salvador to come up with ideas on how to increase participation in both PACs and DPAC. Trustee Turner will reach out to DPAC to offer support and to set up a meeting with Trustees and Superintendent Yardley. In the meantime it was suggested to look to BCCPAC for resources. Trustee Whalen will find a survey on DPAC that was done at least 5 years ago which could help start the process.

***Recommendation A –M/S that the Board form a working group to work with DPAC/PACs to increase their support and function.***

**4.3 Rotary Club Presentation**

Trustee Johns and Superintendent Yardley were asked by Ron Popoff, Event Organizer for the Rotary Club of Cranbrook to do a presentation on October 31, 2019 to the Rotary Club about some of the great things that are happening in the school district. This might be something the Board would consider doing for other service groups to get our message out there.

# **5. BCSTA LETTERS**

## **5.1 Vaping**

### **5.1.1 SD 83**

Receive and file.

### **5.1.2 Letter to Minister Dix**

Receive and file.

### **5.1.3 Letter from Legislative Assembly**

Receive and file.

## **5.2 Recruitment and Retention**

### **5.2.1 SD 74**

Receive and file.

## **5.3 School Site Land Acquisition Issues & Solutions Discussion Paper**

### **5.3.1 Letter to BCSTA**

Receive and file.

### **5.3.2 SD 43**

Receive and file.

## **5.4 Climate Action**

### **5.4.1 SD 61**

A discussion took place regarding School District 5’s current climate action initiatives. More background information is needed and to look at the possibility of creating a policy. This is a perfect topic for DSAC and will be put on the next meeting agenda. Important to support student led actions but need to remember safety is always first.

***Recommendation B – M/S that the Board examine what climate action initiatives the School District is currently undertaking and whether or not a policy needs to be put in place.***

Receive and file.

# **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advocacy/Education Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.