



**The Board of Education of
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
MINUTES - EDUCATION/POLICY MEETING
September 27, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Board Office**

IN ATTENDANCE - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co Chair Trustee Ayling

Trustee Ellis
Trustee Gordon-Hooker
Bill Gook, Superintendent of Schools
Glenn Dobie, Director of Student Learning
Janice McElwee, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

REGRETS

Co-Chair Trustee Damstrom

IN ATTENDANCE – BOARD/DISTRICT STAFF

Cynthia Stuart, Director of Instruction/Human Resources
Rob Norum, Secretary Treasurer
Doug McPhee, District Principal of Alternate Education/Safety Officer
Trustee Bellina
Trustee Johns
Trustee Lento
Tom Walkley (10:15 – 10:35 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

9.7 Addition: Playground/Garden Installation

PRESENTATIONS

Nil

POLICIES PASSED BY THE BOARD SINCE LAST MEETING

- 7.1 Policy 3.3 - Use of Cell Phone and Digital Devices
- 7.2 Policy 5.5a - Field Trip Consent Form
- 7.3 Policy 3.41 - Students Registered for Home Schooling

ITEMS FORWARDED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 8.1 Revised Policy 2.9 – School Closure**
Item tabled to the October meeting due to time constraints.
- 8.2 Draft Policy – Access to Information and Protection of Privacy**
Item tabled to the October meeting due to time constraints.

CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR NEW ITEMS

The order of agenda items was adjusted due to time constraints.

- 9.2 Field Trip Application – MBSS – Egypt (March 2011)**
- 9.3 Field Trip Application – MBSS – Costa Rica (March 2011)**

Mr. Dobie advised both applications met all district requirements.

Recommendation A

“That Mount Baker Secondary School’s Field Trips to Egypt and Costa Rica be sent to the Board of Education for approval.”

9.1 Draft Policy – Application of Pesticides to District Buildings or Grounds

- Trustee Johns gave a brief background review of the draft policy.
- Patti Moore, Health Promotion Coordinator from the Canadian Cancer Society, gave a brief presentation which included the following points:
 - Expressed concerns that the draft policy does not restrict use of pesticides on playgrounds/ use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes
 - Sample policies from other districts that have banned the use of pesticides (#8, #36 and #83, #19 is currently considering a policy) have previously been shared with the district.
 - Two BC universities have policies (UBC and UNBC)
 - Interior Health has policy
 - Both adult and childhood cancers have been linked to pesticides (children are at a higher risk to do their immature immune systems and close contact to the grass)
 - 168 Municipalities in Canada have adopted bylaws (31 of those are in BC and include Invermere, Fernie (next year), Nelson and Kimberley)
 - Will provide an information package to Trustees/District Management
- Mr. Walkley described the integrated plan (set out by provincial ministry). The District has set out its own practice which includes informing schools why and when spraying occurs and no spraying on school days. The use of pesticides is decreasing year by year.

Alternative/natural measures are being looked. He has talked to some of the other school districts who are currently using alternative methods and they are not being very successful at this point. Knapweed and thistle (i.e. noxious weeds) are not considered cosmetic.

- Dr. James Heilman, a local physician, cited various studies connecting pesticides with cancer (copies of studies are attached)
- Needs to be more research done with all partner groups involved.

Committee Action A

“The Draft Policy – Application of Pesticides to District Buildings or Grounds be tabled.”

Recommendation B

“That the Board of Education establishes a committee consisting of school board members and stakeholders to further research and discuss the Draft Policy – Application of Pesticides to District Buildings or Grounds.”

Note: Information gathered from today’s meeting will be forwarded to the new committee.

Break 10:35 – 10:50 a.m.

9.4 Revised Policy 2.1 – Tobacco Free District

Mr. McPhee reviewed the changes to the policy. Brief discussion regarding cessation programs and fine enforcement.

The revised policy will now be sent to partner groups for feedback.

9.5 Policy 2.8 – Access to Public Information of the Board

The policy was reviewed by the Secretary Treasurer and there are no changes needed to this policy.

9.6 Revised Policy 2.10 – District Health and Safety Program (Doug McPhee)

Mr. McPhee noted wording changes in policy. Discussion of potential training programs, possibly a Safety Training portion on First Class that all employees would have access to which would have policies, training videos, etc.).

Ms. Turner expressed her concern that the policy does not include WCB regulations that state the employer is responsible to provide specific training for employees. Discussion ensued. Ms. Turner will send her suggestions to Mr. McPhee and the policy will be brought back to the October meeting.

9.7 Playground/Garden Installation

Item tabled to the October meeting due to time constraints.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Section 2 Update

Item tabled to the October meeting due to time constraints.

10.2 Draft Policy – Students Registered for Distance Education

Item tabled to the October meeting due to time constraints.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.