



SCHOOL DISTRICT 6 BOARD- HIGHLIGHTS

May 2021

PRESENTATIONS

- **Amy Shoup**, Manager International Education Program provided the Board with an update on the Rocky Mountain International Education Program (RMISP). Ms. Shoup reported that during the current school year she had expected about 199 students (142.4 FTE); however due to cancellations and deferrals because of the COVID-19 pandemic the actual number of students attending programs is 73 (43.3 FTE). These results are typical across all International programs in the province. For the upcoming 2021-22 school year, Ms. Shoup is expecting 170 students (155 FTE); however, she is still getting applications for second semester, which could result in about 170 FTE for second semester. Ms. Shoup indicated that the Province of Nova Scotia has cancelled all their International programs for 2021-2022 and she is working on getting applications from their program for placement in School District 91 (Nechako Lakes). Ms. Shoup also reviewed the demographics of applications by student's country of origin and indicated that there are student applications from several new countries of origin. Ms. Shoup reviewed the Rocky Rewards program with the Board where students can earn a five (5) day trip to Vancouver. Ms. Shoup responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her presentation.

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Third Reading:

- Policy 4105, Staff Conflict of Interest

Ms. Shipka presented the Board with the proposed amendment for the policy for third and final reading. Ms. Shipka indicated that there has been no feedback received or changes made since second reading. The Policy Committee is recommending that the Board consider third and final reading of the policy at this meeting and the Board approved the policy at third and final reading.

Second Reading: Nil

First Reading: Nil

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Issue 1:

2021 – 2022 Annual Budget

Mr. Culler presented the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Bylaw for the Board's approval. Mr. Culler reviewed the District's revenue sources and proposed expenditures in detail. Mr. Culler explained that the Finance and Audit Committee met to review and provide input into the budget and is recommending that the Board consider first and second readings of the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Bylaw at this meeting. The Board approved both first and second readings of the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2021-2022 at this meeting. Mr. Culler responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked him for his presentation.

Issue 2:

Board of Education, Schedule of Meetings, 2021 – 2022

Ms. Shipka presented the Board of Education, Schedule of Meetings for the school year 2021-22 for Board consideration and the Board approved the Schedule of Meetings for the 2021-2022 school year at this meeting. Ms. Shipka responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her presentation.

Issue 3:

School Fees, 2021-2022

Ms. Shipka reported that annually in May the Board approves school fees for the upcoming school year in compliance with the *BC School Act*. Ms. Shipka reviewed the fees that the schools propose to charge parents in 2021-2022 for various activities and programs that are permissible within the guidelines of the *Act*. The Board approved the School Fees for the 2021-2022 school year and they will be made available on the district website for parents to access. Ms. Shipka responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her report.

REPORTS

BC School Trustees Association • Jane Fearing

Trustee Fearing indicated that Trustee Smith attended the last meeting on her behalf. Trustee Smith reported that the main item on the agenda was approval of the budget, which was passed at that meeting.

BC School Trustee Association, Kootenay-Boundary Branch • Jane Thurgood Sagal

Trustee Thurgood Sagal provided an update on the branch meeting. She reported on a number of professional development opportunities. There will be a doodle poll sent out to Trustees to rank topics of interest.

Public School Employers 'Association • Sandra Smail

Trustee Smail indicated that she had nothing to report.

Safe Return Grant Spending • Jacinda Harding

Ms. Harding presented the Board with an update on the Provincial and Federal COVID-19 special purpose grants received by the District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The District received \$291,299 from the Provincial grant and \$1,262,309 from the Federal grant. Ms. Harding reported that the Provincial grant has five components and she reviewed the spending to date for each of them. Ms. Harding reported that the Federal grant has three cost categories and she reviewed the spending to date for each of those as well. Ms. Harding responded to questions indicating that she will continue to monitor spending for each of the grants. The Chairperson thanked her for her report.

Celebration of Student Success • Karen Shipka

Ms. Shipka reported that there has been a shift away from the requirement for Schools to include a celebration of student success at the conclusion of the 2021-21 school year to the Board. Schools expressed that they did not want to celebrate COVID and instead they want to share their new operational plans, which have identified strategies and goals for the upcoming school year that align with the draft district strategic and operational plans, and the Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL). Ms. Shipka reported that FESL is a framework designed to increase overall accountability and all districts must have finalized strategic and operational plans completed and approved by the Ministry by September 30, 2021. Ms. Shipka responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her report.

Operational Grant Holdback Allocation • Steve Wyer

Mr. Wyer presented the Board with an overview of the plan to utilize the Operational Grant Holdback in the amount of \$42,635. Mr. Wyer reported that the funds must be used to address learning impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Wyer reported that he is working with principals to develop programming to support students in grades K – 2 who have developed reading gaps. Mr. Wyer responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked him for his report.

Needs Assessment Process • Viveka Johnson

Ms. Johnson presented the Board with a report on the Needs Assessment process that the District follows to determine staffing requirements for students with special needs. The Ministry provides funding to Districts based on the number of students with level 1, 2, or 3 designated students, which creates inequities for rural primary (K-3) schools to get the required documentation in place for certain designations. Ms. Johnson reported that as a result these students still require supports even though the Ministry does not directly fund those students. Ms. Johnson reported that the process the Districts follows provides a more equitable method of resource allocation especially for the K-3 schools where the resource allocation supports student needs regardless of Ministry funding. Ms. Johnson emphasized that level 1, 2 and 3 funding is not targeted and that there is no requirement to spend any specific amount on a student regardless of designation. Ms. Johnson responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her report.

Highway Closure • Steve Jackson

Mr. Jackson reported to the Board that the first Trans-Canada highway closure for the Kicking Horse Canyon Project is nearing completion. Mr. Jackson reported that communication with the Ministry of Transportation (MOT) has been good and they have been responsive at addressing the District's concerns on how the increased traffic flow on highway 95 may affect safety of bus stops. The Ministry has put additional signs and flashing banners at Radium to alert motorists. They also sent out flyers to truckers that are not used to bus stops on major highways. Mr. Jackson also indicated that there is increased police presence on highway 95 between Golden and Radium. Mr. Jackson reported that the second phase in the

Fall will be a longer extended closure; therefore, we need to use this first phase as a learning opportunity. Mr. Jackson responded to questions indicating that he would take the feedback to the MOT liaison committee. The Chairperson thanked him for his report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The May and June 2021 Calendars are available [here](#).