

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 (ROCKY MOUNTAIN)

MINUTES of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held via virtual meeting at Kimberley, Golden and Invermere locations, B.C., - **APRIL 13, 2021.**

Present:	Amber Byklum	Chairperson
	Jane Fearing	Vice-Chairperson
	Sandra Smaill	Vice-Chairperson
	Ronald McRae	Trustee
	Scott King	Trustee
	Ryan Stimming	Trustee
	Rhonda Smith	Trustee
	Jane Thurgood Sagal	Trustee
	Betty-Lou Barrett	Trustee
	Karen Shipka	Superintendent of Schools
	Dale Culler	Secretary Treasurer
	Members of Senior Management	
	General Public	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Byklum called the meeting to order at 19:07 hours.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Chairperson Byklum acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the shared traditional territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc people.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S SMAILL / FEARING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETINGS

4.1 Regular Meeting: 2021.3.9

M/S SMAILL / STIMMING

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held on March 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4.2 Synopsis of In-Camera Meeting: 2021.3.9

4.2.1 Property Matters

4.2.1.1 Eileen Madson Primary School Expansion – The Board authorized the transfer of funds from accumulated surplus to fund the purchase of Lot A 15th Avenue, Invermere BC located directly south and adjacent to Eileen Madson Primary School.

4.2.2 Legal Matters

4.2.2.1 International Education Contract – The Board authorized Administration to negotiate a shared service agreement with the Board of Education of School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) for the provision of International Education services commencing in the 2021-22 school year.

4.2.3 Personnel Matters:

4.2.3.1 The Personnel Report – Pending Board Approval – The Board approved two (2) CUPE personal leave of absence requests as presented.

4.2.3.2 The Personnel Information Report was received and filed as circulated.

4.2.3.3 The Labour Relations Information Report was received and filed as circulated.

4.2.3.4 Administration presented the Board with an Exempt staffing update.

4.2.4 Student Matters: Nil

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Healthy Schools, Healthy Children LINK Julie Brown

Julie Brown, Osteopathic Practitioner asked the Board to consider potential health risks from quaternary ammonium chloroxide compounds found in various cleaning products such as VitalOxide used by the district in its schools and facilities. Ms. Brown indicated that the information she shared is based on best practices that consider current evidence, applies the regulatory framework, and inter disciplinary collaboration. Ms. Brown indicated that while VitalOxide is listed by Health Canada as an authorized cleaning product shown to be an effective disinfectant against Coronavirus, she believes that it is not an endorsement by Health Canada for its use. She stated that the symptoms of quaternary ammonium chloride exposure include but are not limited to fertility, asthma and immune system, and mitochondria. Ms. Brown also indicated that while this class of compounds is generally regarded as safe, she believes that there will be growing evidence of health harm as research continues. Ms. Brown asked the Board to consider substitutes for VitalOxide including products with active ingredients containing citric acid, thymol, and hydrogen peroxide by September 2021. Ms. Brown responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her presentation.

5.2 Rocky Mountain Research Centre Proposal Meadow Smith

Meadow Smith, Chairperson of Columbia Valley Learning Centre Society presented information to the Board regarding the Rocky Mountain Research Centre. The concept for the centre was developed in collaboration with Bill Swan who was hired to develop a website, promotional videos, and connect with potential investors. The society is proposing that the Board consider the closed school in Parson, BC as the location for the centre due to its availability and proximity to the wetlands of the Columbia River valley. The Board viewed the video presentation, and Ms. Smith responded to questions. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Smith for her presentation.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES Nil

7. STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

7.1 Policy Development:

7.1.1 Third Reading:

Karen Shipka

7.1.1.1 Policy 4104, Departing Exempt Employee Compensation

7.1.1.2 Policy 4950, Service Recognition

Ms. Shipka presented the Board with the proposed amendments for the above two (2) policies for third 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 both policies at this meeting.

M/S THURGOOD SAGAL / KING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve third and final reading of the following policies at this meeting:

- Policy 4104, Departing Exempt Employee Compensation; and
- Policy 4950, Service Recognition.

CARRIED

7.1.2 Second Reading:

Karen Shipka

7.1.2.1 Policy 4105, Staff Conflict of Interest

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

M/S FEARING / SMAILL

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve second reading of Policy 4105, Staff Conflict of Interest at this meeting.

CARRIED

7.1.3 First Reading:

Nil

8. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Nil

9. REPORTS

9.1 BC School Trustees Association

Jane Fearing

Trustee Fearing indicated that she had nothing to report from Provincial Council; however she will forward a copy of the poster created through her work on the Indigenous Committee.

9.2 BC School Trustees Association, Kootenay-Boundary Branch

Jane Thurgood Sagal

Trustee Thurgood Sagal provided an update on the branch brunch meeting scheduled for the BCSTA AGM. Several trustees indicated that they would like to present topics for discussion to the membership at that meeting.

9.3 Public School Employers' Association Sandra Smaill

Trustee Smaill indicated that she had nothing to report.

9.4 Budget Utilization Summary February 2021 Dale Culler

Mr. Culler presented the Board with the March budget utilization summary for the end of the third quarter. Mr. Culler indicated that the Government Reporting Entity (GRE) is being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Education on April 14th, 2021. Mr. Culler responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked him for his report.

9.5 District Resource Centre Report Steve Wyer

Mr. Wyer presented the plan to modernize the District Resource Centre (DRC) to the Board. Mr. Wyer explained the DRC has served the district well over the years; however it is time to revisit how the DRC operates. Schools are purchasing instructional resources with their own resources and there is greater availability of resources online. Mr. Wyer indicated that the DRC currently sees very little traffic from teachers and he would like to see a shift from printed materials to high traffic items such as robotics and expensive kits that are not feasible for each school to purchase. Mr. Wyer responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked him for his report.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Correspondence

10.2 April and May 2021 Calendar Circulated

11. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2021.04.15-18 BCSTA AGM, Virtual
2021.04.27 Policy Committee Meeting, via Teleconference, 5:00 pm
2021.05.04 Labour Relations Committee Meeting, via Teleconference, 8:30 am
2021.05.08 Board Working Session, Columbia Valley Center, 9:00 am
2021.05.11 Board Meeting, McKim Middle School, In-Camera Meeting, 6:00 pm
2021.05.11 Board Meeting, McKim Middle School, Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm

12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC Nil

13. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 20:00 hours

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer

Karen Shipka

Subject: RE: Accuracy matters, as do the records we keep.

Dear Trustees of SD6,

Thank you all for the work you do, and for your written response to my presentation of April 13th, 2021.

Please accept this as formal correspondence to be noted in the minutes, with a copy of my correspondence attached.

I have done all I can to provide factual information to encourage a proactive approach favouring least harm, while addressing logistical and fiscal barriers to change. Your position remains unchanged, stating that Health Canada *endorses* the product; IH and Worksafe BC have not identified any issues, therefore no further evidence need be considered. I can only hope this will be moot by September, given that fomite transmission is negligible and the US CDC has acknowledged that we are doing more harm than good with our disinfection practices.

On this issue, we clearly disagree - however, I am committed to disagreeing respectfully. That said, accuracy is important, as are the records we write.

The report emailed to all of you on December 7th, 2020 regarding disinfectant products and student safety was never noted in the minutes as correspondence, nor was any discussion or decisions regarding the information provided captured in the minutes. This in contrast to a correspondence note in the January minutes that the DPAC submitted a Christmas card.

Very concerning from a perspective priorities, transparency and trust.

There are a number of inaccuracies in your correspondence and most importantly the minutes summarizing my presentation.

It is my expectation that the minutes be amended accordingly, in a timely manner.

I take great care to ensure that when I am sharing a belief or an opinion that it is disclosed as such. Your minutes characterize my presentation as filled with my beliefs.

This is inaccurate, and misleading. Peer reviewed published science is not belief - it is the very process by which facts are established.

1. Health Canada has not endorsed Vital Oxide, or any other product on the list of disinfectants deemed effective against coronavirus. I clearly presented this information, not as my belief, but as fact. This is easily verifiable at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>. For ease, I will include the statement here: "Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by Health Canada." And yet, your minutes state: "Ms. Brown indicated that while VitalOxide is listed by Health Canada as an authorized cleaning product shown to be an effective disinfectant against Coronavirus, she believes that it is not an endorsement by Health Canada for its use."

2. I stated that Quats 'were' generally regarded as safe, but evidence has emerged over the past 5-10 years that indicates otherwise. This evidence was provided to you on two occasions in a report - once on December 7th, 2020, and the second time prior to the presentation of April 13, 2021. Your minutes state: "Ms. Brown also

indicated that while this class of compounds is generally regarded as safe, she believes that there will be growing evidence of health harm as research continues.”

3. I did not present ‘symptoms of exposure’, but rather evidence from animal studies that demonstrated harm to reproductive, immune and respiratory systems. Mitochondrial injury is one mechanism of harm identified in current research.

4. No questions were asked of me. Only comments were made indicating support for taking the time to engage and share information.

Your minutes are both inaccurate, and misleading. If this is intentional bias, it is extremely disheartening. If this is accidental, then I expect the corrections to be made without haste.

It unfortunately raises questions for me about the accuracy and bias of minutes in other areas of discussion.

Kindly confirm receipt of this correspondence, and how and when these errors and omissions will be resolved in the written record.

In Health,

Julie Brown, BSc, DOMP