



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 (ROCKY MOUNTAIN)

*SD6 Board-Community Update  
on the activities of the Board of  
Education from the most recent  
regular meeting*

**March, 2021**

### STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Third Reading:

Nil

Second Reading:

- Policy No. 4104 – Departing Exempt Employee Compensation; and
- Policy No. 4950 – Service Recognition

Ms. Shipka presented the Board with the proposed amendments for the two (2) policies above for second reading. Ms. Shipka indicated that all the proposed amendments include feedback received since the last reading to correct minor grammatical errors. The Policy Committee is recommending that the Board consider second reading of both policies at this meeting and the Board approved the policies at second reading.

First Reading:

- Policy No. 4105 – Staff Conflict of Interest

Ms. Shipka reported that the policy ensures fair and equitable hiring and supervisory practices within the district. The Policy Committee is recommending that the Board consider first reading of the policy at this meeting and the Board approved the policy at first reading.

### OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Legacy of Learning Partnership

Viveka Johnson

Ms. Johnson reported that the Board received a partnership proposal from the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History to participate in the *Legacy of Learning* project. The Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History is a non-profit society dedicated to furthering the preservation, documentation and presentation of the Columbia River's human and natural history. Ms. Johnson reported that the society is asking for a financial contribution of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars to help document, show case and keep history alive for students. The Board approved the request to participate in the *Legacy of Learning* project and confirmed the financial contribution to the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History. The Chairperson thanked her for her presentation.

Mr. Wyer provided a report that examined the allocation of French resources across the district. Currently, the district offers Core French in all three communities, Intensive French in Invermere and Kimberley and French Immersion in Golden. Mr. Wyer shared evidence that enrollment is strong when students enter the program; however, the number of students who complete grade 12 French programming is significantly reduced. Mr. Wyer explained the district receives a federal grant to support French across the district and currently there is a disproportionate amount that is allocated to the Golden area supporting French in Kindergarten to grade 4 classrooms; where there is no provincial curriculum. Mr. Wyer also commented on the recruitment challenges faced by the district and asked the Board to support the reallocation of that teaching position to one of the French Immersion programs in Golden, which would lead to an equitable reallocation of the grant funding across the district. Mr. Wyer responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked him for his presentation.

## REPORTS

### Budget Utilization Summary February 2021

Mr. Culler presented the Board with the February budget utilization summary. Mr. Culler indicated that the report now includes the budget amounts from the 2020-21 Amended Annual Budget. Mr. Culler indicated that the variances are as expected now that the operating budget has amounts that are reallocated to the special purpose funds, primarily the classroom enhancement funds and the provincial and federal COVID-19 grants. Mr. Culler also reported that the report reflects an additional local capital reserve transfer approved by the Board for the purchase of five acres of undeveloped land adjacent to Eileen Madson Primary School. Mr. Culler responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked him for his report.

### BC School Trustees Association

Jane Fearing

Trustee Fearing provided an update on the development of the BC Tripartite Agreement handbook that she reported on at the previous Board meeting.

### BC School Trustees Association, Kootenay-Boundary Branch

Jane Thurgood-Sagal

Trustee Thurgood-Sagal indicated that she had nothing to report.

### Public School Employers' Association

Sandra Smaill

Trustee Smaill indicated that she had nothing to report.

### SOGI Board Report

Viveka Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided the Board with an update on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) program. Ms. Johnson reported that the Ministry of Education requires references to SOGI in all school districts' codes of conduct throughout the Province. Ms. Johnson indicated that she would need to continue to provide training for staff. Ms. Johnson shared that there is a SOGI lead in each school across the district and that SOGI is a regular agenda item on all staff meetings. Ms. Johnson responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her report.

### Early Learning

Viveka Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided the Board with an update on the work that is being done across the Province to meet the Ministry of Education's mandate for Early Learning under the *School Act*. The shift from the Ministry of Children and Family to Education is beginning to unfold and there is significant preparation to be done. This work will require significant development of community partnerships in all three communities to fully understand the possibilities. Through the SEY2K program being piloted at Eileen Madson Primary School the district has a head start developing community partnerships in Invermere. Ms. Shipka added that she is proposing that a new position be posted that will work in all three communities to first develop a plan for the Board to consider. Ms. Shipka indicated that there is a significant amount of work that needs to be done and she anticipates that this position would start in May of 2021. Ms. Johnson reports that this position would also work

in partnership with the StrongStart and Ready, Set, Learn early learning programs as well. Ms. Johnson responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked her for her report.

Trans-Canada Highway – Kicking Horse Canyon Upgrade Project

Steve Jackson

Mr. Jackson provided an update to the Board on the Kicking Horse Canyon Upgrade Project. Mr. Jackson indicated that he and Al Ure, Operations Supervisor in Golden attended a recent stakeholder meeting where they discussed the road closures and school bus safety. Mr. Jackson indicated that the work will involve significant traffic disruptions resulting in notable increases in traffic along highway 95 between Golden and Radium. Mr. Jackson reported that there will be a letter from the Superintendent going out to parents providing them with some guidelines regarding bus safety during the closures. Mr. Jackson informed the Board that the buses will be equipped with safety kits, which will include water, food, blankets, and a portable washroom. Mr. Jackson responded to questions and the Chairperson thanks him for his report.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Correspondence

Nil

The March and April 2021 Calendars are available [here](#).

## **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Caroline Carl-Osborne inquired why TTOC's were excluded from Policy 4950, Service Recognition. Ms. Garand replied that TTOC's and CUPE casual staff work on an on-call basis and as such do not have rights under their respective collective agreements. Ms. Carl-Osborne followed up by asking the Board to reconsider for TTOC's. Chairperson Byklum replied that any proposed amendments would first be considered by the Policy Committee; however this is not an amendment that the Policy Committee would consider at this time.

Caroline Carl-Osborne inquired whether the French position at Lady Grey Elementary School (LGES) has had a ripple effect on staffing at that school. Mr. Wyer responded that he is currently working with all Principals and there has been no staffing implications beyond the change made at LGES.

Caroline Carl-Osborne inquired about the letter written to parents regarding delays caused by the Kicking Horse Canyon Upgrade Project. She wanted to know how staff will be updated and whether there will be any implications for staff getting to work. Mr. Jackson responded that Surrena Craig, Health and Safety Officer will send out a message to staff, which will focus on increased safety awareness to ensure that we know where staff are each day.