

School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain)

MINUTES of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held at Kimberley, Golden, and Invermere District Offices, B.C., - **DECEMBER 13, 2022**

Present:	Amber Byklum*	Chairperson
	Jane Fearing	Vice-Chairperson
	Ronald McRae	Vice-Chairperson
	Betty-Lou Barrett	Trustee
	Scott King	Trustee
	Darryl Oakley	Trustee
	Rhonda Smith	Trustee
	Ryan Stimming	Trustee
	Jane Thurgood Sagal	Trustee
	Karen Shipka	Superintendent of Schools
	Alan Rice	Secretary Treasurer
	Steve Wyer	Assistant Superintendent
	Sharon Collin*	Director of Instruction, Instruction and Learning
	Trent Dolgopol	Director of Instruction, Technology and Innovative Learning
	Crystal MacLeod	Director of Instruction, Early Learning and Child Care
	Al Ure	Director of Operations
	Amanda Garand	Manager Human Resources
	Jacinda Harding	Finance Manager
	Jenna Jasek	District Vice-Principal Indigenous Learning and Equity
	Surrena Craig	District Health and Safety Officer
	Stacey Ursulescu	Executive Assistant

General Public

* via Microsoft Teams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson McRae called the meeting to order at 19:01 hours.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Vice-Chairperson McRae acknowledged that School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) resides in the traditional unceded shared territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwépemc peoples and the chosen home of the Métis.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

M/S BARRETT / FEARING

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

APPROVED

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETINGS

4.1 Regular Meeting: 2022.11.08

M/S KING / THURGOOD SAGAL

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held on November 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

APPROVED

4.2 Synopsis of in camera meeting: 2022.11.08 Alan Rice

4.2.1 Property Matters: Nil

4.2.2 Personnel Matters:

4.2.2.1 The Personnel Report – Pending Board Approval:
The Board of Education approved two leave requests and denied one.

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

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

4.2.3 Student Matters: Nil

4.2.4 Legal Matters:

4.2.4.1 Credit card services

4.2.4.2 Provincial teacher bargaining.

4.2.5 Procedural Matters: Nil

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS Nil

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Policy 2100, school catchment areas

Steve Wyer

The Board received a presentation from a parent on June 14, 2022 at a regular public meeting requesting that it reconsider its policy and practice related to catchment areas. Due to the process of electing the current Board and selecting a new Policy Committee, a response on this presentation and request was delayed until the current Policy Committee of the Board could meet.

Policy 2100 reflects the use of catchment areas as intended in the *School Act* s. 75. This process is essential to school planning. In-catchment students are entitled to space in the neighbourhood school before enrolling any out-of-catchment area students. Families who live out of the catchment are able to apply to have their children attend a school starting in January. Siblings of students who have successfully enrolled enjoy priority placement as part of the Cross Boundary Transfer Process outlined in the District Practice 2100.

7. STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

7.1.1 Third Reading:

7.1.1.1 Policy 3700, Procurement and purchasing

Karen Shipka

Ms. Shipka reported that the proposed policy and district practice is a codification of practice that is already in place. Small grammatical edits were made based on Trustee feedback.

M/S SMITH / BARRETT

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve third and final reading of policy 3700 presented at this meeting.

APPROVED

7.1.2 Second Reading:

Nil

7.1.3 First Reading:

7.1.3.1 Policy 2800, Fraud and whistleblower protection

Ms. Shipka informed the Board that whistleblower protection policy currently exists but there is a new requirement to include statements regarding fraud in the policy.

M/S BARRETT / KING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve first reading of policy 2800 presented at this meeting.

APPROVED

7.1.3.2 Policy 8800, French programming

Ms. Shipka reminded the Board that a letter was received in the spring regarding the sibling policy that currently exists in the policy. The proposed amendment

would remove this preferential treatment for siblings. All students applying to the program would be included in the lottery program.

M/S OAKLEY / KING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve first reading of policy 8800 presented at this meeting.

APPROVED
Trustee Stimming abstained

8. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

8.1 Draft School Calendars Report

Steve Wyer

Mr. Wyer presented the draft 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school calendars. Each calendar requires a 60-day public consultation in order to comply with *School Act* and District Bylaw requirements by May 31, 2023. The district calendar for 2023-2024 requires final approval following a 60-day consultation process. The District seeks approval in principle for the district calendar 2025-2026.

M/S SMITH / THURGOOD SAGAL

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve, at first reading, the DRAFT 2023-2024 as the FINAL calendar.

APPROVED

M/S KING / STIMMING

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve, at first reading, the DRAFT calendar for 2025-2026 in principle.

APPROVED

9. REPORTS

9.1 Budget utilization report:

Alan Rice

Mr. Rice presented the Board of Education a report on year-to-date operating expenditures compared to budget and prior year. Expenditures to date are below budget but are greater than the prior year for the same time-period, which is mainly due to an increase in salaries and benefits, TTOC replacement costs, District Day, Pro D, and travel. Mr. Rice responded to questions.

9.2 Mental health update:

Sharon Collin

Ms. Collin provided the Board of Education an update on the mental health strategies underway in schools resulting from grant dollars provided by the Ministry. The strategy to support mental well-being in children and youth in SD6 will be based upon three pillars: compassionate systems leadership; social emotional learning and mental health literacy; and systems of support. Ms. Collin responded to questions.

- 9.3 Indigenous education update: Jenna Jasek
Ms. Jasek provided the Board of Education an update on Indigenous education and projects in School District No. 6. Indigenous education seeks to improve success and supports for Indigenous students, and increase the presence of Indigenous culture, languages and history for all students. It also aims to help teachers bring Indigenous knowledge into their teaching practice. SD6 has been working on various initiatives aimed at improving the learning experience for Indigenous students.

There will need to be sustained efforts to continue building relationships with our Indigenous partners and communities as well as continuous capacity building for educators and staff in Indigenous teaching, learning and equity. Indigenous education and engagement of Indigenous partners is critical in every aspect of our District and therefore the Indigenous Education Department must work collaboratively with all schools and departments to support system-wide alignment.

- 9.4 Responding to respiratory illness in schools: Surrena Craig
Ms. Craig provided information on reducing transmission and illness rates in schools during the annual respiratory illness season. This year was predicated to be a difficult respiratory illness year in our communities. Refocusing on the key strategies offered by public health in the Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Setting to maintain healthy environments will help decrease rates of illness in schools.

- 9.5 Early learning and child care update: Crystal MacLeod
The District is committed to working with third-party providers to offer after-school care and has submitted a New Spaces Fund (NSF) application to build a child care facility on the grounds at Marysville Elementary School. Once our first NSF application is approved, we will complete and submit the application for EMP and move forward with an application for a facility in Golden once we have a site finalized.

Additionally, our District has been working to implement a JUSTB4 program with the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MOECC) grant received in June. We are planning to begin offering the JUSTB4 program to children and families in January or February depending on licensing.

- 9.6 Extracurricular fees: Trent Dolgopol
Schools in School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) offer many extracurricular opportunities for students. These opportunities allow students to explore diverse activities, follow their individual passions, develop a breadth of competencies, and contribute positively to school culture. Schools need to be mindful of balancing the opportunities/activities they offer and simultaneously keeping the associated fees at a level that is reasonable for families. Schools are to continue budgeting, as required, to support participation in extracurricular activities for students that are experiencing financial hardship.

- 9.7 BC School Trustees Association: Jane Thurgood Sagal
Trustee Thurgood Sagal reported on the Trustee Academy that was held from December 1-3, 2022 in Vancouver. She shared with the Board of Education five areas: BCSTA services, BCSTA strategic plan, BCSTA strategies to achieve goals, rebranding BCSTA, teacher shortage in rural areas, and motion building via Zoom on January 21.
- 9.8 BC School Trustees Association, Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB): Rhonda Smith
Trustee Smith thanked those who attended breakfast meeting and Trustee King for presenting a District update. Trustee Smith was appreciative of being able to participate virtually.
- 9.9 BC Public Schools Employers' Association: Scott King
Trustee King shared that BCPSEA AGM will be held on January 26 and 27, 2023 in Vancouver. This upcoming AGM will see BCPSEA Board Nominations for the Northern Interior and Metro Regions. Proposed resolutions were required by Wednesday, December 7, 2022. BCTF ratified their contract. He shared with the Board that he unfortunately missed the ratification vote due to a work conflict but has developed a plan with BCPSEA Alternate, Trustee Thurgood Sagal for future. BCPSEA was subsequently contacted, and they advised there was nothing else of importance to relay to the Board. Exempt salary grids are available. The Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat has confirmed that government funding will be provided to school districts for 2022/2023 exempt staff salary increases.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 10.1 December 2022 and January 2023 calendar*
- 10.2 Winter events and concerts calendar*
- 10.3 Statement of Financial Disclosure Form*

11. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 2022.12.19 to 2023.01.02 Winter Break
- 2023.01.03 Labour Relations Committee meeting, Virtual, 12:30
- 2023.01.10 Board of Education Meeting, Zone Offices
- In-Camera 6:00, p.m.
 - Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

13. ADJOURNMENT

Trustees agreed to adjourn by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 20:25 hours

Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer

Ron McRae, Vice-Chairperson