



**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN**
School District #6



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February 2023

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Policy development • Karen Shipka

Third and final reading – Policy 2800, Fraud and whistleblower protection

Ms. Shipka informed the Board that whistleblower protection currently exists but there is a new requirement to include statements regarding fraud in the policy. Some editing changes were made at the request of Trustees.

Third and final reading – Policy 8800, French programming

Ms. Shipka shared with the Board of Education that she had received feedback from Principal Hayes from J. Alfred Laird Elementary School. Principal Hayes hosted an Intensive French parent information evening and many families were happy to hear of the impending change because it increased their odds of having their child accepted into the program. Principal Broderick from Lady Grey Elementary School also provided feedback on the French Immersion program. He sent in proposed changes to ensure that the policy aligns with the practice.

First reading – Policy 8900

Ms. Shipka outlined a new policy for child care. Given the District's recent child care programming it is incumbent upon the Board to ensure it has policies in place to support the programming. She noted that this policy recognizes the importance of child care. The policy also notes that by offering before and after school care programs at a student's school is a seamless option for families. Further, the use of Board property by licensed child care providers must comply with policy and practice 6100.

All readings – Policies 11000 to 11650

This series of policies were drafted as part of the licensing application process for the JUSTB4 programming. Child care licensing is not dictated by the *School Act* but is a requirement through Interior Health.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Minor capital plan amendment • Alan Rice

Five-year capital plans have been established as the appropriate time period for Government capital planning purposes. The Board approved the 2022-23 Five-Year Capital plan at the June 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. The Ministry provided a response letter (attached) on March 15, 2022 with the approved projects for fiscal 2022-23. An amended letter was provided on February 10, 2023 with the additional funding. The district is able to utilize the funds towards the purchase price of the electric busses. The additional amount provided by the Ministry is \$100,900.

2022-23 Amended Budget • Alan Rice

In accordance with section 113 of the *School Act* the Minister is requiring Amended Annual Budgets to be prepared, adopted by bylaw and submitted by February 28, 2023. The Finance and Audit Committee met on February 13, 2023 to review the Amended Annual Budget. Mr. Rice presented the Amended Annual Budget to the Board of Education at this meeting and responded to questions. All three readings of the Bylaw were approved.

REPORTS

Budget Utilization • 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 above budget by 1.35% and greater than the prior year by \$2,340,000 for the same timeframe. Once the amended budget figures are adjusted for the increased funding associated with the salaries, the variance is anticipated to be lower than estimated and more in line with expectations.

WSBC Asbestos Compliance Initiative • Al Ure

WSBC prevention officers will be conducting inspections of asbestos programs within school districts over the next several months. Operations is confident in the measures in place regarding asbestos.

SD6 understands the significance of asbestos and other hazards (lead, oil tanks, etc) and has a robust maintenance program in place to ensure abatement is properly removed and disposed. In 2019, Peak Environmental conducted an asbestos inventory in all district facilities. These inventories are embedded digitally within the capital management software.

2023-24 Engagement Cycle • Karen Shipka

Ms. Shipka provided the Board of Education information on the community engagement plan that supports the development of the 2023-24 to 2026-27 strategic plan and the expectations outlined in the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL). Engagement activities with partners began in January. This month, the online general public engagement will commence until March 31 and community engagement sessions will be held in Invermere on May 10, Golden on May 11, and in Kimberley on May 24.

Literacy and numeracy update • Steve Wyr

Mr. Wyr presented an update on literacy and numeracy data points. He concluded that students have shown growth at all levels in literacy and numeracy. Numeracy requires a higher level of priority when compared to literacy. In both literacy and numeracy a focus on higher level cognitive skills is required. Given that the 2020-2023 strategic plan is in its final year, the Board and the district will use this information to consider future strategies revealed by student achievement measures.