



**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN**
School District #6



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

September 2023

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Policies Under Review • Karen Shipka, Superintendent

The Board of Education continues to receive feedback through the [Policies Under Review](#) webpage. The School District continues to promote the webpage and will use the feedback to inform policy decision-making.

Policy development • Karen Shipka, Superintendent

Third reading – Policy 2900, Naming or Renaming Schools

Ms. Shipka reported on the newly proposed [policy 2900, naming or renaming of schools](#). From time-to-time, the Board may be in a position to name a new school. There may also be times when the Board has reason to consider renaming existing schools, or when representatives of a school community will request that the Board dedicate part of a school building or property in memory of a person. The name of a school, or dedication of a portion thereof, will be decided by the Board following reasonable consultation with members of the school community. The District received additional feedback. Amendments were made to the proposed policy and district practice and the Policy Committee recommended that the policy remain at the third reading stage to allow for more engagement on the new policy.

Visit the [Policies Under Review](#) webpage to view the proposed changes. Feedback can be provided until September 29, 2023.

Third reading – Policy 2950, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring the privacy, confidentiality, and security of all personal information that it collects, uses, discloses, and maintains in connection with its programs and activities. The Board complies with the *School Act* (“Act”) and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) in relation to the protection of privacy. The policy received third and final reading. A [Privacy Management Program](#) webpage has been launched ensuring the School District’s compliance with section 36.2 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Third reading – Policy 4106, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

It is essential that employees recognize their responsibility to ensure confidential information, received as a result of employment with the district, remains confidential. Confidential information is not divulged to anyone other than individuals authorized to receive such information. Disclosure of confidential information may put employees in a position of conflict of Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 policies and practices or may be a breach of the public's expectation of privacy as described in legislation.

District employees have a duty of loyalty to the District as their employer. This duty requires employees to provide services to the best of their ability regardless of their own personal opinion of Board direction or policy. Honesty and integrity of District employees is above reproach and coupled with impartiality in the conduct of their duties. The actions and conduct of employees must be such as to maintain a high public trust and confidence in the District.

No further feedback was received. Policy 4106, confidentiality and conflict of interest, received third and final reading.

Third reading – Policy 8600, Field Trips

The Board of Education affirms the educational value of well-planned and supervised outdoor classroom activities, curricular, and extra-curricular field trips. The primary purpose of these trips should be to enhance the educational experiences of the participants. These experiences enrich the curriculum and provide opportunities for young people to develop their academic, intellectual, social, and physical capabilities. Such trips will supplement the curricular and extra-curricular programs in schools.

Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 wants to thank the many people who took time to complete feedback on policy 8600, field trips. The policy received third and final reading.

Second reading – NIL

First reading – Policy 2350, Research in Schools

The Board of Education recognizes that the value of sound research, both specific to educational practice and having a more general impact on members of the community, is worthwhile and potentially beneficial to all involved. The Board also recognizes that the school structure and environment provides a suitable opportunity by which to conduct such research. However, the facilitation of such research studies must be in keeping with existing district standards and responsibilities, and participation shall always remain voluntary. The district practice outlines the principles and guidelines to be followed to conduct research in schools.

The Board has proposed a new policy and district practice that outlines the process for research to take place in schools.

The Board of Education is seeking feedback on the policy. To review the proposed policy and provide feedback, visit the [Policies Under Review](#) webpage.

All three readings – Policy 2850, Public Interest Disclosure

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (PIDA) originally came into force on December 1, 2019, and establishes “whistleblower” protection for employees in the public sector. PIDA comes into effect for school districts on December 1, 2023. The policy received all three readings and a [Public Interest Disclosure](#) webpage has been launched on the school district website.

District Practice 3800, Expenses on Board of Education Business

Ms. Shipka reported to the Board of Education that the district practice has been amended to increase the allowable gratuity limit to a maximum of 20% to reflect current market practices.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

2022-2023 Auditor's report and draft financial statements • Alan Rice and Angela Spencer

Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer reviewed the draft audited financial statements of Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 for the year ended June 30, 2023, and Angela Spencer, partner with BDO Canada, presented the Auditors' report. Alan Rice also presented the financial statement discussion and analysis report. Ms. Spencer and Mr. Rice responded to questions. All financial reporting documents presented to the Board are available [here](#).

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report (FESL) • Karen Shipka

Karen Shipka, Superintendent, presented the 2022-23 FESL report to seek Board approval prior to submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The report formalizes an approach to the planning and reporting expectations for schools. It is focused on enhancing student learning success and combines accountability with evidence-informed decision-making and system-wide continuous improvement to support equity of outcomes for all students. The Board approved the FESL report. Visit the [Enhancing Student Learning Reporting](#) webpage to review the plans and reports.

REPORTS

Unofficial enrollment • Trent Dolgopol

The unofficial student enrollment count is based on the students who were registered and accounted for on September 6, 2023 (inclusive of international students). Schools have provided information about current student attendance. Based on early indicators, it appears as though total enrollment headcount is down by approximately 30 students for the 2023-2024 school year, compared to the previous year. However, a decrease in enrollment was projected and the School District is currently seeing enrollment greater than what was projected in the spring.

Since enrollment appears to be greater than projected in the spring, additional teachers may be hired to address the increased enrollment and, in some cases, will result in reconfiguration of classes and staffing allocations at school sites.

Accessibility plan report • Sharon Collin

The Board of Education received a report on the requirements of the *Accessible British Columbia Act* specific to the organization. On June 21 the Accessibility Committee, comprised of eight individuals from the organization, met to review the accessibility framework for the district plan. Reconvening on June 27 the Committee was able to develop a draft plan for consideration. Finally, on August 30, the Committee completed an Accessibility Plan which was adopted by the Board of Education at the meeting.

The Plan includes the implementation of a feedback mechanism to inform the Committee, moving forward, on the social, physical, sensory, and other barriers that prevent people from fully participating in all aspects of school community life. The District has launched an online tool to [Report an Accessibility Barrier](#). This tool will allow members of the community to comment on accessibility experiences with the School District. This information will be reviewed and considered by the Accessibility Committee twice a year.

REPORTS CONT'D

Childcare projects update • Alan Rice

Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer, provided an update to the Trustees regarding the status of the current childcare new spaces projects. He shared that invitation to tender construction on the Marysville child care site has been posted and that the bid closing date is September 21, 2023.

2022-23 field trips • Karen Shipka

The 2022-2023 school year was the first year that low risk and higher care field trips were required to be shared with the School District in a shared drive to analyze field trip data systematically. There were almost 900 low risk and higher care field trips taken in Rocky Mountain School District No. 6. Of the 883 field trips taken, 125 were higher care (14%) and 758 were lower care (86%). The majority of the field trips, 74%, were co-curricular (403) and curricular (251). These numbers do not include outdoor classroom activities that occur in close proximity to the schools.

Open Doors School renovation update • Al Ure

In 2022, the Operations Department began planning to renovate Open Doors. The majority of the work on this project is complete and students and staff began the school year in the renovated space. The School District continues to wait for the furniture to arrive. The Operations Department is looking to install a new sidewalk and a small retaining wall around the front of the school and complete the project with some landscaping inclusive of a new sign, flag poles, and the installation of a Gazebo. This additional work is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2024.

Highway 1 closure update • Al Ure

The School District has been notified that Highway 1 will have a full closure in effect for 24 hours a day beginning September 18 at noon. The highway will re-open September 22 for the weekend and then close again for 24 hours a day from September 25 to October 6, 2023. Due to the traffic pressures, SD6 has arranged the following:

- A pilot car will follow the Harrogate bus for the duration of the closure (3 weeks).
- The transfer bus will be available to and from Lady Grey and Alexander Park.
- The fire department will be assisting students at the pedestrian crossing at 11th Street and 10th Avenue.
- The RCMP and CVSE have both been contacted and they have agreed to have a stronger presence on highway 95 and 10th Avenue to monitor traffic travelling through Golden.