



**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN**
School District #6



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November 2023

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Annually, elections take place for several roles on the Board of Education. This year, no changes occurred to any roles of the Board of Education.

Chairperson

Alan Rice presided over the election of Chairperson. Amber Byklum was nominated and was acclaimed to the role once again this year.

Vice-Chairpersons

Chairperson Byklum resumed as Chairperson of the meeting and presided over the election of the Vice-Chairperson for Kimberley and Golden zones. Jane Fearing was nominated as the Vice-Chairperson for the Golden zone and Ron McRae was nominated as the Vice-Chairperson for the Kimberley zone. Both were acclaimed to their roles again.

Representatives and alternates for associations

Representatives and alternates for the B.C. School Trustee Association (BCSTA) and the B.C. Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) were also elected. Trustee Jane Thurgood Sagal was acclaimed as the BCSTA Provincial Council Representative and Trustee Rhonda Smith as the BCSTA alternate. Trustee Scott King was acclaimed as the BCPSEA representative and Trustee Jane Thurgood Sagal as the BCPSEA alternate again.

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Policies Under Review • Karen Shipka, Superintendent

The Board of Education continues to invite feedback through the [Policies Under Review](#) webpage. The School District sent out a communication to Trustees, principals, vice principals, administrative assistants, Indigenous partners, DPAC, and Unions on September 13, 2023 providing an update on policies and seeking feedback on policy 2350, research in schools. The deadline to provide feedback was October 26, 2023.

Policy development • Karen Shipka, Superintendent

Third reading – Policy 2350, Research in Schools

Ms. Shipka reported that no feedback was received on policy 2350, research in schools. Policy 2350, research in schools received third and final reading.

All three readings – Policy 8850, Alternative delivery in the physical and health education curricula

Ms. Shipka reported that the School District did not have a policy for alternative delivery in the physical and health education curricula K-9 and grade 10. The purpose of this policy is to explain how students and their parents or guardians may, in consultation with their school, arrange for alternative delivery of instruction about sexual and reproductive health.

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 below budget by 0.01% and greater than the prior year by \$1,380,000 for the same timeframe. The operating variance of actual to budget for year-to-date is considered reasonable.

Sexual orientation and gender identification • Steve Wyer

Education about inclusion, and specifically gender identity and sexual orientation, requires ongoing communication with the educational community and a shared approach. Additionally, the focus of inclusion must remain at the heart of education. Developmental considerations about the understanding of inclusion must be considered before teaching about the specific ways gender identity contributes to greater inclusion in classrooms.

WorkSafe BC proposed harassment and violence amendments to regulations • Steve Wyer

WorkSafeBC is in the public consultation phase of the proposed amendments to the regulations. It is open to all sectors and individuals to comment on the proposed changes.

The purpose of these regulations is to ensure staff are safe in their work environment. The school district agrees that violence, bullying, and harassment are serious topics and take the reasonable steps to eliminate and mitigate the risk. When these incidents occur, they can be very difficult and have significant impacts of staff and students. The proposed changes do not demonstrate how the new regulations will create a safer working environment for staff but may increase workload and a feeling of not belonging in the school district for the student, families, and staff involved.

The District Health and Safety Officer sent this feedback to BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA).

REPORTS CONT'D

Indigenous education update • Trent Dolgopol

On November 7, 2023, amendments to the *School Act* received third reading and were passed in the provincial legislature. The amendments act on commitments in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan and the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA). The legislation sets out school district requirements including school of choice, local education agreements, and establishment of Indigenous Education Councils. Rocky Mountain School District is looking forward to working with Indigenous Partners to implement the new legislation.

[Indigenous Education Update](#)