

Rocky Mountain School District No. 6

MINUTES of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held at David Thompson Secondary School, Invermere, B.C. – **November 14, 2023**

Present:	Amber Byklum	Chairperson
	Jane Fearing	Vice-Chairperson
	Ron 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
	Danielle Warren	Director, Rocky Mountain International Student Program
	Amanda Garand	Manager, Human Resources
	Jacinda Harding	Manager, Finance
	Stacey Ursulescu	Executive Assistant

* via Microsoft Teams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rice called the meeting to order at 19:04 hours.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Mr. Rice 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 FEARING / KING

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: 2023.10.10

M/S BARRETT / FEARING

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held on October 10, 2023 be approved as presented.

APPROVED

4.2 Synopsis of in camera meeting: 2023.10.10 Alan Rice

4.2.1 Property matters:

4.2.1.1 Mountain Child Update

4.2.2 Legal Matters: NIL

4.2.3 Personnel Matters:

4.2.3.1 The Employee Information Report was received and filed as circulated.

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

4.2.4 Student Matters: NIL

4.2.5 Procedural Matters: NIL

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS NIL

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6.1 Chairperson:

Mr. Rice, acting as chairperson, called for nominations for Chairperson of the Board.

Trustee Thurgood Sagal nominated Trustee Byklum for Chairperson.

Trustee Byklum accepted the nomination.

The Acting Chairperson asked a second time for nominations for Chairperson.

The Acting Chairperson asked a third and final time for nominations for Chairperson.

Hearing no further nominations, the Acting Chairperson declared Trustee Byklum acclaimed as Chairperson.

Mr. Rice vacated the Chair, congratulated Trustee Byklum, and turned the meeting over to the newly elected Chairperson.

6.2 Vice-Chairs:

The Chairperson called for nominations for Vice-Chair, Golden Zone.

Trustee Smith nominated Trustee Fearing for Vice-Chair, Golden Zone.

Trustee Fearing accepted the nomination.

The Chairperson asked a second time for nominations for Vice-Chair, Golden Zone.

The Chairperson asked a third and final time for nominations for Vice-Chair, Golden Zone.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee Fearing acclaimed as Vice-Chair, Golden Zone.

The Chairperson called for nominations for Vice-Chair, Kimberley Zone.

Trustee Thurgood Sagal nominated Trustee McRae for Vice-Chair, Kimberley Zone.

Trustee McRae accepted the nomination.

The Chairperson asked a second time for nominations for Vice-Chair, Kimberley Zone.

The Chairperson asked a third and final time for nominations for Vice-Chair, Kimberley Zone.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee McRae acclaimed as Vice-Chair, Kimberley Zone.

6.3 BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Representative and Alternate:

The Chairperson called for nominations for BC Public School Employers' Association Representative.

Trustee Thurgood Sagal nominated Trustee King for BC Public School Employers' Association Representative.

Trustee King accepted the nomination.

The Chairperson asked a second time for nominations for BC Public School Employers' Association Representative.

The Chairperson asked a third and final time for nominations for B.C. Public School Employers' Association Representative.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee King acclaimed as BC Public School Employers' Association Representative.

The Chairperson called for nominations for BC Public School Employers' Association Alternate Representative.

Trustee King nominated Trustee Thurgood Sagal for BC Public School Employers' Association Alternate Representative.

Trustee Thurgood Sagal accepted the nomination.

The Chairperson asked a second time for nominations for BC Public School Employers' Association Alternate Representative.

The Chairperson asked a third and final time for nominations for BC Public School Employers' Association Alternate Representative.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee Thurgood Sagal acclaimed as BC Public School Employers' Association Alternate Representative.

6.4 British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council Representative and Alternate:

The Chairperson called for nominations for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Representative.

Trustee Fearing nominated Trustee Thurgood Sagal for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Representative.

Trustee Thurgood Sagal accepted the nomination.

The Chairperson asked a second time for nominations for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Representative.

The Chairperson asked a third and final time for nominations for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Representative.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee Thurgood Sagal acclaimed as BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Representative.

The Chairperson called for nominations for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Alternate Representative.

Trustee Barrett nominated Trustee Smith for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Alternate Representative.

Trustee Smith accepted the nomination.

The Chairperson asked a second time for nominations for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Alternate Representative.

The Chairperson asked a third and final time for nominations for BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Alternate Representative.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee Smith acclaimed as BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Alternate Representative.

7. APPOINTMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

7.1 Cheque signing authorities Alan Rice

Mr. Rice reported that the district currently has one general operating account with Kootenay Savings Credit Union at the Branch in Invermere, BC. With the retirement announcement of Michelle Evans, the Secretary Treasurer is requesting the signing officers for the bank to be updated.

M/S KING / STIMMING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) designates any two of the following individuals as authorized cheque signers for the District's bank accounts at Kootenay Savings Credit Union Invermere, BC:

- Chairperson – Amber Byklum
- Vice-Chairperson – Jane Fearing
- Vice-Chairperson – Ron McRae
- Superintendent – Karen Shipka
- Secretary Treasurer – Alan Rice
- Manager of Finance – Jacinda Harding
- Accountant – Dave Vernon

APPROVED

8. STANDING COMMITTEES

8.1 Selection and Appointments of Committee Preferences Karen Shipka
Ms. Shipka stated that pursuant to the Procedural Bylaw, Trustees have submitted their committee preferences to the Superintendent in order to compile the preferences of all Trustees into a report for the Chairperson. The Chairperson, in consultation with the Superintendent, has determined committee appointments.

M/S STIMMING / FEARING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve the appointments of committee members to their respective committees as follows:

Capital:

Barrett, Fearing, Oakley, Byklum

Finance & Audit:

King, McRae, Stimming, Byklum

Labour Relations:

Fearing, McRae, Thurgood Sagal, Byklum

Policy:

Barrett, Fearing, Smith, Byklum

Scholarship:

Oakley, Smith, Thurgood Sagal, Byklum

Field Trips

King, Oakley, Stimming, Byklum

APPROVED

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NIL

10. STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

10.1.1 Policies Under Review feedback Karen Shipka

The School District sent out a communication to Trustees, principals, vice principals, administrative assistants, Indigenous partners, DPAC, and Unions on October 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.

10.1.2 Third Reading:

10.1.2.1 Policy 2350, research in schools

Ms. Shipka reported that no feedback received on policy 2350, research in schools. Trustee Thurgood Sagal provided some suggested grammatical edits.

M/S SMITH / BARRETT

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve third and final reading of policy 2350 presented at this meeting.

APPROVED

10.1.3 First Reading

10.1.3.1 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 education and health education curricula.

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.

M/S BARRETT / KING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) unanimously agree to proceed with all three readings of policy 8850.

APPROVED

M/S MCRAE / BARRETT

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve first reading of policy 8850 presented at this meeting.

APPROVED

M/S KING / STIMMING

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve second reading of policy 8850 presented at this meeting.

APPROVED

M/S OAKLEY / BARRETT

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve third and final reading of policy 8850 presented at this meeting.

APPROVED

11. OPERATIONAL ISSUES NIL

12. REPORTS

12.1 Introduction of new staff:

Karen Shipka

Superintendent Shipka introduced the new Information Technology Manager, Andrew Henyecz.

- 12.2 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 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.
- 12.3 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.
- 12.4 WorkSafe BC proposed harassment and violence amendments to regulations Steve Wyer
WorkSafeBC is in the public consultation phase of the proposed amendments. It is open to all sectors and individuals to comment on the proposed changes. BCPSEA has asked school districts to submit feedback and they will create a template for school districts to send to WSBC. The District Health and Safety Officer sent this feedback to BCPSEA. 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.
- 12.5 Indigenous education update Trent Dolgopol
On October 25, 2023, amendments to the School Act were tabled in the provincial legislature, to act on commitments in the Declaration Act Action Plan and the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA). It is crucial to maintain consistent and ongoing efforts toward establishing and nurturing relationships with Indigenous Partners and communities. Additionally, continuous capacity building for educators and staff in Indigenous teaching, learning, and equity is necessary. The Indigenous Education Department must work together with all schools and departments to support system-wide alignment, as Indigenous Education and engagement with Indigenous Partners is vital in all aspects of our District.

- 12.6 BC School Trustees Association: Jane Thurgood Sagal
Trustee Thurgood Sagal provided a synopsis of the October Provincial Council meeting. She reminded trustees of an upcoming virtual trustee orientation and the BCSTA Trustee Academy scheduled for November 23-25, 2023 in Vancouver.
- 12.7 BC School Trustees Association, Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB): Rhonda Smith
Trustee Smith reported that the KBB BCSTA Branch held a virtual meeting to discuss the BCSTA Academy agenda. The KBB Branch will host a breakfast meeting during the BCSTA Academy which Trustee King will be presenting the Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 update on behalf of Trustee Smith. Motion building is commencing and suggested motions may be taken forward to the KBB Branch meeting on January 20, 2024.
- 12.8 BC Public Schools Employers' Association: Scott King
Trustee King provided an overview of the BCPSEA Symposium. He also provided a synopsis of correspondence received since the last meeting.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 13.1 Correspondence
13.1.1 Retired teachers' correspondence
- 13.2 November and December 2023 calendars

14. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 2023.11.23-25 BCSTA Academy, Vancouver
2023.11.28 Policy Committee, Virtual, 4:30 p.m.
2023.11.29 Field Trip Committee, Virtual, 4:30 p.m.
2023.12.05 Labour Relations Committee meeting, Virtual, TBD
2023.12.12 Board of Education Meeting, David Thompson Secondary School
- In-Camera, 6:00 p.m.
 - Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 2023.12.12 –
2024.01.05 Winter Break

15. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chenoa Paccagnan asked which legislation establishes Métis Education Agreements.

Caroline Carl, RMTA Local 18 President, asked a question regarding WorkSafe BC proposed harassment and violence amendments to regulations.

Doug Murray, RMTA Local 04 President, asked for clarification around workplace violence statistics. The education sector has the second highest reported incidents of violence in the workplace. Second to the health sector.

Doug Murray, RMTA Local 04 President, asked about Trustees attending local bargaining.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Trustees agreed to adjourn by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 20:23 hours.