



**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN**
School District #6



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 2024

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Policy development • Steve Wyer, Acting Superintendent

Policy under review feedback • Steve Wyer, Acting Superintendent

Consultation is being conducted for policy 5850, district code of conduct for students. Mr. Wyer, reported that one piece of feedback received.

Practices under review • Steve Wyer, Acting Superintendent

Mr. Wyer advised the Board of Education of proposed changes to the district practice 4300, service recognition.

Third reading – NIL

Second reading – Policy 5850, District code of conduct for students

On Friday, January 26, 2024, the Premier of British Columbia announced the province would be taking "actions to keep kids and young people safe from online threats, restrict cellphones in school and hold social media companies accountable".

The announcement includes three concrete actions to keep kids and young adults safe:

- restricting the use of cellphones in schools;
- launching services to remove images from the internet and pursue predators; and
- legislation to hold social media companies accountable for the harm they have caused.

The expectation is that schools will have policies in place by the start of the next school year to be able to restrict students' cell phone use in the classroom. To meet this requirement, the Rocky Mountain School District is proposing a change to Policy and District Practice 5800, District Student Code of Conduct. Since the last Board of Education meeting, the school district received guidelines from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and on piece of feedback. Changes were made to the policy and district practice to reflect the guidelines and feedback.

[Review the proposed changes.](#)

Feedback is being collected until May 24, 2024. Please visit the [Policies Under Review](#) webpage to provide your comments.

First reading – Policy 5160, Community coaches

The safety of students shall always be a primary concern at school, and during all school-sanctioned activities. Wherever possible, the school district relies on employees to support and sustain school sanctioned activities. However, Rocky Mountain School District recognizes the important contribution of members of the community in coaching school sports. Community coaches are important adults in the lives of students having sole responsibility for supervision, education, and travel with students. In addition to requirements for volunteers, set out in Policy 4000, the Board of Education for Rocky Mountain School District believes community coaches should be supported to:

- (a) Learn the ways coaches successfully and respectfully interact with students.
- (b) Be educated about safe practices in coaching students including:
 - a. Injury awareness and prevention
 - b. Awareness of potential risks to student athletes' wellness
 - c. Awareness of child protection issues with respect to school athletes
- (c) Identify safety measures and emergency response plans for athletes in sport.

Feedback is being collected until May 24, 2024. Please visit the [Policies Under Review](#) webpage to provide your comments.

First reading – Policy 1500, Trustee role, responsibility, and code of conduct

The Ministry of Education and Child Care distributed a document entitled *School Trustees Codes of Conduct: Provincial Criteria Guidelines*. The purpose of the document was to set out best practices and provide guidelines for the voluntary development or refinement of a board of education's school trustee code of conduct. Changes to the policy and district practice have been proposed to reflect these guidelines.

Feedback is being collected until May 24, 2024. Please visit the [Policies Under Review](#) webpage to provide your comments

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

School fees • Steve Wyer, Acting Superintendent

School fees have remained stable or have decreased in some cases as schools have been able to offset costs utilizing school generated funds. Some schools increased fees due to increased costs of school supplies and no longer having access to a 2023 special purpose fund.

Families experiencing hardship are able to contact the Principal for support. Principals have access to the Student Family Affordability Fund to directly offset costs to parents, guardians, and students, such as school supplies or other cost pressures they are facing.

REPORTS

Budget utilization report • Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer

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 0.58% and greater than the prior year by \$2,748,000 for the same timeframe. The operating variance of actual to budget for year-to-date is considered reasonable.

Accessibility in Rocky Mountain School District • Sharon Collin, Director of Instruction

In April 2022 the Accessible British Columbia Regulation required that all prescribed organizations within the province establish an accessibility committee, an accessibility plan, and build a tool to receive feedback on accessibility within the organization. This is the first of four phases of implementation of the Regulation. Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 has met all current legislative obligations of phase one of the Accessible British Columbia Regulation implementation.

Early learning and child care update • Crystal MacLeod, Director of Instruction

The child care crisis remains a complex and challenging issue across our region, the province, and the country. The two main inputs are the lack of licensed spaces and the lack of qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs). The government is aware of and working on both space creation and wage improvements via the New Spaces Fund, ECE Wage Enhancements, and the piloting of a Wage Grid. It is important to note that the education division of the Ministry of Education and Child Care does not have any jurisdiction over the child care division.

OTHER NEWS

In addition to the Board of Education meeting that was held on May 14, 2024, the School District is currently seeking input on the 2024-2025 Draft Operational Plan. Each year as part of a continuous improvement cycle, District Administration develops an operational plan that outlines the goals, strategies that will be the focus of the work for the upcoming year. Using a variety of student data as the foundation for decision making, schools develop school success plans that identifies targets for improving student learning.

The voices of community partners, parents, students, and staff are critical to the process and input is sought through a variety of engagement activities throughout the year.

Please take some time to watch the [video and provide feedback](#).