

# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 (ROCKY MOUNTAIN)

**MINUTES** of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held at Lady Grey Elementary School, Golden, B.C., - **SEPTEMBER 12, 2017.**

|          |                   |                           |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Present: | Amber Byklum      | Chairperson               |
|          | Jane Fearing      | Vice-Chairperson          |
|          | Denny Neider      | Trustee                   |
|          | Rosemary Oaks     | Trustee                   |
|          | Shannon Hood      | Trustee                   |
|          | Mac Campbell      | Trustee                   |
|          | Betty-Lou Barrett | Trustee                   |
|          | Rhonda Smith      | Trustee                   |
|          | Paul Carriere     | Superintendent of Schools |
|          | Dale Culler       | Secretary Treasurer       |

Members of Senior Management

Apologies: Sandra Smaill Vice-Chairperson

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 19:05 hours.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**M/S FEARING / BARRETT**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

## 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETINGS

3.1 Regular Meeting: 2017.6.13

**M/S CAMPBELL / NEIDER**

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held on June 13, 2017 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3.2 Synopsis of In-Camera Meeting: 2017.6.13

3.2.1 Property Matters

The Board considered debate for a feasibility and requirements assessment for October 2017 for Board review with subsequent implementation in September 2018. The items under consideration were the reopening of a closed school in Kimberley and other operational issues. The motion was defeated.

3.2.2 Legal Matters Nil

### 3.2.3 Personnel Matters:

The Personnel Report – Pending Board Approval was approved as presented. The Personnel Information Report was received and filed as circulated. The Labour Relations Information Report was received and filed as circulated.

## 4. PRESENTATIONS

### 4.1 Lady Grey Elementary School High Tea – Grade 7 Student Presentation Blaine Broderick

Mr. Broderick, Principal of Lady Grey Elementary School (LGES) introduced three (3) students from Ms. Putney's grade 7 class who presented their weekly high tea experiences to the Board. The high tea experience has taught the students about the Monarchy, proper manners, and etiquette for proper use of china and spoons. Some of the core competencies that are being covered include goal setting, manners and communications. They also had themed high tea at Halloween and Christmas where they dressed up and invited the Principal and Vice-Principal, PAC members and parents. This has given the students confidence in social settings. They also had an opportunity to go to the Chateau Lake Louise for high tea. Ms. Putney and the students responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked them for their presentation.

### 4.2 2016-2017 Auditor's Report and Draft Financial Statements Gordon Green, CPA, CA Green Andruschuk, LLP

The Chairperson introduced Mr. Green who presented the Auditor's Report and review of the draft Audited Financial Statements of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) for the year ended June 30, 2017. Mr. Green reviewed the Auditor's report, the statement of financial position, statement of operations, schedules and the notes to the financial statements. Mr. Green responded to questions and the Chairperson thanked him for his presentation.

### **M/S NEIDER / CAMPBELL**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) accepts the Auditor's Report and approves the Audited Financial Statements of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) for the year ended June 30, 2017 at this meeting.

CARRIED

### 4.3 Request for Variance to Policy 3600 Christoph Loesch

Mr. Loesch indicated that he was the spokesperson for a group of families that live between Harrogate and Parson that are requesting a variance to Policy 3600, Transportation of Students on Regular School Bus Routes by reinstating school bus routes four (4) and eight (8) in the Golden zone. He indicated that they received notice that routes four (4) and eight (8) would be eliminated because they no longer fit within Policy 3600. Mr. Loesch advised the Board that the group is concerned about the safety of affected students because in their opinion carpooling children on a major highway with a lot of truck traffic is not as safe as riding on a bus. There are eleven (11) students affected by the bus route cancellation plus an additional two (2) students coming, therefore space limitation on a 72 passenger bus is not an issue. Mr. Loesch provided the Board with an analysis of the financial and social impacts they believe the families will face by the cancellation of the routes. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Loesch for his presentation and advised him that the matter is upcoming on the agenda.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES Nil

## 6. STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

### 6.1 Policy Development:

6.1.1 Third Reading: Nil

6.1.2 Second Reading:

6.1.2.1 Bylaw No. 1, Procedural Bylaw

Mr. Carriere explained that the Policy Committee has received no feedback on the amendments to the bylaw since first reading. The Policy Committee is recommending that the Board consider second reading of the bylaw at this meeting.

**M/S SMITH / OAKS**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve second reading of Bylaw No. 1, Procedural Bylaw at this meeting.

CARRIED

6.1.3 First Reading: Nil

6.2 Motion Regarding Variance to Policy 3600

Trustee Smith brought forward a motion to grant a variance to Policy 3600 for routes four (4) and eight (8) which run from Parson to Harrogate. Trustee Smith stated that there used to be one-room schools in many of our rural communities. She explained that rural families received some comfort that despite school closures, school buses still operated in these areas to pick up their children. She stated that in her opinion it was unethical to close the rural schools and reduce bussing serving those areas. Some Trustees indicated that they would like to see a further review of Policy 3600 because they feel that the purpose of our busing system is to get rural students to schools and something doesn't seem right if we can't offer that service. Some Trustees indicated that the decision to cut bussing was not done arbitrarily. The Transportation department looks at the routes every year to ensure that, where there are sufficient students, they are operating according to policy. The next year if student numbers support operating a bus, the route would be reinstated. If not, transportation assistance is paid to eligible parents per the policy. It was stated that the transportation assistance rate was recently increased and the cap was removed. Some Trustees indicated that from a policy standpoint it must work consistently across the whole district and that adhering to the policy takes the emotion out of the decision.

**M/S CAMPBELL / HOOD**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) call the previous question.

CARRIED

**M/S SMITH / FEARING**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) grant a variance to Policy 3600 for routes four (4) and eight (8) Parson to Harrogate for the duration of school year 2017 – 2018 and that the matter be referred to the Policy Committee and the Board for further research.

DEFEATED

**M/S SMITH / NEIDER**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) refer Policy 3600, Transportation of Students on Regular School Bus Routes to the Policy Committee for review.

CARRIED

## 7. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 7.1 Chamber of Commerce Request to Serve Alcohol at McKim School Paul Carriere

Mr. Carriere stated that the Kimberley Chamber of Commerce is requesting support to allow alcohol to be served in the McKim foyer area for the Kimberley Business Awards event. Mr. Carriere indicated that the Board has previously supported similar requests at McKim.

### M/S CAMPBELL / OAKS

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve alcohol being served in the McKim foyer area only for the Kimberley Chamber of Commerce hosted Kimberley Business Awards event.

CARRIED

## 8. REPORTS

- 8.1 Learning Leadership Report: Cheryl Lenardon

Ms. Lenardon reported that this was the first report of the year. Ms. Lenardon indicated that there are many requests to share examples of learning opportunities that have already happened or are being planned. The Chairperson thanked her for her report.

- 8.2 BC School Trustees Association Jane Fearing

Trustee Fearing reported that she attended Academy 2017 in Whistler, BC this past July. The event was presented by the Canadian School Board Association National Congress, and by the National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education. The event provided many learning opportunities. She reminded the Trustees that the deadline to put forward motions for the upcoming Provincial Council meeting is September 22, 2017.

- 8.3 BC School Trustees Association, Kootenay-Boundary Branch Amber Byklum

Chairperson Byklum reported that there were a number of Trustees attending the upcoming BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch AGM at Ainsworth Hot Springs, BC. The agenda includes a number of discussion topics, including a presentation from BCPSEA regarding the upcoming collective agreement bargaining process.

- 8.4 Public School Employers Association Mac Campbell

Trustee Campbell reported on some recent topics. The new government and Minister indicated that they are looking at all four employee groups and governance structures. He also reported that the Ministry is opening up discussion on how to provide Trustee representation within BCPSEA for the upcoming collective agreement bargaining process. The proposed structure is an advisory board made up of representatives from the Ministry, Trustees, and a public administrator. He indicated that meetings are happening and work plans are underway; it looks like a logical process.

## 9. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9.1 Correspondence

9.1.1 Request for Variance to Policy 3600

9.1.2 Letter from Summit 107 Radio

- 9.2 September and October 2017 Calendar Circulated

## 10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 2017.09.15-17 | BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch AGM, Ainsworth Hot Springs                       |
| 2017.09.26    | Policy Committee Meeting, via teleconference, 4:00 pm                           |
| 2017.09.26    | Windermere Zone Trustee Meeting, Board Room, 5:00 pm                            |
| 2017.10.03    | Labour Relations Committee Meeting, via teleconference, 8:30 am                 |
| 2017.10.03    | Golden Zone Trustee Meeting, Golden Board Room, 12:15 pm                        |
| 2017.10.03    | School Plans for Student Success, Golden Zone, Golden Board Room, 4:00 pm       |
| 2017.10.04    | School Plans for Student Success, Windermere Zone, Conference Room, 4:00 pm     |
| 2017.10.05    | School Plans for Student Success, Kimberley Zone, Kimberley Board Room, 4:00 pm |
| 2017.10.10    | Board Meeting, Selkirk Secondary School, In Camera, 6:00 pm                     |
| 2017.10.10    | Board Meeting, Selkirk Secondary School, Information Exchange, 6:30 pm          |
| 2017.10.10    | Board Meeting, Selkirk Secondary School, Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm               |

## 11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions were asked by the public relating to the discussion and motion regarding Policy 3600, Transportation of Students on Regular School Bus Routes. Following is a summary of the questions and responses:

- How do parents request a variance if they were affected by the cancellation of courtesy rides on their bus route; and how is the 4 and 4.8 km determined for courtesy riders? How do you justify not providing transportation to lower income earners?
  - Mr. Jackson replied that a request for variance must be put in writing then it will be put on the agenda for the next zone meeting. Anyone within the eligible rider boundary can apply for a courtesy ride; however each request will be evaluated based on the criteria from the policy prior to approval.
  - The Board indicated that there is no requirement in the School Act to provide transportation services to students, it is a Board decision to determine if they want to provide that service.
  - Mr. Carriere further added that the requirement to provide transportation was taken out of the School Act and the onus was put on School Boards to establish Transportation Policy. Many school districts simply took the language from the old provision of the School Act to determine rider eligibility. Currently our Policy uses 4.0 km (K to Gr 3) and 4.8 km (Gr 4 to Gr 12). In some districts, Boards have moved the radius around, based on local situations.
- Can the process be improved to communicate the change to a bus route other than handing a piece of paper to a five (5) year old and expect them to get it to parents? Can the communication be provided earlier than the end of the school year so that parents can request a variance and the Board make a decision prior to school starting in September?
  - Mr. Jackson replied that the notices are communicated to parents in various ways in addition to sending a note home with the students.
  - Mr. Jackson indicated that the policy requires the Board to provide written notice at least two weeks prior to any such change taking effect; and the operations supervisor can be contacted to provide additional information.
- Why is the transportation assistance (TA) not linked to a cost of living component; but bussing is adjusted to actual financial results each year. For example why not link TA to Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) per-kilometre allowance rate which is currently \$0.54.
  - The Board indicated that rates are reviewed and adjusted by the Policy Committee.
- Can the transportation financial information be reviewed by the Board to determine if someone is being wasteful in the shop?
  - The Board replied that the Policy is being reviewed and there will be a lot of information to be looked at.

Doug Murray asked a question on the voting procedure and whether there was a way for a Trustee to vote if they were not in attendance?

Mr. Carriere replied that the Board has allowed a Trustee to call into the meeting via telephone if they were unable to attend a meeting in person.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S OAKS / BARRETT**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 20:52 hours

CARRIED

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Chairperson

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Secretary Treasurer