



**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN**
School District #6



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

December 2022

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Catchment Areas and Cross Boundary Transfers • Steve Wyer

The Board received a presentation from a parent on June 14, 2022 at a regular public meeting requesting that it reconsider its policy and practice related to catchment areas. Due to the process of electing the current Board and selecting a new Policy Committee, a response on this presentation and request was delayed until the current Policy Committee of the Board could meet.

Policy 2100 reflects the use of catchment areas as intended in the *School Act* s. 75. This process is essential to school planning. In-catchment students are entitled to space in the neighbourhood school before enrolling any out-of-catchment area students. Families who live out of the catchment are able to apply to have their children attend a school starting in January. Siblings of students who have successfully enrolled enjoy priority placement as part of the Cross Boundary Transfer Process outlined in the District Practice 2100.

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Policy development • Karen Shipka

Third reading – Policy 3700, Procurement and purchasing

Policy 3700, Procurement and Purchasing received third and final reading. This policy and district practice is a codification of practices already in place. Only minor editorial revisions were made to the policy based on Trustee feedback.

First reading – Policy 2800, Fraud and whistleblower protection

Ms. Shipka informed the Board that whistleblower protection currently exists but there is a new requirement to include statements regarding fraud in the policy.

STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES CONT'D

First reading – Policy 8800, French programming

Last spring, the Board received correspondence regarding the sibling policy that currently exists in the policy. The proposed amendment would remove this preferential treatment for siblings. All students applying to the program would be included in the lottery program.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Draft School Calendars Report • Steve Wyer

Mr. Wyer presented the draft 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school calendars. Each calendar requires a 60-day public consultation in order to comply with *School Act* and District Bylaw requirements by May 31, 2023. The district calendar for 2023-2024 requires final approval following a 60-day consultation process. The District sought approval in principle for the district calendar 2025-2026.

REPORTS

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 but are greater than the prior year for the same time-period, which is mainly due to an increase in salaries and benefits, TTOC replacement costs, District Day, Pro D, and travel. Mr. Rice responded to questions.

Mental health update • Sharon Collin

Ms. Collin provided the Board of Education an update on the mental health strategies underway in schools resulting from grant dollars provided by the Ministry. The strategy to support mental well-being in children and youth in SD6 will be based upon three pillars: compassionate systems leadership; social emotional learning and mental health literacy; and systems of support. Ms. Collin responded to questions.

Indigenous education update • Jenna Jasek

Ms. Jasek provided the Board of Education an update on Indigenous education and projects in School District No. 6. Indigenous education seeks to improve success and supports for Indigenous students, and increase the presence of Indigenous culture, languages and history for all students. It also aims to help teachers bring Indigenous knowledge into their teaching practice. SD6 has been working on various initiatives aimed at improving the learning experience for Indigenous students.

There will need to be sustained efforts to continue building relationships with our Indigenous partners and communities as well as continuous capacity building for educators and staff in Indigenous teaching, learning and equity. Indigenous education and engagement of Indigenous partners is critical in every aspect of our District and therefore the Indigenous Education Department must work collaboratively with all schools and departments to support system-wide alignment.

Responding to respiratory illness in schools • Surrena Craig

Ms. Craig provided information on reducing transmission and illness rates in schools during the annual respiratory illness season. This year was predicted to be a difficult respiratory illness year in our communities. Refocusing on the key strategies offered by public health in the Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Setting to maintain healthy environments will help decrease rates of illness in schools.

REPORTS CONT'D

Early learning and child care update • Crystal MacLeod

The District is committed to working with third-party providers to offer after-school care and has submitted a New Spaces Fund (NSF) application to build a child care facility on the grounds at Marysville Elementary School. Once our first NSF application is approved, we will complete and submit the application for EMP and move forward with an application for a facility in Golden once we have a site finalized.

Additionally, our District has been working to implement a JUSTB4 program with the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MOECC) grant received in June. We are planning to begin offering the JUSTB4 program to children and families in January or February depending on licensing.

Extracurricular fees • Trent Dolgopol

Mr. Dolgopol provided an update to the Board of Education on extracurricular fees. Schools in School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) offer many extracurricular opportunities for students. These opportunities allow students to explore diverse activities, follow their individual passions, develop a breadth of competencies, and contribute positively to school culture. Schools need to be mindful of balancing the opportunities/activities they offer and simultaneously keeping the associated fees at a level that is reasonable for families. Schools are to continue budgeting, as required, to support participation in extracurricular activities for students that are experiencing financial hardship.