

# Executive Board Report – for May 9, 2016

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## Executive Meeting

Held May 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion of election process, BCCPAC conference, proxy reimbursements, school district strategic plan, potential conference.

## Media

CKPG regarding strategic plan.

A variety regarding the White Hatter and internet safety workshop, Fraser Institute Report, school calendar.

## Policy and Governance Committee, April 13, 2016

Policy 5131.7 school codes of conduct was discussed again, and sent back to the board with no changes, but the addition of the provincial standards for codes of conduct. Policy 3541 on student transportation was brought to committee based on the district principal of transportation leaving that position. No changes were recommended by administration. DPAC reminded committee that this policy was on the committee's agenda to be made congruent with policy 5119. Minor revisions to policy 5131.1 bus conduct. Discussion of moving definitions from policies to a separate policy document – is this really a good idea, and how would it work?  
Policy 5131

## Education Services Committee - DPAC minutes April 11 2016

1. Accept minutes

2. Annual Facilities Grant – Five Year Plan

- Radon testing is not covered in AFG, Any Radon gas mitigation could be
- All HVAC improvements including new boilers increase circulation which reduces Radon gas buildup
- over \$2m each for NusDeh Yoh and Lac du Bois in planned projects

3. Routine Capital Maintenance Submission

- 5 projects submitted see agenda for list

4. Ad Hoc Committee on Rural Education

#2 Transportation for extra-curricular events

- recommend to board SD57 staff support communities forming their own societies

#5 Communication to Rural Schools by Facility Services Staff

- Recommend sharing with SD57 staff, agenda attached Nino Maletta Letter, on how maintenance is scheduled

#### #1 Overnight Accommodation in Schools

- Recommend Board accept draft pilot project, attached with agenda.

#### 5. Purchase Orders over \$25K

- Foothills PAC provided 50% of cost for new lab outside of the Greening project.

### **(Draft of) Presentation to Board – April 5, 2016**

I'm Sarah Holland, representing DPAC, the district parent advisory council.

First some information about some work we're doing with parents. We do want to let you know about the "Keeping Your Kids Safe Online: Internet Literacy and Education for Parents" workshop that we're putting on, in cooperation with the district, on Thursday, April 14th, at 7pm, at Vanier Hall. You can visit our website at [sd57dpac.ca](http://sd57dpac.ca) to register for your free ticket, to ensure you get a seat – and tickets are going quickly, at the moment we have 195 registered. This is from the White Hatter, and comes highly recommended by parents. I've been asked if it's appropriate for students, and they've let us know that for those younger than grade 6, it might be more problematic. During the day, the White Hatter will be presenting to Kelly Road Secondary students, and the grade 6 and 7 students of that family of schools have been invited to a separate presentation. It's been great to work with your helpful people in the district, to bring this to as many parents as possible.

As you may know, there's been some recent cases where students have been in conversations on sites such as Instagram with people they don't know, inappropriate pictures have been sent, and threats made in order to obtain pictures in exchange. My understanding is that there has also been police involvement, but you may well know better than me about this.

For parents who think – oh, no, my kid would never do that – there's other issues. For example, people have been fired, or not hired, based on their social media postings. Or disqualified for running for office – for those future trustees out there - does your child know that what they post now may be public, permanent, and searchable? Do you know that?

Have you had that conversation about why taking naked pictures of yourself is a bad idea with your 8 year old? And how might you know if your child is being bullied online?

Education is the first step in keeping our kids safer, and this presentation is designed to educate even the most computer illiterate parent.

Moving on to our other role of advising the district:

Regional district and electoral area – we look forward to the presentation later on in the agenda When we look at the school data, as of September 30 2015, it shows 13,344 students with schools that have Prince George addresses, and 1077 from (in alphabetical order) Hixon, Mackenzie, McBride, Valemount, and Willow

River. I honestly don't know if the best way to represent that 7% of the district's students is through establishing wards, but it is a really good idea to have the respectful conversation about how our communities can best be represented when decisions are being made.

Strategic plan – really looking forward to seeing that, possibly even this month?

Policies - The rights & responsibilities of students policy has had a minor update. Please note that it does also need a major update, and I encourage that it be placed higher on the list for revision. I know that the school codes of student conduct is meant to be a minor update, but when you look at the actual document, there's a lot of strike outs and additions, and perhaps that could be clarified.

Budget – as I said last year, not much has changed. Year after year, the districts have cut, and cut, and tried their best to keep it away from the kids. The provincial government keeps taxes lower (which admittedly is popular), announce what turns out to generally be some sort of cut, and emphasizes that it's somehow to be kept away from the classroom. Districts write letters to the Minister – sometimes even sternly worded letters, signed by partner groups – and then districts do what they have to do, year after year. And student results seem to keep on improving, year after year. From the government's point of view, this is good management. So as we want changes to funding, we need to find a different way of phrasing what the real issues are with the lack of support for our kids.

So for the budget, we do urge you to leave time for consultation, deliberation, changes and different choices after consultation – and to somehow change the story of why these cuts are a real issue for our children, rather than “good governmental fiscal management.”

Good luck.

## **(Draft of) Presentation to Board – April 26, 2016**

I'm Sarah Holland, representing DPAC, the district parent advisory council.

My apologies for not joining you in McBride tonight, but I have an early day at work tomorrow.

Should there be parents in attendance, I'd like to note that DPAC can provide you with some resources, funding, information – please let us know if you need anything!

We did just hold the Keeping Your Kids Safe online session in PG, on April 14th. We had 281 registrants, some no shows of course, but the speaker said that this was one of the largest groups of parents he has ever spoken to. Our thanks to the district, especially to the folks at Kelly Road and PGSS for their assistance.

There's several delegates attending the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils AGM and conference this weekend; we're taking down a number of proxies from our PACs to make the voice of the north heard. More on that next time.

We look forward to discussion on the rural education recommendations, some seem like great ideas.

For recommendation #13, on (non-circle) page 27, the possible motion states that the board engage in a process to change the name of the school district. If you adopt this, we would suggest that it be changed to

engage in a process to explore changing the name – the name is definitely lacking, but is there a better name out there, one that's worth the cost of the change? It's great if there is, but perhaps let's leave that open just in case there isn't.

The board has a policy on policy and policy development, policy 8310. It defines minor updates as “factual changes, including district information and titles of individuals, organizations or legislation, etc. that do not change the intent of the policy.” The policy goes on to state that major revisions must be distributed for a 60 day review. Quite frankly, I'd suggest you modify policy 8310, as the policy only refers to minor updates (that don't change the intent) and major revisions, and you seem to often end up with the murky area in between a minor update and a major revision – and policies are supposed to clear up murky areas so that we don't end up spending time trying to figure out what it means. Policy 8310 also states that definitions must be in the policy, so I'm not sure that you can remove the definitions from the upcoming policies. We did talk about this at the committee level, and a number of your partner groups thought that definitions should stay in the policies for clarity, as there's a number of issues with removing them. I'd be happy to go into this in more detail.

Policy 5131.7 is still not a minor update. I will further note that policy 5131.7, school codes of student conduct, must be looked at in conjunction with policy 5131, district code of student conduct. As it currently reads, in order for a student or parent to be properly informed of what the student expectations are, they would need to read policy 5131 in its entirety. The range of how schools are communicating this is extensive – one high school lists a summarized version of 5131, along with a link to the full version of 5131 in addition to their own code, some have incorporated 5131 into their own codes, one high school links directly to the full policy 5131 as their only code of conduct that I could find. Policy 5131.7 says that school codes of conduct should be coherent – this is not coherent. This is not understandable. If having understandable and coherent expectations of student conduct is important to the board, then you need to revisit both policies at the same time, and do a proper job with it, one that includes input from our students and our administrators.

I realize the intent is to push through what were mandatory changes from 2014, but it's already late – let's do a good job of it.

And the strategic plan looks to be being presented tonight, again something to look forward to. I don't know if it's possible for it to live up to expectations at this point.

Hoping for good discussions and deliberation this evening, followed by that necessary consultation. And also, safe travel. Please convey our best to the community of McBride .