

**Education Services Committee Meeting**  
**Monday Feb 1, 2021 at 4pm on Zoom**

These are the points in the Agenda package:

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Update on Information Requests from Rachel Weber McLeod Lake Indian Band (see attached)
  - i. Lead in Water at Morfee Elementary and Mackenzie Secondary Schools
    - 2016 Mandate from Ministry of Education to test and monitor lead level in water.
    - 2018 Testing completed at all facilities, all below limit.
    - 2019 Maximum allowable limit reduced to facilities were re-tested.
    - 2 sinks at each school were over the lower limit, Principals notified, signage up.
    - 2020 added water filter to the taps, now safe for human consumption.
    - Water fixtures and bronze valves were replaced to lower the levels, but if still not acceptable, filters are put in.
    - DPAC stated that although Principals/Staff were notified and signage was in place, PAC was not officially notified, recommend including parents in facility updates concerning health.
    - Trustee asked if lead level reports can be shared with the school or can be made public on SD57 website. **Action:** Darleen will follow up.
    - MLIB asked if bathroom sinks are safe for drinking. Answer: No, they are not tested. **Action:** Acting Superintendent will work on messaging to staff, students, parents about refraining from drinking or ingesting water from bathroom sinks.
  - ii. Heating in Mackenzie Secondary School
    - Level is set at 21.5, management system can graph data taken at several times a day for 20 school days in the month. Variations of 0.5-1 degree happen as boilers kick in/out and temperature outside fluctuates.
    - Any fluctuations greater than that could be a result of a system failure that needs investigation/maintenance.
    - If staff/students feel uncomfortably cold/hot in a classroom or area of the school, contact School Admin or Secretary to submit a Service Request.
    - DPAC asked if Service Request system provides information/updates on the progress of the request and notification when issue is resolved. Answer: Yes.
    - MLIB asked how long it takes for a Service Request to be followed up on. Answer: Dispatch is notified right away, system has automated troubleshooting, but sometimes technicians have to go to Mackenzie to investigate and repair so it could take days.
    - MLIB asked about progress on Capital Project Grant to replace boiler system at Morfee Elementary. It is a priority and a concern that the school could be left without heat. Answer came later during Energy Update: Morfee is one of 3 schools planning for boiler upgrades this year. Also, multiple boiler system means there is back up if one malfunctions or is removed to be replaced. There will be no disruption in heat.
3. Energy and Sustainable Conservation Update
  - Ron Brent Lighting Upgrade – in addition to replacing florescent bulbs with LED (approx. 34,000 kwh savings/yr), classrooms will have both occupancy and dimming controls for optimal lighting for technology and teaching atmosphere.
  - Planning ahead of Grant Approvals (April) for boiler upgrades at Morfee and McBride Elementary as well as Valemount Secondary.
  - Annual Facility Grant (AFG) subject to approval but planning for Boiler and Unit Ventilator replacement at Van Bien Elementary and Dust Collector and Air Unit replacement at McBride Secondary.

- Fortis BC has incentives for reduction in natural gas usage. Rebates for the following projects:
    - Boilers: Nukko Lake, Hart Highlands, Ron Brent Elementary schools
    - Water Heaters: Nukko Lake, Hart Highlands, Nusdeh Yoh Elementary
    - Hot Water Lines: John McInnis, Nusdeh Yoh, Peden Hill, Westwood, Heather Park Elementary schools and DP Todd and PGSS
    - New Building: Shas Ti Kelly Road Secondary is fully electric/thermal so gas savings/rebates will be significant
    - New Lighting: Ron Brent Elementary (tender and project start Feb 2021)
  - Discussion on rising gas prices and heating costs.
  - Receiving 1.62% retroactive rate reduction back to April 2020 from BC Hydro.
4. Shas Ti Kelly Road Secondary Capital Project Update
- Contractor has removed all hazardous materials from shops and science labs.
  - Next interior demolition will start: flooring, lead paint, partitions, drywall.
  - Push to start exterior demolition on the North Side (shop areas) at the start of Spring Break. Urgency to get the front of the new school leveled and staff parking in place.
  - Trustee question about Shas Ti Kelly Road signage vandalism. Answer: Random letters were taken down, most were found and put back up or replaced, no more incidents recently. Because the ground at the front of the school has not been lowered, it makes the letters easy to access. Once the grading is finished, the letter should not be easily reached by vandals. But if issue persists, SD57 will discuss with Architects about alternate placement of letters to be out of reach but within fire/accessibility codes.
  - Trustee/PGDTA question about roof leaks. Answer: Continue to have leaks reported including one last week over the fitness area. SD57 working with contractor for warrant repair due to deficient or incomplete areas.
5. Work Place Culture Working Group
- Suspended due to Covid, but opportunity to incorporate lessons learned into the plans.
  - Safety with parents/visitors in the school, implement protocols similar to Covid.
  - Planning to start meeting again in April to put Plans in place for September.
6. Traffic Congestion at Schools Update
- Many high priority schools/parking lots where focus on safety is important.
  - Start work on developing modules (delivered by students) around:
    - Parent Education on Student Safety
    - Walk to School Campaign (or walk partway to school)
    - Drop Off Plan (traffic flow in parking lots and drop off lanes)
  - DPAC commented that congestion is an issue at all schools and videos should be distributed to all parents. Answer: Input from Admin/Staff at priority schools and plan to involve those locations/students in the videos but could roll out information to all schools (including rural locations). Safety lessons are important for all.

Overall a very informative, positive meeting. If anyone needs more information or would like to see the Minutes and Agenda packages from these meetings, let me know.

Next Meeting March 1, 2021

Christa Porter  
DPAC Director

## Education Services Committee agenda items for next meeting Feb 1 2021

Rachael Weber <workforcepromoter@mlib.ca>

Mon 1/18/2021 10:54 AM

To: Darleen Patterson <DPatterson@sd57.bc.ca>; Bob Thompson <bthompson@sd57.bc.ca>

Cc: Jodie Ware <jware@mlib.ca>; Chief Harley Chingee <hchingee@mlib.ca>; Sophia Iliopoulos <siliopoulos@gmail.com>

Good morning,

We would like a follow up done concerning the water in Morfee Elementary and Mackenzie Secondary. Students have been stating that they have been told time and time again NOT to drink the water as LEAD has been found in the old pipes. We know that in the high school, there were water stations put in where kids could fill up their water bottles. When this happened, the water was tested and lead was found. Only certain pipes were replaced that go directly to these water stations, but the rest of the school still has old pipes and possible lead exposure in their kitchens and meal prep areas, bathrooms etc. We would like to know the date of the last water test and if the lead is still present and what the next steps will be to take care of this issue.

We are also concerned with the temperature of MSS and it being controlled in Prince George. We need to have this addressed and changed so that it can be monitored directly at the school in Mackenzie. Students have been complaining about having to wear jackets inside the classrooms while working for some time now. The temperature can sometimes vary over 10 degrees at times, making it warmer in PG and therefor lowering them temperature in Mackenzie, when in reality, the temperatures are much colder at the actual school. How can this be fixed?

Thank you for your time and looking forward to the next meeting Feb 1, 2021

### **Rachael Weber**

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# Memo

**TO:** Darleen Patterson, Secretary Treasurer

**FROM:** Brett Apolczer, General Manager Operations – Facility Services

**DATE:** January 22, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Letter Received from Rachel Weber dated Monday, January 18, 2021 Requesting Information for Mackenzie Secondary and Morfee Elementary Schools

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## Request - Item #1

Requesting information regarding the date of the last water test for lead levels and if lead is still present and what steps have been taken to resolve this issue, the following information has been provided.

In 2016 both the Minister of Education and Health Authorities instituted testing for lead levels in drinking water across all school districts in the province. In 2016, our school district began developing an Assessment and Implementation Plan which included, developing a sampling plan, inventory of plumbing fixtures and a communication plan in consultation with Northern Health and then later began the water sampling plan at identified water fixtures. The Assessment and Implementation Plans were developed in consultation with an engineering firm and Environmental Health Officers with Northern Health.

Testing occurred at all water taps used for drinking water and food preparation at both the Mackenzie secondary and elementary schools in 2018. The test results for both schools, found the lead levels in the drinking water were below the maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) determined by the Health Canada Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. Therefore, no action was required.

In March 2019, Health Canada set a new guideline for the (MAC) of lead in drinking water. The new concentration was lowered to 0.005 milligrams/litre which was significantly lower than the 0.01 milligrams/litre guideline that was established in 1992.

In 2020, the drinking water was again tested at both schools in Mackenzie which revealed that two sinks at each school were above the new (MAC). Signs were installed at these location indicating the that water was not for consumption. Later, filters to remove the lead were installed at these locations and the water was once again tested. The test results showed that the filters effectively removed the lead to acceptable levels below the (MAC). All water testing results were forwarded to Northern Health and the school Principals during the time of testing.

**Request #2**

Requesting information concerning the air temperature and how its controlled in the schools.

The school district uses a modern computerized system that operates the building management system (BMS) which provides heat and ventilation for all schools in district. Thermostats are located throughout most rooms in the buildings which sends signals to the heating plant in the school which controls the temperature and ventilation. This sequence of operation is similar to that in our homes but on a larger scale. There is no action required from our office in Prince George to have this system operate. Critical alarms are sent to the BMS from the school when there is an equipment failure. The BMS allows the Techs. to view the issue and send the appropriate staff to the school to troubleshoot and repair the equipment. If the heat is not sufficient in an area of the school, then likely there has been an equipment failure.

The BMS has the capability of recording information on all the sensors and operation of the facility throughout the year. For instance, temperature sensors located in every classroom in Mackenzie collect samples every five minutes so it's easy to review up 6000 samples (500 hours – 20 days for each room). The heating systems rely on large air handlers to move heat throughout the building. Large ducts allow the air from the air handler to transfer to the rooms. This can result in small temperature variations as the heated air travels to the space. A difference of 0.5 deg. C up or down from the initial set point of 21.5 deg. C is normal and common throughout the district buildings. After reviewing the data samples for the Mackenzie schools over the coldest day in early January 2021, the graphs are consistent with other values sampled during the past 20 days.

The process for the schools to report a cold room is to submit a Service Request (SR) in the Asset Planner Software which is sent to the office in Prince George. The data base shows that the secondary school submitted a request on December 7, 2020 because it felt cold in the school due to a power bump from BC Hydro and then again on November 30, 2020 when a staff member was cold. On October 22, 2020, Morfee Elementary submitted a SR for two rooms that were too warm. We have no other records of rooms that were too cold or warm from the school administration at either school since the start of the school year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brett Apolczer  
General Manager - Operations