



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.59

11600 – 7TH Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

Open Session Minutes

DATE & TIME: April 19, 2023 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School District Board Office, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:
C. Anderson (Chair)
C. Hillton (Vice-Chair) - absent
R. Gulick
S. Mounsey
A. Schurmann
C. Wards
T. Jones – via zoom

C. Fennell, Superintendent
M. Readman, Assistant Superintendent - absent
M. Panoulis, Secretary-Treasurer
R. Schwartz, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

“We acknowledge that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8.”

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions:

Deletions:

(2023-04-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

THAT, the regular meeting agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2023

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2023-03-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting March 15, 2023 approved as printed.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – March 15, 2023

(2023-02-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting March 15, 2023 approved as printed.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

R4.1 International Field Trip to Europe – DCSS - Central Campus

Lauren Groff, DCSS teacher sponsor, presented information to the board to support a 12 day international student trip to Europe over spring break 2024. The grade 9 & 10 students would travel to Berlin, Netherlands, France and England with a focus on History of Canada in World Wars.

5.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R5.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Don Titus Elementary students are enjoying their swim lessons, jelly bean math activities and the school held an outdoor winter carnival.
- TRSS woodworking students are building playhouses to raffle off when complete.
- Ecole Frank Ross is continuing activities associated with their book study, Spirit Bear and Children Make History – The students wrote a letter to the Prime Minister's office and were excited when they received a reply back. Teachers and students are enjoying a game of Guess Who? – students try to guess what teacher is hiding behind their favourite book. Students in Mrs. DeWard's class are doing poetry presentations. Ecole Frank Ross also had 23 students qualify to present at the regional science fair!!
- Chetwynd Secondary School continues to build school spirit with team building activities like the Shamrock Shakedown.
- Moberly Lake Elementary students are creating morning messages to practice letter formation, word and letter spacing and phrasing.
- McLeod student, Alba Odden won first place in the 4-H public speaking contest.
- The Crescent Park PAC group has been fundraising for new technology – they were able to buy the school 20 new devices and a mobile cart. The PAC group is also planning a spring dance for the school. Crescent Park primary teachers are collaborating to create morning literacy stations for the students.
- Central Campus students supported the elementary basketball program by volunteering to be referees and scorekeepers. Vice-Principal, Ms. Malkinson participated in a fundraiser that allowed students to throw jello or whip cream at her face. The fundraiser

was one of the many events held during la semaine de la Francophonie. The shop classes are busy building woodworking and metal projects.

- Mrs. Hiebert's class at Canalta Elementary designed a thematic day where they took a virtual trip to Disneyland. They boarded a plane, stayed at a hotel and participated in many activities throughout the day linked to Disneyland.
- The Regional Skills Competition winners are in Abbotsford to compete in the provincial skills competitions.
- The district has expanded food programs through the Affordability Fund – food hampers for families are now available.
- Dawson Creek Co-op donated \$1000 in gift cards to help with the Gwillim Lake Adventure Race.
- Trisha Warnke has been appointed as the Vice Principal of Little Prairie Elementary, effective August 1, 2023.

R5.2 Field Trips

Trustee Jones declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion and vote on this topic.

Two field trips were brought to the board for approval.

Dawson Secondary School - Central Campus submitted a request for approval to begin the formal planning process for a student trip to Europe in the spring of 2024. The teacher sponsor presented information about the trip to the board earlier in the board meeting.

(2023-04-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurmann

THAT, the Board give approval to Dawson Creek Secondary School - Central Campus to proceed with planning the international field trip to Europe in the spring of 2024.

CARRIED

Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus requested final approval for their Quebec trip for French immersion students from May 28 – June 7, 2023.

(2023-04-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurmann

THAT, the Board give final approval for the Grade 8/9 French Immersion trip to Quebec from May 28 to June 7, 2023 to proceed as planned.

CARRIED

R5.3 Gwillim Lake Adventure Race

The Gwillim Lake Adventure Race is set for May 26-28 at the Pat O'Reilly Outdoor Environmental Studies Centre. The Adventure Race is open for students from grade 6 to 12 and involves students competing in groups of three to complete 20 kilometres of trekking, biking and paddling. The race promotes teamwork and outdoor education. Mr. Chisholm talked about the planning that is involved to host an event of this nature and the itinerary for the two-day event.

R5.4 Supporting School Food Programs

The provincial government announced \$214 million over three years through the new Feeding Futures fund, it will support districts to expand existing school food programs and increase the

capacity to address student hunger. This funding builds on the progress made with the Student and Family Affordability Fund that was allocated for the 2022/23 school year.

School District No. 59 has been allocated \$521,677 for the 2023/24 school year, this is an increase from the \$459,079 received this school year through the Student and Family Affordability Fund. As compared to the affordability fund, this new funding comes with increased flexibility to hire dedicated staff to co-ordinate providing meals and snacks to students.

R5.5 Indigenous Focus Professional Development

Dianne Bassendowski presented to the board about the designated Indigenous focused professional development day scheduled for May 1, 2023, the theme of the day is Reconciliation: Our Path Forward.

Key note speakers will be Monique Gray Smith and Kevin Lamoureux. The day honours call to action and the tripartite agreement. Participants will listen, learn and collectively create plans for next steps in working together for reconciliation. The day also includes a youth panel and a school reviewing and planning session. The day will end with a closing ceremony that will have all participants gather in a large circle and make a personal call to action by writing their commitment on a popsicle stick and placing it in the fire to allow the flame to represent reconciliation.

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R6.1 Finance Reports

The finance reports as of March 31, 2023 were presented. The Secretary Treasurer reported on the change in variances in the Other Ministry of Education and Child Care Grants which is primarily related to the support Staff Labour Settlement.

R6.2 Capital Addition

Trustee Wards left the meeting.

The Secretary Treasurer requested approval for a capital addition to the 2022-23 budget. The additional funds will be used toward the Bobcat renewal contract, snow bucket and overages on the purchase of the 1/2 ton pickup.

(2023-04-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Mounsey

THAT, the board approve an addition to the 2022/23 capital budget of \$15,000 as presented.

CARRIED

Trustee Wards returned to the meeting.

R6.3 2023-24 Preliminary Operating Grant

The Preliminary Operating Grant Funding for the 2023-24 school year was announced on March 15, 2023. The total Preliminary Operating Grant for the district is \$50,067,243. The increase over the previous years funding is a culmination of a slight increase in FTE enrolment count (3685) and increase in the per student rates because of additional funding for labour settlements and wage lifts for exempt staff.

R6.4 BCSTA Trustee Compensation Survey Results

The Secretary Treasurer presented the annual results of the BCSTA trustee compensation survey. The survey reports on trustee stipends, including a breakdown of trustees, vice-chair and chair compensation and per diem rates for trustees across the province.

R6.5 Trustee Conflict of Interest Update

Trustee Jones declared he no longer has a conflict under BCTF; however, does now have a conflict under Excluded Compensation due to a family member working for the district as excluded staff.

The Secretary Treasurer reported that Trustee Crystal Hillton has notified her and declared she no longer has a conflict under CUPE.

7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R7.1 BCSTA Update

Four trustees will be attending BCSTA AGM to be held in Vancouver from April 27-30, 2023. The Superintendent and Trustee Hillton will be presenting at the AGM on Leadership Commitment to Equity for Indigenous Education.

R7.2 Board Meeting Date Changes

The Board Chair announced date changes for upcoming board meetings. The May and June board meetings have been changed to the following dates:

- May 31, 2023 – will be held in Tumbler Ridge at Northern Lights College Campus
- June 28, 2023

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R8.1 Indigenous Councils

The councils received an overview of activities that have been happening at the schools that promote a sense of belonging for Indigenous students. The councils had a report on numeracy data and received updates on the professional development being planned for designated Indigenous focused professional development day scheduled on May 1st, as well as, the annual Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration which will be held on June 21st. Schools throughout the district are contracting with presenters to provide a variety of activities that include music, art, mental health and wellness and mural painting.

R8.2 – Policy Committee

The Policy committee presented two revised regulations to the board for information:

- Regulation 4115 - Function of School Libraries Libraries (regulation was previously known as Policy 4115 School Library Programs)
- Regulation 3090 Long Service/Retirement Recognition

The policy committee is recommending repeal of Policy 3230 Fire Fighting Duties as requirements for leave approval fall under Human Resources and language in collective agreements.

(2023-04-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Wards

THAT, the Board circulate Policy 3230 Fire Fighting Duties for consideration of repeal for a minimum of period of 45 days.

CARRIED

9.0 DIARY

10.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

11.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A question and answer period was provided.

12.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

R12.1 – Regular Board Meeting – May 31, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

(2023-04-011)

MOVED – Gulick

THAT, the Regular Meeting be terminated. (3:08 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



(C. Anderson) Board Chair



(M. Panoulis) Secretary Treasurer