



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.59

11600 – 7<sup>TH</sup> Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

### Open Session Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 14, 2022 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School District Board Office, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:  
C. Anderson (Chair)  
C. Hillton (Vice-Chair)  
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 1:03 pm.

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

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions:

Deletions:

(2022-12-005)  
MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Wards  
THAT, the regular meeting agenda be approved as printed.  
CARRIED

#### 1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2022

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2022-12-006)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting November 16, 2022 approved as printed.

#### R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – November 16, 2022

(2022-12-007)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting November 16, 2022 approved as printed.

### 2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

#### 3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

#### 4.0 PRESENTATIONS

##### 4.1 Local Teacher Shortage – PRSTA

The Peace River South Teacher Association (PRSTA) president, Elaine Fitzpatrick, made a presentation to the board. The PRSTA is concerned about local teacher shortage and the affect it has on the system and staff. The PRSTA would like all stakeholders to be invested in teacher education and improve the motivation for individuals to become teachers in order to see a positive change in the teacher shortage both provincially and locally.

### 5.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

#### R5.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Schools recognized Louis Riel Day on November 16<sup>th</sup> and celebrated with Metis culture activities.
- DCSS volleyball teams had a successful season; the grade 10 team placed 9<sup>th</sup> at provincials
- Students at DCSS had the opportunity to visit NLC and explore the different trades and academic programs.
- Devereaux Elementary students are learning about growth mindset.
- EFR students held a food drive – they collected 1400 pounds of donations for local food banks!! A Kindergarten class celebrated the holidays with a singing show and other holiday activities including a gingerbread cooking centre. Students are enjoying the snowshoes that were donated by the school PAC group and a French Immersion class from Central Campus joined the French Immersion students at Ecole Frank Ross in an afternoon of games and activities to practice their oral language.
- Canalta Elementary students are busy learning about moose and other wild animals of the area; researching gifts and how pricing is established, creating holiday cards and sending them to their grandbuddies at a long-term care facility in New Brunswick. The maker space in the library is getting lots of use; the students learned how to use a green screen to place themselves in a snow globe! The school will be holding their Christmas concert at Unchagah Hall while their gym is still being used as a classroom.

- Don Titus celebrated the holidays by serving over 300 holiday meals to students and families and then enjoyed holiday activities.
- A Kindergarten class from Crescent Park Elementary visited the Nawican Friendship Centre and had a presentation from other students all dressed in their native regalia. The Kindergarten class also had a career experience where they could dress up in their career choice and learn all about it.
- The wood working class at DCSS is creating some amazing projects, one student has designed and made a wood guitar.
- Chetwynd Secondary School held their annual snowball school dance and Ugly Sweater Day. Over 60 students are participating in the extra curricular basketball program; in their home tournament both senior teams went undefeated and took home first place.
- Treaty 8 Tribal Association has donated \$4550.72 from left over funds that were raised to hold an Indigenous youth hockey camp. The funds will be used towards school breakfast programs.
- Student Voice with Grade 10/11/12 students from each high school will be meeting in January
- Parkland Elementary School has been named as one of the top 10 finalists in the CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge for 2022 in the MusiCounts Passion Prize (most spirited, fun and passionate performance).

#### R5.2 International Field Trip Update

The Assistant Superintendent has given Chetwynd Secondary School approval to proceed with planning a student trip to Costa Rica in March of 2023. The trip is being organized in conjunction with World Strides Canada.

#### R5.3 2021-22 Graduation Rates

The Superintendent reported on the 2021-22 completion rates. The overall 6-year completion rate for SD59 was 82% which is down 3% from the previous year, while the rate for Indigenous students fell 5% from 73% to 67%. The district looks at achievement data regularly to review student success. Provincial and district data can be accessed through the Ministry of Education and Child Care Student Success Portal (<https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/>).

### 6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

#### R6.1 Statement of Financial Information

The Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) report was presented. This annual report is required by all public institutions. The report publishes the names and salaries of employees over \$75,000 (wages & benefits), vendors over \$25,000, and trustee income and expenses. The report is posted on the district website.

### 7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

#### R7.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick reminded trustees to complete survey regarding the BCSTA Trustee Academy. Northern Interior Branch meeting will be held in Prince George on January 20 & 21, 2023.

#### R7.2 Conflict & Committees – T. Jones

Trustee Jones declared conflict of interest with family member belonging to BCTF.

Trustee Jones was appointed as trustee liaison for Parkland Elementary and Pouce Coupe Elementary schools.

Trustee Jones was appointed as an alternate trustee representative to the Dawson Creek Indigenous Council and BCSTA provincial committee.

## 8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### R8.1 Indigenous Councils

The Indigenous Councils have been reviewing data which is used to develop goals for the enhancement agreement.

## 9.0 DIARY

## 10.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

## 11.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A question and answer period was provided.

## 12.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

R12.2 – Regular Board Meeting – January 18, 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

(2022-12-008)  
MOVED – Wards  
THAT, the Regular Meeting be terminated. (2:38 PM)  
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

  
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(C. Anderson) Board Chair

  
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(M. Panoulas) Secretary Treasurer