



# 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 Board Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: February 21, 2024 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office, Dawson Creek, BC

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

Staff:  
C. Fennell, Superintendent  
K. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer  
R. Schwartz, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: T. Jones, Trustee

Called to Order – 1:04 PM

The Board Chair acknowledged that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2024-02-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Wards

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

## 1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

### R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2024

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2024-02-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting January 24, 2024, approved as printed.

### R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – January 24, 2024

(2024-02-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting January 24, 2024, approved as printed.

## 2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

## 3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

## 4.0 PRESENTATIONS

## 5.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### R5.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Mr. Join created a “Mathematic Escape Room” for his grade 4/5 students at Little Prairie Elementary School. Each task was carefully designed to review all major concepts taught in math. It was an engaging learning opportunity that incorporated a different Core Competency task in each challenge. Little Prairie also held a school dance and created cosmic bowling lanes in the gym.
- Students at Ecole Frank Ross were busy building spaghetti bridges in anticipation of the Junior Skills Competition. Students are having fun learning how to play crib to build their numeracy skills. French immersion week was celebrated, and basketball season is in full swing.
- Several schools in the district are using hydroponic grow towers to enjoy fresh vegetables all year long. Ecole Frank Ross has a great crop of lettuce growing!
- Devereaux celebrated the Lunar New Year. 2024 is the year of the dragon. The students designed and created their dragons then had a parade in the gym to show them off. Students dived into project-based learning creating obstacle courses and marble races.
- Central outdoor education class went snowshoeing. DCSS Central hosted a staff versus students’ hockey game. The basketball teams have been busy attending tournaments and students were preparing for the Junior Skills Competition.
- Parkland Elementary students were building shapes based on Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) curriculum - experiential, hands-on program of learning.

- Woodworking students at Tumbler Ride Secondary School built Adirondack chairs.
- DCSS – South Peace Campus grade 12 students are working on their capstone projects of which projects from two students were highlighted: one student designed and built a homemade BBQ, and the other student created a metal art statue. Both projects are amazing!
- South Peace Student Council has been very busy. They have started a public speaking group, been involved in grad planning, created a valentine's photo booth, and are having a writing contest.
- Students in grades 4/5 at Crescent Park Elementary participated in a book tasting event. The classroom was decorated as a book café and the students' sampled books while enjoying snacks and drinks at the café.
- Don Titus Elementary had a snowman building contest. The students created beautiful watercolour paintings with Mr. Goldie.
- Tremblay Elementary has created a wall mural with Mr. Lariviere. The Timberwolf is the new school mascot.
- Canalta elementary celebrated 100's day. Students in Ms. Harman's Kindergarten class designed their dream toque and then a very generous parent knitted each uniquely designed toque for the students.
- Many students throughout the district participated in the Regional Skills Competition event hosted at Northern Lights College on February 16, 2024. Many events were held on this day which included Junior and Senior Skills Competitions, Women in Trades, and Try A Trade. Gold medal winners will travel to the provincial competition in Abbotsford on April 17, 2024.

#### R5.2 International Field Trip

Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus submitted a request for approval in principle to proceed with planning a Spring 2025 international field trip to Europe. The itinerary includes travel to cities in France, Germany, and England to tour areas known to be predominantly Canadian battle fields during World War I and II.

(2024-02-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Gulick

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) grant approval, in principle, to Dawson Creek Secondary School - Central Campus to proceed with planning the Spring 2025 international field trip to Europe.

CARRIED

#### R5.3 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Feedback

The district has received feedback from the Ministry of Education and Child Care on the Enhancing Student Learning report. The Ministry feedback includes strengths and considerations in five focus areas:

1. Approach to continuous improvement
  - a. The district's strength was the report shows continuous improvement.
  - b. The recommendation is to articulate the cycle of continuous improvement the district is using.
2. Data and evidence
  - a. The District's strength is its use of data.
  - b. The recommendation is further analysis for areas of growth, especially Grade 10 numeracy.

3. Ongoing engagement
  - a. The District's strength is its evidence of strategic engagement with First Nations.
  - b. The recommendation is to engage other stakeholders.
4. Alignment and adaptations
  - a. The District's strength is its alignment of resources to plans.
  - b. The recommendation is to align school growth plans with Enhancing Student Learning and Strategic Plan.
5. Improving equity for learning outcomes, with a focus on three priority populations – Indigenous students, children and youth in care, and students with disabilities or diverse abilities.
  - a. The Superintendent acknowledged Director Proulx and the absence of any recommendations in the children and youth care area.

R5.4 BCPSEA Incentives

The rural and remote pilot program allows Northern school districts to offer approved hiring incentives for new hire employees, commencing employment April 1, 2024 or later. School District No. 59 submitted eleven incentive requests for positions in Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd. The district received approval for five Tier 1 incentives to be used for positions in Chetwynd. The incentives will be attached to specific employment positions.

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R6.1 Monthly Financial Report – January 2024

The monthly financial report was presented by the Secretary-Treasurer.

R6.2 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget

The Secretary Treasurer presented 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget with a report providing an analysis of changes and explanations of significant variances from the preliminary budget.

(2024-02-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

THAT, the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2023-2024 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures and the total budget bylaw amount of \$68,241,442 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year be read a first time.

CARRIED

(2024-02-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Mounsey

THAT, the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2023-2024 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures and the total budget bylaw amount of \$68,241,442 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year be read a second time.

CARRIED

(2024-02-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Schurmann

THAT, the Board allows the third reading of 2023-2024 Amended Budget Bylaw to occur in this meeting.

CARRIED

(2024-02-011)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Gulick

THAT, the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2023-2024 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures and the total budget bylaw amount of \$68,241,442 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year be read a third time, passed, and adopted.

CARRIED

### R6.3 2024-2025 Budget

#### a) Opportunities for Focus

Key areas of focus related to the priorities and goals of the Strategic Plan were presented to the board for consideration in developing the 2024-2025 budget. It was reported that all areas of focus can be met with current resource levels except technology which will require more investment pending the technology review. It was noted that current resource levels similar to 2023-24 include the use of \$2+ million in surplus dollars.

Next steps are:

- Complete operational plan review with board
- Refine initiative costs to determine increased spending by the board if any
- Transition the strategic plans ending June 2024 and starting July 2024
- Alignment of human and financial resources (budget) to goals of the strategic plan

#### b) Three-Year Enrollment Projections

The three-year projection enrollment data suggests the district will stay fairly consistent in enrollment with a slight increase in the 2024-2025 school year. The enrollment projections are considered when developing future budgets.

#### c) January 24, 2024 Strategic Plan and Budget Consultation Report

The Board held a community meeting on January 24, 2024, to outline the strategic plan and budget as part of its consultation process. In total, seventy-one individuals attended the event, with representatives from district staff, community partners, stakeholders, First Nations, Indigenous Councils, municipalities, and regional district.

The evening included a dinner, presentation from district staff, and table discussions on four pre-determined topics. The tables notes were combined and then themed using AI. The discussion notes will be considered in the development of the new strategic plan and future budgets.

### R6.4 Major Capital Update: Crescent Park Elementary Expansion Project

The Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Operations engaged an engineering firm to develop four options for the Crescent Park Elementary Expansion.

The options include:

- 1) Stand-Alone Five Classroom Building with Universal Washrooms.
- 2) Connected Five Classroom Addition with Universal Washrooms.
- 3) Connected Five Classroom Additional with Universal Washrooms, new Administration Office, and Library.
- 4) Connected Five Classroom Additional with Universal Washrooms, new Administration Office, Library, Parking Lot Expansion, Existing Washroom Conversion to Universal, Roof Replacement and New Building Envelope.

The Secretary Treasurer recommended Option 3 as the preferred choice. Option 3 adds capacity, improves the accessibility to the school entrance and library and allows for flexible space within the school. Option 3 does require the Board to allocate \$1.7 million of the Board's reserve to the project. It is staff's recommendation that Option 3 best leverages the Ministry of Education and Child Care and Board funding to provide the most learning and administrative improvements possible while maintaining fiscal sustainability into the future.

Trustees asked questions of staff relative to the options.

(2024-02-012)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the Crescent Park Expansion project estimated cost of \$9,200,000 for Option 3: Connected Five Classroom Addition with Universal Washrooms, new Administration Office, and Library;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Education allocate the incremental cost of the project over and above the Ministry of Education and Child Care funding of \$7.5 million from operating reserves to a maximum of \$1,700,000.

CARRIED

#### R6.6.5 Secretary Treasurers Report - February 2024

The Secretary Treasurer's report for February was provided for information.

### 7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

#### R7.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA.

BCSTA AGM registration opens on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Trustees, the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer attended the Northern Interior Branch meeting in Prince George on February 2 & 3, 2024. Motions were put forward from the branch to the BCSTA legislative assembly.

Board Chair Anderson attended a partner liaison meeting on February 9, 2024.

The latest BCSTA Weekly reports provide information related to:

- New Make a Future website for recruiting French teachers.
- SOGI Facts – Ministry of Education and Child Care has compiled a list of resources to help parents understand the truths and non-truths of SOGI-inclusive education.
- Changes to provincial electoral boundaries in BC.

The BCSTA Provincial Council meeting is being held virtually on February 24, 2024.

R7.2 Use of School Facilities – C. Anderson

After a recent rental request from a political party to use a school facility for a community meeting, Trustee Anderson requested the Policy Committee review the Use of School Facilities policy to provide clear guidelines for political party rentals.

(2024-02-013)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurmann

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 refer Policy and Regulation 5190 Use of School Facilities to the Policy Committee for review;

AND FURTHER, that the Board withhold approval of political party event rentals until the policy and regulation review is completed.

CARRIED

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R8.1 Indigenous Education Councils

Trustee Hillton reported on the latest Indigenous Education Council meeting held in Chetwynd. Council looked at information on new grad requirement courses. Students provided positive feedback about the new curriculum and described what they are learning in the classes and why it is important. Council also heard about the graduation stories of students that did not graduate. An update was provided on the planning for the District's Truth and Reconciliation focused professional learning day to be held on April 29, 2024.

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 – March 13, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

(2024-02-014)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

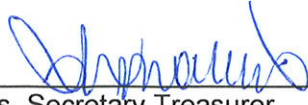
THAT, the Regular Meeting be adjourned. (2:48 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



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C. Anderson, Board Chair



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K. Morris, Secretary Treasurer