



# 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: November 29, 2023 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office, Dawson Creek, BC

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

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

Called to Order – 1:04 PM

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2023-11-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Hillton

THAT, the Regular Meeting agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

## 1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

### R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2023

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2023-11-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting October 25, 2023 approved as presented.

### R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – October 25, 2023

(2023-11-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting October 25, 2023 approved as presented.

## 2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

## 3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

## 4.0 PRESENTATIONS

### R4.1 Student Voice

Damean Perrin and Ireland Bassendowski, students from DCSS-South Peace Campus, shared their BCSTA Trustee Academy experience. The District's student voice group was selected to present their local student voice initiatives at a provincial School Trustees conference in Vancouver. The Board congratulated the students on their presentation at the conference. The students also visited a Rockridge Secondary School in West Vancouver to learn about their student leadership program and share initiatives and ideas.

## 5.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### R5.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Schools across the district held Remembrance Day assemblies. DCSS-South Peace remembered Indigenous Veterans by creating special artwork to honour the sacrifice of Canada's fallen soldiers. Canalta Elementary shared family history of veterans.
- Elementary school volleyball teams participated in the end of season volleyball tournament.
- Pouce Couple held a fundraiser to help the local food bank.
- Schools celebrated Louis Riel Day on November 16<sup>th</sup> to honour his life and his fight to protect the rights of Métis people. Moberly Lake Elementary School made infinity bannock on this day.
- Teams from the U-18 Women's Hockey Championships visited schools and talked to students about goal setting, finding your path in life and what it takes to be a high level athlete. Students also were able to attend a live game at the Ovintiv Centre in Dawson Creek to cheer on the teams.
- Crescent Park grade 3 student, Hunter Brekkaas, was fire chief for the day.

- Canalta Elementary held a Halloween safety assembly.
- A Canalta fundraiser showcased graphic designs created by students which they offered for sale. The students are also having fun doing science experiments with rockets.
- Tumbler Ridge Senior Secondary students worked with Mr. Wayne Lariviere to create canvas and cloth prints framed with ribbon. The artwork is a beautiful representation of the land we live on.
- Andrée-Anne Rivard, a teacher from Chetwynd Secondary School was awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the Prime Minister. Recipients are honoured for their remarkable achievements in education and for their commitment to preparing youth for a digital and innovation-based economy. Congratulations Ms. Rivard!
- Chetwynd Secondary School hosted Jr. A Volleyball Zones. The school also hosted their annual community dinner which is organized by students and staff. All grade 7 students transitioning to grade 8 are visiting CSS where they are partnered with high school students to learn more about the school and participate in some fun activities.
- Dawson Creek Senior Secondary School hosted the AAA Girls Volleyball provincial competition. The competition is being hosted out of the Memorial Arena.
- The intermediate classes at Don Titus Elementary school have been enjoying learning how to curl at the local curling club in Chetwynd.
- Ms. Kurjata and students in grades 3 to 7 at Ecole Frank Ross are participating in a CBC music contest.
- Through the feeding futures fund, schools are creating healthy food counters that offer food to students, barrier free, all throughout the day.
- Enhancement meetings were held in Chetwynd and Dawson Creek for school staff, coach mentors and parent council representatives to share data and receive direction on setting a goal for the year.
- Coastal Gas Link purchased supplies for all students at Moberly Lake Elementary School to create gift cards for them to take home.

#### R5.2 Ministry of Education and Child Care Updates

The Superintendent reported on the following updates from the Ministry of Education and Child Care:

##### ***Changes to Social Studies Grade 10 Curriculum***

*Selection from October 30, 2023 Ministry of Education and Child Care Media Release – “The provincial government is broadening the scope of the required Grade 10 social studies curriculum. This will ensure that when learning about discriminatory policies and injustices in Canada and around the world, all students in B.C. will also learn about the Holocaust. The changes will take effect in the 2025-26 school year to allow for consultation and development with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, the Jewish community and education partners.”*

##### ***First Nations School of Choice Policy***

*Update from Ministry of Education and Child Care – “The new First Nations Schools of Choice provisions in the School Act set out a process for First Nations to choose which school First Nation students who live on-reserve, self-governing First Nation lands or Treaty lands will attend. These provisions ensure that a First Nation can designate an elementary, middle school (where applicable), and secondary school for their students. First Nations will determine which schools the First Nation’s students living on-reserve, self-governing First Nation lands or Treaty lands will attend through their own internal processes. If a First Nation parent/caregiver wishes to have their child enrolled at a different program or school (e.g.*

specialty programs) than the school(s) of choice, the existing enrolment provisions apply. First Nation students who live on-reserve or on Treaty lands have priority to attend the public school designated by their First Nation.”

The Superintendent is confident the district is already on track with the policy; however, will be connecting with the Ministry to discuss the district’s current practice and language that is in the Local Education Agreements regarding the school of choice provisions.

### **K-12 Student Reporting**

*Excerpt from K-12 Student Reporting Information Pamphlet for Parents and Caregivers - The learning students do today is more complex than ever. British Columbia redesigned the provincial curriculum to respond to the needs of today’s learners. The curriculum continues to give your child a strong foundation in reading, writing, and math. But it also teaches your child how to think critically, communicate, solve problems, and use their knowledge in ways that both matter in school and will matter in a rapidly changing future.*

The new curriculum has been in place in all grades since 2019, but report cards and the way student learning is communicated haven’t really changed for decades. Report cards are now changing to align with the curriculum and to help ensure that every student in the province is set up for success in their learning.

#### **R5.3 Field Trips**

A field trip request was brought forward for board approval to start the planning process.

(2023-11-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurmann

THAT, the Board approve in principle Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus Grade 8 and 9 French Immersion students planning a French Immersion trip to Quebec from May 25, 2024 to June 3, 2024.

CARRIED

The Superintendent reported that the Director of Instruction, Paul Chisholm, has been in communication with Ms. Groff and Ms. Malkinson regarding the international trip to Europe in the spring of 2024, previously approved for planning by the Board. The trip is being planned in partnership with EF Tours. Mr. Chisholm has given approval to continue with planning.

## **6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER**

### **R6.1 2023-24 Estimated Operating Grant Update**

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update on the estimated 2023-24 operating grant comparing the September 2023 actual enrolment to the February 2023 projections submitted to the Ministry. The operating grant will be recalculated officially by the Ministry with an announcement in December.

### **R6.2 Secretary Treasurers Report November 2023**

The Secretary Treasurer’s report for November was presented.

## 7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

### R7.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. Trustees and district staff attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy held in Vancouver from November 23-26, 2023. The provincial council meeting will be held in February 2024.

February 2-3, 2024 is the date set for the next Northern Interior Branch meeting to be held in Prince George.

May 4, 2024 is the date set for the Leadership series meeting.

### R7.2 Conflict of interest Update – C. Hillton

Trustee Hillton reported she has a family member belonging to CUPE Local 3052 and will step down as the BCPSEA representative.

Trustee Gulick was appointed as the new representative and Trustee Schurmann will serve as the alternate.

## 8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### R8.1 Indigenous Councils

Both councils held their annual enhancement meetings. Members of council broke into smaller groups which included school administrators and school coach mentors to review the school goals from last year and create new goals for the current year. Both councils will have their next meeting coming up on December 5<sup>th</sup> which will be a gathering to celebrate the year so far.

### R8.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee is working on the Trustee Code of Conduct policy updates.

## 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 – December 20, 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

(2023-11-008)

MOVED – Jones

THAT, the Regular Meeting be terminated. (2:07 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

  
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(C. Anderson) Board Chair

  
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(K. Morris) Secretary Treasurer