



# 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: September 21, 2022 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:  
C. Anderson (Chair)  
C. Hillton (Vice-Chair)  
T. Ziemer via zoom  
R. Gulick  
T. Jones  
B. Borton - absent  
J. Lalonde

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm.

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

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: R7.2 Trustee Benefits

Deletions:

(2022-09-005)  
MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Lalonde  
THAT, the regular meeting agenda be approved as amended.  
CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2022

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2022-09-006)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting June 22, 2022 approved as printed.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – June 22, 2022

(2022-09-007)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting June 22, 2022 approved as printed.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

R4.1 Auditor

Mr. Neufeld from Sander Rose Bone Grindle accounting firm presented the audit report to the Board. The auditor found the financial statements to present fairly, in all material aspect, in accordance with all required regulation.

5.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R5.1 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements with the Board. The district was in an Accumulated Operating Surplus position as at June 30, 2022 and ended the year with a total Operating Surplus of \$1.5 million.

An operating reserve balance of \$10 million is available, of which \$3.6 million is internally restricted.

(2022-09-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Hillton

THAT, the Board approve the 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

CARRIED

R5.2 Audit Management Letter

The audit management letter was reviewed. The audit letter indicates any concerns, observations, and recommendations. The auditors found no major issues and no additional internal controls were recommended.

R5.3 2021-22 Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis Report

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the 2021-22 Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis Report. The report is an overview of the financial statement discussion with the Board.

#### R5.4 Preliminary Enrollment

The preliminary enrollment was reported at 3673 FTE (an increase of 18 FTE from projected enrollment). Canalta Elementary and Crescent Park Elementary schools have seen significant increases to their enrollment. Final enrollment numbers for ministry funding will be determined as of September 29<sup>th</sup> and reported in the October board meeting.

#### R55 Minor Capital Submission

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the 2023-24 Minor Capital Plan initiatives to be submitted to the Ministry.

(2022-09-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Lalonde

In accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No.59 (*Peace River South*) hereby approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan (Minor Capital Programs) for 2023/24, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2023/24 submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

CARRIED

#### R5.6 Portable Update

The District was able to secure two refurbished portables at a total cost of \$299,300. An additional \$100,000 is estimated to be incurred for set up costs. They are expected to be delivered and set up by the end of October.

#### R5.7 Long Range Facilities Plan-DRAFT

The Secretary Treasurer has been developing a Long Range Facilities Plan. The plan is still in draft phase as consultation still needs to be completed.

### 6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

#### R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- The districts leadership team held a retreat at the Pat O'Reilly Education Site at Gwillim Lake on August 28-29, 2022.
- TRSS has window murals painted representing Truth and Reconciliation which will be recognized on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Little Prairie and Devereaux elementary students are harvesting their gardens that were planted before school ended in June.
- Many schools are inviting the Cops for Cancer Tour to give presentations at their school to bring awareness to their fundraising tour which supports childhood cancer research.
- CSS has been very busy with student field trips activities.
- Don Titus Elementary has started their breakfast program and a ukulele group.
- DCSS-South Peace unveiled their new penguin mural in the gym. School athletes are celebrated with banners in the gym.
- Ecole Frank Ross started their cross-country running club. Students in grade 4/5 enjoyed creating their Picasso portraits, and French immersion grade 5/6 students are thinking of ideas of how to make their town better, some ideas include having a pump track, recycling, more police officers and a swimming pool by the school!
- Moberly Lake Elementary school hosted a pancake breakfast for students and their families.

- Crescent Park Elementary School has some amazing bulletin boards that welcomed students back to school.
- PRSTA is hosting Aiming for Excellence Conference on October 24 & 25.
- SD59 will be represented at the UBC teacher hiring fair.
- The district is implementing an elementary athletic director position to help support elementary extra-curricular activities.

The Superintendent announced the following principal appointments since the last meeting in June. The appointments were effective August 1, 2022:

- Joanne Dueck – Principal at McLeod Elementary
- JoAnne Malkinson – Vice-Principal at DCSS Central Campus
- Heather McInnis – Vice-Principal at Crescent Park Elementary
- James McKechnie – Vice-Principal at Tremblay Elementary

### R6.2 Early Learning Initiatives

The province is offering school districts funding to expand their early learning initiatives and child care spaces on school grounds. All school districts must complete an Environmental Scan during the 2022-23 school year. Completing an Environmental Scan will support schools, districts and the Ministry of Education and Child Care to understand the provincial landscape of early learning and child care. The environmental scan will provide baseline data to support a planned, integrated approach to strengthen capacity in schools and districts and to grow early learning and child care on school grounds.

One of the first initiatives of the district will be starting a pilot project in 2023. The “Just B4” Early Childhood Education Child Care Program is specifically designed for 4 year old children to attend “Just B4” Kindergarten. Just B4 will utilize one of our Strong Start spaces in the afternoon. The district will reach out to parents in the next few months to pre-register in the program and choose the days they would like to attend. Just B4 is a licensed pre-school program and therefore parents do not need to attend. More information will come out in the next few months.

### R6.3 Mental Health Funding

The Ministry is providing grant funding in the amount of \$3.633 million to support mental health and well-being in schools and provide additional support for students, families, and educators.

The district has received \$55,000 in grant funding that will be used to continue to support Social Emotional Learning initiatives, trauma-informed practices, mental health literacy, and compassionate systems leadership training for SD59 staff including mental health wellness.

### R6.4 Student and Family Affordability Fund

The province has announced that \$60 million will be provided to school districts through the Student and Family Affordability Fund to help families feeling the effects of global inflation. The one-time funding will be provided directly to school districts to help expand school meal programs, make sure students have the school supplies they need and cover any additional fees so that students in need can take part in activities, such as field trips.

Plans for this additional funding are already underway as many schools have expanded their meal programs. The district will connect with schools, the DPAC and the Indigenous Advisory Councils, to seek input on how to best support the meal programs, school supplies and other school expenses.

#### R6.5 Enhancing Student Learning Ministry Cooperate Group

The Ministry started a support program to assist school districts in their strategic planning process. The program is now in year two. School districts are grouped into two categories (Communicate or Cooperate) based on what year of their current Strategic Plan they are in. School District No. 59 (PRS) is in the Cooperate component which is designed for all 60 districts to cycle through using a 4-year cycle. Districts will participate in a peer review process that will include a self-assessment and focused conversation. Board Chairs, Superintendents, Secretary Treasurers, and other district leaders will be involved in the process.

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning is an annual report that combines accountability with evidence-based decision making to support a system wide program of continuous improvement. It brings a formalized approach to the planning and reporting expectations for all school districts with a focus on improving student learning and enhancing the intellectual, social and career development of all students in the K-12 public system. The report is due to the Ministry by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The district is in the final stages of completing the report and will present it at the October board meeting.

### 7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

#### R7.1 BCSTA Update – T. Ziemer

Trustee Ziemer provided the latest news and events from BCSTA.

The Board Chair presented certificates of recognition and pins on behalf of BCSTA to Trustee Ziemer for serving as a school trustee for 4 terms and Trustee Hillton for serving two terms.

The Board Chair congratulated Lynne Brissard, a teacher from CSS, that has been selected as a finalist in the 2022 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education. The award winners will be announced at a ceremony at Government House in Victoria on October 14, 2022.

#### R7.2 Trustee Benefit – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick asked for clarification in Regulation 2205 Trustee Remuneration, Benefits and Recognition in regard to purchasing technology at the end of term or leave of office. Members of the board weighed in on their intent of the regulation; the board would accept a motion at the October board meeting if a trustee wants to bring forward a change to the current regulation.

### 8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 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 – October 19, 2022 (Chetwynd)

ADJOURNMENT

(2022-09-010)

MOVED – Hillton

THAT, the Regular Meeting be terminated. (3:42 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



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(C. Anderson) Board Chair



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(M. Panoulis) Secretary Treasurer