



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 21, 2021 – 1:00 PM via Zoom

PLACE: School District Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

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

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

Called to Order – 1:03 PM

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: R5.8 Principal Announcement

Deletions:

(2021-04-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT, the Regular Meeting agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2021

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2021-04-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting March 10, 2021 approved as presented.

R1.3 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – March 10, 2021

(2021-04-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting March 10, 2021 approved as presented.

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:

- Tumbler Ridge Elementary received a donation from Peace River Coal to update furniture in the school library.
- Don Titus Elementary students have been very busy – The school participated in an Easter Egg hunt, Green Day, hiking outdoors and chicken hatching.
- Engineering students at DCSS South Peace Campus have designed and tested trebuchets (catapults) and model airplanes. Carpentry students designed and built pinball machines and art students weaved Amulet bags.
- Canalta Elementary students are busy hatching chickens.
- Little Prairie students also designed and built catapults. The students are enjoying the new outdoor benches that were built by a local chainsaw carver.
- Windrem students are participating in many activities to learn about friction. A grade 2 student initiated a spring clean-up day that brought the whole school together to clean up the school grounds. The school is also promoting literacy through a month-long family fluency activity which engages the entire family in reading activities at home.
- TRSS students have been hosting podcasts, a recent recording was an interview with Peace River South MLA, Mike Bernier.
- Central Campus students have designed a newsletter called Coyote Quarterly and the Student Voice group is busy conducting an environmental scan. Students are also getting creative and building outdoor garden spaces using pallets.
- Every Student Matters t-shirts designed by DCSS student, Shayne Hommy, are now available for ordering through the Orange Shirt Society (<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>).

R5.2 Student Discipline Report

The student discipline summary report for the month of March 2021 was presented. A total of 34 suspensions were reported. Following is a breakdown of the main offences:

- o Safety of Others 15
- o Controlled Substance 6
- o Fighting 4
- o Smoking 4

R5.3 COVID Protocols Update

On March 31, 2021, increased provincial COVID protocols were announced. All K to 12 staff and all students in grades 4 to 12 are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, this includes riding the school bus. School District No.59 protocol guidelines are available on our website.

The School District has reported a total of 26 school exposures, 15 of the exposures have been announced since spring break. The District continues to work closely with Northern Health and reports that the current COVID safety plans in our schools, when followed correctly, are very effective in preventing transmission. Schools will continue to implement the strict protocols and procedures that are in place so that students can continue to attend school as safely as possible.

R5.4 FSA Update

The Foundational Skills Assessments have been completed throughout the District. The overall participation rate was between 86-88%. The exams have been marked locally and selections have been sent to the Ministry.

R5.5 Indigenous Enhancement Agreement Update

The Superintendent reported the goals have been established for the next Enhancement Agreement which spans from 2021-2025. Work will continue on the Agreement and will be ready to be presented at the June board meeting.

R5.6 Mural Request

Dawson Creek Secondary – South Peace Campus has submitted a mural request. As with board policy (6060 – Mural Painting on School Walls), the school must seek approval from their Parent Advisory Council and the Superintendent before a recommendation is made to the Board. Once approved, the school must work with the district facilities department for implementation of the mural.

(2021-04-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Gulick

THAT, the Board approve to allow Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus to proceed with planning for the wall mural;

WHEREAS, the planning must follow the process as established in Policy 6060 and have approval of the school administration, PAC, and district facilities department;

FURTHERMORE, final approval will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R5.7 Strategic Plan Posters

Three graphic representations of the Strategic Plan were created. The graphics will also be made into posters and will be displayed in schools throughout the district.

R5.8 Principal Announcements

The Superintendent announced the appointment of Jody Bougerolle as Principal of Don Titus Montessori School, effective August 1, 2021. Mrs. Bougerolle has been the acting Principal of Don Titus Montessori for the current school year.

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R6.1 Finance Reports

The Secretary Treasurer presented Finance Reports as of March 31, 2021.

R6.2 Pouce Coupe Elementary School Expansion

The Ministry of Education has given final approval for the capital project expansion at Pouce Coupe Elementary School. The capital expansion will eliminate the need for the two portables currently in use at the school. The next step in the project is to prepare the tender documents. The goal of the expansion project is to be completed in time to welcome students back to school in September.

R6.3 2020-21 Operating Grant Holdback Funding

The Ministry of Education recently announced the 2020-21 public school grant "holdback". The District received \$46,780 in holdback funds.

The Ministry has targeted the holdback funds to address the learning impacts due to the pandemic. Areas of consideration may be:

- Assess learning impacts to students due to the pandemic.
- Develop and deliver additional resources to address learning impacts to students caused by the pandemic.
- Deliver learning recovery strategies.

R6.4 Initial 2021-22 Capital Plan Response Letter

The Ministry is announcing approval of School District Capital Plans in two stages. The *initial* Capital Plan Response Letter identifies approved projects from the School Enhancement Program (SEP) and Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP). The *amended* Capital Plan Response Letter will follow in May and will identify any additional SEP and CNCP projects; the amended letter will also identify supported and approved capital projects for the other capital programs.

School District No. 59's initial Capital Plan Response Letter identified the following SEP and CNCP capital projects for 2021-22:

- McLeod Elementary School – Roofing Upgrade (\$250,000)
- DCSS-SP Campus – HVAC Upgrade (\$750,000)
- CSS/Windrem Schools – HVAC Upgrade (\$500,000)

R6.5 2021-22 Preliminary Grant

The Preliminary Base Operating Grant Funding for the 2021-22 school year was announced on March 12, 2021. The District is projecting a preliminary enrolment count of 3595 FTE with total funding of \$45,047,902.

R6.6 2021-22 Budget Recommendations

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2021-22 budget recommendations. The report aligns the recommendations to the district Strategic Plan priorities.

R6.7 Distributed Learning Enrollment Update

The Distributed Learning Enrollment update was presented. Current enrollment total is 161. Students are continuing to go in and out of the program. The Ministry of Education is implementing some changes provincially in the distributed learning program. The changes are to be implemented over a three-year transition phase.

R6.8 Chetwynd Transportation (Cameras)

The Secretary-Treasurer presented information received from Standard Bus regarding cameras on buses. Standard Bus currently has no contracts that have cameras installed on 100% of the buses, those that do have camera systems have are 2 or 3 cameras not 5. Standard Bus is currently not using stop-arm cameras in any of their contracts.

Currently Standard Bus services 13 routes in the Chetwynd area for our district and has a 2 camera system installed on four buses that record activity inside the bus.

Additional consideration is the ability to standardize the level of cameras across all buses that School District 59 students ride. The School District owned buses have a 5 camera system. The previously reported estimated cost to purchase the same system for the buses in Chetwynd would be approximately \$36,000. This would be an addition of capital equipment for Standard Bus which is not included in the current contract. The District would be billed the full cost.

The Board considered additional camera requirements for the Chetwynd buses.

After discussion, the following motion was presented:

(2021-04-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ziemer/Jones

THAT, the board approve to maintain the current level of inside cameras (25%) on buses that service the regular School District routes in Chetwynd.

DEFEATED (Anderson, Gullick, Jones, Hillton)

A new motion was presented that passed with amendment.

(2021-04-011)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Hillton

THAT, the board direct the Secretary Treasurer to work with Standard Bus to implement stop arm camera systems on 3 buses that service school district routes in Chetwynd.

CARRIED (Gullick)

(2021-04-009)

MOVED/SECONDED - Gulick/Lalonde

THAT, the motion be amended by striking the words "to work with Standard Bus" and "Chetwynd" and add "School District No. 59".

DEFEATED – (Gullick, Anderson, Ziemer, Lalonde, Hillton, Jones)

(2021-04-010)

MOVED/SECONDED - Ziemer/Hillton

THAT, the motion be amended by striking "all" and insert "3".

CARRIED – (Gullick)

7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R7.1 BCSTA Update – T. Jones

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

Several trustees attend the BCSTA AGM which was held virtually from April 16-18, 2021.

R7.2 Outdoor Learning Spaces – C. Hillton

Trustee Hillton inquired how many outdoor learning spaces are in the district.

The Superintendent reported the district has eight schools with dedicated outdoor learning areas. In most cases, PAC fundraising or grant funding was obtained to build the spaces. Many of the areas are not conducive for writing, laying out papers or working on projects as they are mainly landscaped outdoor areas with bench seating. The district is looking at options to purchase outdoor picnic tables for school sites which will allow the spaces to be used for multipurpose activities.

As the weather get nicer, more teachers are taking their classes outside for different activities.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R8.1 Policy Committee

R8.1.1 Policies for Adoption

The Policy Committee presented two policies for adoption. No feedback was received during the circulation period.

(2021-04-012)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT, the following policies be adopted as presented:

- Policy 5190: Use of School Facilities;
- Policy 5195: Child Care in School District Facilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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 19, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

(2021-04-013)

MOVED – Ziemer

THAT, the Regular Meeting be terminated. (3:21 PM)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



(C. Anderson) Board Chair



(M. Panoulis) Secretary Treasurer