



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: September 22, 2021 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School District Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

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

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

The Organizational Meeting was called to order by the Secretary Treasurer at 1:01 PM

The Secretary-Treasurer acknowledged that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8.

Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

The Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

Trustee Gulick nominated Trustee Anderson (accepted)

The Secretary Treasurer made a second and third call for further nominations.

(2021-09-008)

MOVED to cease nominations – Borton

Congratulations to Trustee Anderson to hold position as Board Chair by acclamation.

The Secretary Treasurer turned the gavel over to the Board Chair.

The Board Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Trustee Borton nominated Crystal Hillton. (accepted)

The Board Chair made a second and third call for further nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

(2021-09-009)
MOVED to cease nominations – Lalonde

Congratulations to Trustee Hillton to hold position as Vice-Chair by acclamation.

The following declarations were made:

- Trustee Anderson – family (sibling) member in Teamsters Union outside of BC
- Trustee Borton – family member belongs to Unifor
- Trustee Jones – family member belongs to BCTF
- Trustee Hillton – belongs to CUPE
- Trustee Gulick – none
- Trustee Ziemer – none
- Trustee Lalonde – family member belongs to BCGEU

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions:

Deletions:

(2021-09-010)
MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Borton
THAT, the Regular Meeting agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2021

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2021-09-011)
The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting June 23, 2021 approved as amended.

Correction to R6.7: Trustee Hillton conflict declaration should read Trustee Hillton belongs to CUPE.

R1.2 Special Board Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2021

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2021-09-012)

The Chair declared the minutes of the special open meeting July 28, 2021 approved as presented.

R1.3 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – June 23, 2021

(2021-09-013)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting June 23, 2021 approved as presented.

R1.4 Excerpts of Special Closed Board Meeting – September 14, 2021

(2021-09-014)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the special closed board meeting September 14, 2021 approved as presented.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

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 Audited Financial Statements 2020-21

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the 2020-21 Audited Financial Statements with the Board. The District was in an Accumulated Operating Surplus position as at June 30, 2021 and ended the year with a total Operating Surplus of \$1,450,818. The majority of the operating surplus is in the following areas:

- o underspent funds in Indigenous Education (\$93,417)
- o Holdback Funding (\$141,969)
- o Service Improvement Allocation (\$27428)
- o School-Based Surpluses (\$477,552)

Therefore, the District-based portion of the Operating Surplus is \$710,452.

An operating reserve balance of \$8.5 million is available, of which \$2.0 million is internally restricted.

(2021-09-015)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT, the Board approve the 2020-21 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R5.2 Audit Management Letter

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

R5.3 2020-21 Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis Report

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the 2020-21 Financial Statement Analysis Report. The report is an overview of the financial statement discussion with the Board.

R5.4 Minor Capital Submission

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the 2022-23 Minor Capital Plan initiatives to be submitted to the Ministry.

(2021-09-016)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Borton

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 Minor Capital submission of the Five-Year Capital Plan for 2022/23, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2022/23 submission to the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R5.5 Preliminary Enrollment

The preliminary enrollment was reported at 3639.93 FTE (an increase of 44.9 FTE from projected enrollment). Students registering in distributed learning this year are not tagged to their catchment area school. Final enrollment numbers for Ministry funding will be determined as of September 29th and reported in the October board meeting.

R5.6 Restart Funding

In June 2021, the province of BC announced \$43.6 million of funding. The District received \$74,932 to support mental health, \$109,006 for ongoing health and safety measures and \$141,969 in holdback funding to address impacts from the pandemic on student learning. The holdback allocation was received in April and June of 2021. The District is targeting the funds towards staff to assist families to re-engage with school and to provide additional classroom support for students.

R5.7 Pouce Coupe Elementary Expansion Update

Northern Lights Legendary Construction Ltd began the Pouce Coupe expansion project over the summer. The two portables onsite were moved and are still being used as classroom space. One was relocated to Canalta Elementary School and the other one is still being used by Pouce Coupe Elementary until the expansion is complete. The portable will then be relocated to Crescent Park Elementary School.

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- All schools enjoyed the delivery of smile cookies from the Hospital Foundation Smile Cookie campaign last week. Thank-you to the local businesses and organizations that sponsored schools.
- Devereaux Elementary students are excited to have a new universally acceptable playground installed.
- Intermediate students at Crescent Park and Ecole Frank Ross were excited to start the school year off with field trips to Swan Lake – the students participated in leadership, teamwork, outdoor and canoeing activities.
- DCSS campuses are excited to have extra-curricular and intra-mural sport activities back. Unchagah Hall has also opened up for use.
- Central Campus students held a moc vote with the election.
- SD59 will honour Truth and Reconciliation the week of September 27th to October 1st. Orange Shirt Day will be recognized on September 29th.
- Chetwynd Secondary School welcomed students back with a welcome breakfast table; grads are being recognized with their names on flowers, painted lockers decorate the hallways, art students are making ceramics, foods classes are baking cinnamon buns and the leadership class is active with planning events already.
- TRSS Art classes are focusing on sketching.
- Little Prairie grade two students are studying neural pathways and social emotional learning.

R6.2 COVID-19 Communicable Disease Plan & Return to School

School District No.59 (PRS) has updated the health and safety protocols for the return to school this fall. The protocols were updated in reference to the recently announced K-12 Education Recovery Plan and Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings. The District has implemented additional measures in the health and safety protocols due to the higher case counts and the low vaccination rates in our area. Schools also have site specific plans with additional information specific for their site. Individuals are encouraged to review the plans on the school district website as well as individual school sites. The province will be reinstating exposure notifications; however, the details around how the notices will be presented hasn't been announced yet.

R6.3 Framework for Enhanced Student Learning

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) report was presented to the Board. The report is submitted to the Ministry of Education as a formal document that is used to set, create and maintain a strategic plan, annually report on student outcomes and put systems in place with a focus on enhancing student learning and success. It combines accountability with evidence-informed decision making and system-wide continuous improvement to support equity of outcomes for all students in the provincial K-12 public system, including Indigenous students, children and youth in care, and students with disabilities or diverse abilities.

R6.4 Tripartite Transportation Agreements

The Superintendent shared the Tripartite Transportation Agreements for Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations. The Agreements are signed by both the Board of Education and First Nations and are sent to the Ministry of Education.

R6.5 Student Discipline Report

The student discipline summary report for the month of June 2021 was presented. A total of 35 suspensions were reported. Following is a breakdown of the main offences:

- o Safety of Others 12
- o Fighting 8
- o Controlled Substance 7

The Board discussed the purpose of continuing to provide this report monthly and agreed on receiving an annual summary report instead.

R6.6 2021-22 School Calendar Revision

The 2021-22 school calendar was amended to align with provincial and federal legislation to recognize September 30th, 2021 as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Ministry of Education reduced the minimum hours of instructional minutes five hours; therefore, there is no impact on the daily instructional hours in schools.

(2021-09-017)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Borton

THAT, the Board approve the amended 2021-22 school calendar as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R7.1 BCSTA Update – T. Jones

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

R7.2 Recording Board Meetings – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented a motion to record public board meetings and make available on the school district website for public access.

(2021-09-018)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Lalonde

THAT, the public board meetings be recorded (audio and video) and posted online for a 2 month trial period to allow for public viewing;

WHEREAS, this new practice will be reviewed after the 2-month trial period and if the new process is approved to continue the recordings will be posted for a minimum of 365 days before expiring;

FURTHERMORE, it is understood that technology restraints or issues may arise and may be limited in venue's outside of the School District Board Office; therefore, recordings may not be available in those circumstances.

CARRIED (Opposed: Jones, Ziemer)

R7.3 2021-22 Committees & Reps

The Board assigned trustees to standing committees and schools for the 2021-22 school year.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R8.1 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee brought forward the following recommendations:

R8.1.1 Policies for Adoption

The Policy Committee presented the following regulation for adoption:

(2021-09-019)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Ziemer

THAT, the Board adopt Policy 3170 Respectful Workplace: Bullying and Harassment as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R8.1.2 Policies for Review

The following new policy and regulation was presented for circulation:

(2021-09-020)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Lalonde

THAT, the Board circulate Policy 3165 Public Interest Disclosure for review for a minimum period of 45 days.

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 – October 20, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

(2021-09-021)

MOVED – Borton

THAT, the Regular Meeting be terminated. (3:55 PM)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



(C. Anderson) Board Chair



(M. Panoulis) Secretary Treasurer