

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MEETING HELD IN PUBLIC
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021
MINUTES**

In person at the School Board Office – 811 Stanley Street, Nelson and via video conference

BOARD:

L. Trenaman, Board Chair
S. Nazaroff, Board Vice-Chair
A. Gribbin (*via videoconference*)
B. Maslechko (*via videoconference*)
C. Beebe (*via videoconference*)
D. Lang (*via videoconference*)
S. Walsh
B. Coons (*via videoconference*)

DISTRICT STAFF:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
M. McLellan, Secretary-Treasurer
B. Eaton, Director of Innovative Learning Services
C. Kerr, Acting Director of Operations
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
D. Holitzki, Director of Inclusive Education
N. Howald, Director of Information Technology
R. Simpson, District Principal Distributed Learning/MyEd BC
T. Malloff, District Principal Innovative Learning Services
N. Ross, District Principal Innovative Learning Services
J. Stein, Innovative Learning Services
Stefanie Whale, Executive Assistant

PARTNERS

A. Early, CUPE (*via videoconference*)
C. Wilson, KLTF (*via videoconference*)
D. Kunzelman, KLTF (*via videoconference*)
M. Bennett, CUPE (*via videoconference*)

GUESTS:

M. Cinq
S.-L. McGregor, Teacher
J. Adams, Vice Principal
R. Sherman, Vice Principal
S. Maloff, Principal
A. Strachan, Principal
J. Cat
Cari-Lynn
C. Bayly
L. Douglas
J. McMurray
Maria
S. Keenan
Shelby
D. Reiner
S. Faken
J. Speirs
V. Bullock
N. Brown

Satsi
F. Cursons
Heather
Chris
Alexandra
Jam
Megan
Munby
Rob
J. Arrowsmith
L. Bourassa
D. Boyer
Jeff
N. Robertson
S. Solomon

REGRETS:

S. Chew, Trustee

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:14pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

We acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District No. 8.

3. Introductions

4. Insertions/Deletions to Proposed Agenda

- Item 10A removed: COVID Update.
- Two handouts were uploaded to the website:
 - For Consent Package: Financial report for the period ended September 30, 2021
 - For Item 10C: Detailed Enrolment Report by School

5. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

21/22-006

THAT the amended Agenda for this October 26, 2021 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

6. Receiving Presentations/Delegations - Nil

7. Opportunity for Comments or Questions by the Public - Nil

8. Consent Package

Letters listed as items 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 in the consent package were requested to be pulled from the correspondence package, as was the Budget Development Schedule.

A Trustee inquired if responses to these letters had been sent out.

Guests from the public N. Robertson and S. Solomon left the meeting at 5:18pm.

The Superintendent responded that responses have been drafted and be circulated through the Board. One Trustee inquired if staff could provide overview of Homelinks funding and new supervisory structure regarding letter number 4 & 5.

The Superintendent invited the District Principal of Homelinks to speak to these changes. The District Principal of Homelinks reported that traditionally Nelson, Creston and Kaslo were all separate Ministry Education codes, over summer this shifted to one Ministry School.

The Secretary-Treasurer added that it appeared there might be a misconception on how much funding was allocated per student historically, and reported that this year the funding amounts in Homelinks were reduced to approximately 800 per student, down from 900 per student, which is approximately a 14% decrease.

A Trustee inquired about the group activity funding is and why it was withdrawn.

The Superintendent responded that it is a funding portion by each online learning student given to District as result of enrolment.

The Secretary-Treasurer added that the district allocation was reduced this year but not withdrawn. All schools across the District this year have a tighter district-allocated budgets. He noted that use of activity funding was expected to be down this year like last year due to COVID 19, as the district has seen much lower use of activity budgets. Additionally, he noted that Kaslo Homelinks had a negative carry forward from the prior year due to the school running a deficit in the prior year, which would possibly help explain reduction.

A Trustee asked for clarification in the Budget Development Schedule on page 33, asking about the survey scheduled for April 1st if it would be too late.

The Chair responded that survey would be sent out with preliminary budget draft by April 1st to public asking for feedback and that staff would be working to get balanced budget together afterwards.

9. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

21/22-007

THAT the minutes from the September 21, 2021 Regular Meeting **BE ADOPTED.**

10. Future and Action Item Tracking

It was requested to move Resolution 20/21-065 from “completed” to “in progress” which the Secretary-Treasurer acknowledged.

11. Education

A. COVID-19 Update and Vaccine Mandate – Superintendent Smillie

The Chair explained why this topic has been moved to a closed meeting as it is related to sensitive labour issues and not appropriate to discuss in public.

The Superintendent provided a COVID Update:

- cases in our region are turning down
- Number of cases lit to cases in schools are much fewer than in community
- K-5 mask mandate is going well
- Work with students in inclusive type of situation that have wonderful learning experience
- Information from BCPSEA received that provide us with information and guidelines that are available to public relative to contemplating mandatory vaccine polices for staff.

B. 2020-2021 FSA Report – Superintendent Smillie

The Superintendent informed that FSA is an annual process in BC where Gr 4 and 7 take an exam which provides a snapshot for province and district on student performance and helps in strategy building. She handed it over to the District Principal Innovative Learning Services and Principal who presented the results in detail and shared slides on the screen.

Trustees asked various questions:

- Why numeracy drop in Gr 4 and 7 aren't consistent both provincially and SD8
- If there are strategies and alignment of resources moving forward with low numbers of indigenous students
- How we are supporting students with diverse needs in Elev8 and Desk
- Whether identified diverse needs or regular student write the same test

C. 2021-2022 Enrolment Report – Superintendent Smillie

The Superintendent reminded that there was a new handout posted to the website in addition to the one memo on this topic attached to the agenda.

She pointed out the importance of the confirmed enrollment as the budget depends on this heavily. She reported that the total enrolment increased by 21 FTE compared to last year and analyzed results in more detail.

The Board posed various questions:

- Impact on staffing

- Why projected numbers are off from actual enrolment numbers
- Why REACH has seen a drop in enrolment numbers
- Why students with unique needs last spring had higher number projected

D. Remembrance Day Schedule – Superintendent Smillie

The Superintendent explained that Remembrance Day is held in schools each year as a requirement in school regulation and Trustees are invited to attend the ceremonies. She referred to the attached schedule.

12. Operations and Finance

A. Capital Operations Plan Update:

- Wildflower Facilities Update – Secretary-Treasurer McLellan
- Salmo Project Update – Secretary-Treasurer McLellan

The Secretary-Treasurer noted that this is a standing item on agenda and that there is relatively little new information since the last meeting when all of the work completed during the summer was announced. He referred to the attached memos Wildflower Project Appendix 11A-1 and the Salmo Sports Courts and Skate Park Appendix 11A2 to find details.

A Trustee asked how much of the previously approved “up to \$50,000” has been spent on the Salmo project. The Secretary-Treasurer stated the funding for the Salmo project has not all been spent yet, but would be expected to be fully spent by next spring.

B. Ventilation Improvements – Secretary-Treasurer McLellan

The Director of Operations provided an update on ventilation in schools work completed by the operations team to meet ministry requirements to provide fresh air.

C. 2021/22 Budget Update – Secretary-Treasurer McLellan

The Secretary-Treasurer shared his screen to present the monthly financial report September 30, 2021 which was posted as a handout. He reminded that it's a constrained budget year and that the District has about 2% less revenue and at the same time all costs are about 4-5% more. He summarized the reasons why the district will receive significantly less revenues this year.

A Trustee inquired about support staff ratio on page 5 vs page 11 on the report. Secretary-Treasurer explained how the categories of employee are different on each page.

13. Governance and Policy

A. Section 200 Policies

- Policy 210: Provision of Menstrual Products to Students
- Policy 220: Maintenance of Order
- Policy 230: Child Abuse and Neglect
- Policy 240: Anaphylaxis
- Policy 270: Memorials for Deceased Members of the School Community

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 21/22-008

THAT updated Policies 210, 220, 230, 240 and 270 **BE APPROVED.**

A Trustee inquired about Policy 270 and if it wasn't decided to take this back to staff. In answer to this query, the Chair stated that there might be a Policy Pro Forma coming but there are no changes at this point.

- Policy 250: Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices
- Policy 251: Cannabis
- Policy 260: Scent Free Environment

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 21/22-009

THAT policies 250, 251 and 260 **BE REVIEWED** by staff.

B. Policy 660: Provision of Child Care

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 21/22-010

THAT the Field testing of revised Policy 660 **BE APPROVED.**

A discussion ensued and one Trustee expressed concern with incorporating Child Care in our facilities regarding the pressure of funding.

The Superintendent responded that such service would come from outside revenues and wouldn't affect SD8's funding.

The Chair noted that this policy is only going out for field testing and that this concern could be addressed at a later point.

The Trustee reminded that he would like an amended motion to this policy at later point.

C. De-amalgamation – Chair Trenaman

The Chair asked the Vice-Chair to take over the Chair.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED**:

21/22-011

THAT the Superintendent investigates, through the Ministry of Education, the possibility for de-amalgamation and evaluates the impact of de-amalgamation on Education, Operations, and Finance.

A Trustee spoke to the motion and presented the following statement:

“In 1996 School District 86, Creston-Kaslo was amalgamated with School District 7, Nelson, which then became the new School District 8, Kootenay Lake we have today.

Since his election in 2018 Trustee Gribbin has been promoting and advocating for the de amalgamation of Creston from SD8.

In an effort to fully understand his view, November 2018 I suggested he place this topic as an item on a public meeting agenda however he declined and now I am doing so 3 years later.

In April 2019 and again October 2020 Trustee Gribbin submitted articles to the Creston Valley Advance focused on de amalgamation.

This new district, he informed us, would be a smaller one which would only include the students and schools in the Creston Valley; it would not include those of Crawford Bay or Kaslo which had been a part of the former SD86.

Trustee Gribbin has canvassed for support for this initiative from both MLA and Town of Creston Councilor candidates. He has made it very clear that he will make this a focal discussion for the next Board of Education trustee elections in 2022.

I believe that those who run for the office of school trustee are motivated by a passion to support students in their education, from my perspective it follows then, that Trustee Gribbin must believe de amalgamation would be in the best interest of Creston Valley students.

Although I don't agree with many statements Trustee Gribbin has made regarding the history or current delivery of education since amalgamation, I would agree that the amalgamation of school district 86 with school district 7 and creating such a geographically massive district, one with the highest mountain pass in BC and a 104 km lake in the middle, as well as having 2 time zones for half the year, didn't and still doesn't make sense. So maybe trustee Gribbin is right; maybe it would make sense to de amalgamate and students would be better served. I would like to know the potential ramifications.

If de amalgamation is a primary focus of the 2022 trustee elections, I believe that both the Creston Valley trustee candidates, and the Creston Valley constituents should have some concept of what it is they are being encouraged to support.

It should be noted that only the provincial government has the power to determine school district boundaries.

What might be gained or lost for the students of Creston Valley? Will students have more or better opportunities? Will there be better outcomes for students' success? Will there be more, or better services or resources provided to students?

I think it is important that everyone have a common understanding of the potential impacts to the learning and working environments in both resulting new districts. The Board has the means to provide this information through the expertise of our staff.

I believe it is our duty as trustees to make accurate information accessible to everyone

I ask for you to support this motion to help inform current and future trustees, as well as the public so that they are confident that the Board of Education is well informed and supports the best possible learning and working environments for our students and staff.

A discussion ensued and various questions were asked what that would entail and if the timing might be not ideal.

One Trustee abstained the motion.

14. Human Resources

A. Staffing Ratios – Secretary-Treasurer McLellan

The Secretary-Treasurer shared on the screen the memo from the agenda, which is the same analysis of exempt and PVP staffing ratios, as compared to other districts in the province, that was presented at the O&F Committee Meeting on October 19th, 2021.

15. Trustee Reports

A. Trustees

Several Trustees provided updates on various professional development training opportunities attended by the Board, BCSTA Trustee Academy, Truth & Reconciliation Ceremony, C.O.I.N.S. ceremony, as well as Kootenay Boundary Branch, CUPE, PAC, FAC meetings and Hiring interviews.

B. Chair

Chair Trenaman provided an overview of various meetings attended including the Board Working Session, Truth & Reconciliation Ceremony, Consultation Meeting with LKB, as well as BCSTA Board Chairs / Partners Liaison, BCASBO and PAC meetings.

C. BCSTA

D. BCPSEA

The Chair noted that a symposium is coming up soon.

E. RDCK

F. Other Committees

G. Student Trustees

2021-2022 Student Trustees have not yet been selected.

16. Public Question Period

The Board and staff responded to questions from members of the public, including with respect to:

- Homelinks funding appearing to have decreased by 70%
- When the letters addressed to the Board are expected to be replied by

17. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings

The next Open meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2021.

18. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer

