

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC AND INAUGURAL MEETING
MINUTES**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Board:

D. Lang, Chair
J. Bremner, Vice Chair
M. J. Blackmore
S. Chew (*via video conference*)
K. Etheridge (*via video conference*)
A. Gribbin
S. Nazaroff
M. Shunter
L. Trenaman, Chair

District Staff:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning
J. Francis, School Principal
J. Halton – District Diversity Teacher Coordinator
D. Holitzki, Director of Instruction – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
G. Higginbottom, District Principal – Aboriginal Education
M. Hurley, School Principal
C. Kerr, Director of Operations
F. Maika, Manager of Public Engagement
S. Marechal, Teacher
C. Messinger, Teacher
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Student Trustees:

Daisy Lamoureux, J.V. Humphries
Cassidy Popoff, Mount Sentinel

Guests:

Nil

Regrets:

Nil

1. Call to Order – Secretary Treasurer MacArthur

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Trustee Positions & Appointments

A. Election of Board Chair

Trustee Lang was acclaimed Chair of the Board of Education.

The Secretary-Treasurer transferred the meeting Chair position to Chair Lang.

Chair Lang thanked everyone and asked for their support in working towards student success. She thanked previous Board Chair Trenaman for her work.

B. Election of Board Vice-Chair

Trustee Bremner was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Board of Education.

C. Election of Education Partner Advisory Committee Chair

Trustees Shunter and Nazaroff accepted their nominations.

Trustee Nazaroff was elected Education Partner Advisory Committee Chair.

D. Election of Provincial Representative and Alternates

- BCSTA Provincial Councilor

Trustees Chew and Shunter accepted their nominations.

Trustee Chew was elected new BCSTA Provincial Councilor.

- BCPSEA Representative

Trustee Nazaroff was acclaimed BCPSEA Representative.

- BCSTA Provincial Councilor Alternate

Trustee Shunter was acclaimed BCSTA Provincial Councilor Alternate.

- BCPSEA Representative Alternate

Trustees Gribbin, Trenaman, and Etheridge were nominated and declined their nominations.

The role of BCPSEA Alternate remains vacant.

E. Destruction of Ballots (if there is a secret ballot vote held)

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-019

THAT the ballots for the selection of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) 2023-2024 Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Provincial Representatives, **BE DESTROYED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Changes to the Proposed Agenda** – Nil

5. **Adoption of Agenda**

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-020

THAT the Agenda for this November 14, 2023 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Receiving Presentations** – Nil

7. **Comments or Questions from the Public regarding items on this Agenda** – Nil

8. **Consent Package** – Nil

9. **Adoption of Minutes**

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-021

THAT the minutes from the October 10, 2023 Meeting of the Board held in public **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. Future and Action Item Tracking – Nil

11. Education – Reports from the Superintendent

A. Prime Minister’s Award Presentation to Sean Marechal

Superintendent Smillie welcomed Prime Minister’s Award winner Sean Marechal as well as his School Principal Mike Hurley and celebrated their work. Chair Lang read out a letter from MP Richard Cannings on the behalf of the Government of Canada and handed it to Sean Marechal. Sean thanked the Board for the support for the program which allows him to educate students how to safely be active in the outdoors.

B. Bravo Award – SD8 Recipient 2023

Superintendent Smillie welcomed public engagement manager Maika who accepted the Bravo Award from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education for the Public Engagement 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Public Engagement on behalf of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake). The award is a celebration of the work of the Board and recognized excellence in the School Board communications across Canada. Manager of Public Engagement Maika thanked Superintendent Smillie, the Senior Leadership Team, and Trustees for their work when attending the Strategic Engagement sessions. Superintendent Smillie thanked Frances Maia who is highly experienced and brings excellent leadership to the district with her exceptional work.

C. Numeracy Continuous Learning Report

Superintendent Smillie outlined that this report is part of the Continuous Learning report cycle. District Principal – Innovative Learning Malloff presented the 2023-2024 Numeracy Continuing Learning Report. School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) works towards improving numeracy proficiency for all learners as numeracy is a helpful skill for students to make informed decisions, work with and interpret numbers, or solve problems.

The district is working on systemic improvements by aligning Numeracy learning with the Strategic Plan. District Principal Malloff presented the 2022-2026 Numeracy Action Plan and its key aspects:

- Support K-12 school teams in developing strategies to support their school numeracy goal.
- Support elementary school staff.
- Continue implementation of district numeracy assessment in middle years.
- Develop both early and middle years numeracy communities of practice.
- Continue K-12 learning hub
- Facilitate bi-annual and year-end transition planning meetings to ensure successful transitions and improvement in numeracy across all grades.

School Principal John Francis as well as Teacher Charles Messinger shared a success story from Salmo Secondary School.

D. Winter Concert Schedule Memo

Superintendent Smillie presented the 2023-2024 winter celebrations schedule. School leaders will reach out to Trustees directly with invitations to their school's events.

E. Inclusion and Diversity Education

Superintendent Smillie welcomed Director of Instruction – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Holitzki, District Principal – Aboriginal Education Higginbottom and District Diversity Teacher Coordinator Halton. Director Holitzki reported from discussions and misinformation on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in recent months. The BC Curriculum was adopted by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and highlights valuing diversity. SOGI does not have its own curriculum, it is part of human rights and embedded throughout the curriculum in all grades.

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Policy 171: Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and the connected Administrative Procedure 1101: Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) outline the district's commitment to providing a safe, positive, and inclusive learning and working environment for all students and employees regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the British Columbia Human Rights Code.

District Principal Higginbottom and District Diversity Teacher Coordinator Halton presented activities and action items within the district such as the May 2023 Student Symposium or the district's participation at the Nelson Pride Parade in September 2023.

Superintendent Smillie and Director Holitzki responded to Trustees questions:

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) is inclusive for all students and their families regardless of their religious beliefs. Schools are by law secular and schools are safe spaces. Parents can find answers to their questions and information around SOGI on the [SD8 website](#). Materials used in the classroom are age-appropriate and vetted by [Focused Education](#). Parents can contact their child's classroom teacher or school principals if they have questions.

12. Operations and Finance – Nil

13. Governance and Policy – Nil

14. Human Resources – Nil

15. Other Items – Nil

16. Trustee Reports

A. Trustees

- Trustee Shunter reported from the ACE committee meeting which will be replaced by an Indigenous directed committee. May 17 was confirmed as the date for the Student Pow-Wow. The Climate Caucus has a subgroup for School Trustees.

- Trustee Gribbin gave a shoutout to KRSS teacher Loïc Fauteux-Goulet who made it to the Finals of the Great Canadian Baking Show on national television.
- Trustee Nazaroff attended the ACE committee meeting and reported from the Equity Action Plan implementation review. She attended the BCPSEA symposium with Chair Lang, as well as the Student Leadership Conference.
- Vice-Chair Bremner reported from the Student Leadership Conference where she enjoyed discussions with students and gave a shoutout to the district’s Strong Start program.
- Trustee Blackmore reported from the Student Leadership Conference and gave a shoutout to the Green Team. She attended Remembrance Day events in Creston where she could feed the energy at schools.
- Trustee Chew attended the BCSTA Provincial Council. Information getting migrated from the BCSTA hub to the BCSTA portal.

B. Chair

Former Chair Trenaman reported from the Meeting of Board Chairs with MLAs in Victoria where Chairs were able to advocate for education. She attended the BCSTA bylaw review committee meeting as well as the Ministry of Education and Child Care Chair and BCSTA meeting where the new mandatory Holocaust curriculum and new legislation around DRIPPA were discussed. She also reported from the RDCK Recreation Commission 10 (Area E East) committee meeting as well as the Student Leadership Conference in Salmo and the Redfish Elementary Remembrance Day Celebration.

C. BCSTA – see above

D. BCPSEA – see above

E. RDCK – see above

F. Other Committees – see above

G. Student Trustees

- J.V. Humphries Student Trustee Daisy Lamoureux reported from the Student Leadership Conference. Organizing Christmas events has begun in Kaslo, including the collection of donations to make food hampers.
- Student Trustee Cassidy Popoff attended the Student Leadership Conference for Mount Sentinel Secondary. Student council at Mount Sentinel organized the Remembrance Day events which included presentations from living witnesses as well as collections for the legion. The drama festival brought back theatre and voice performance.

17. Comments or Questions from the Public

Superintendent Smillie answered questions from the public:

- The district stands behind educators who implement SOGI discussions in their classrooms and who make everyone feel safe. Resources are provided on the website. The district responds to activists who try to be disruptive.
- Parents who are concerned about what is taught in the classroom are encouraged to connect with their child’s classroom teacher or school principal.

Members from the public thanked the district for uplifting trans and queer voices and for their work on SOGI. The Superintendent thanked members of the public for their comments and questions.

18. Meeting Schedule and Reminders


A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in the public is scheduled for December 12, 2023.

19. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6.57pm





Secretary-Treasurer