

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC  
AGENDA  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

**Board:**

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

**Student Trustees:**

Riordan Fisher, L.V. Rogers Secondary  
Micah Lucchetta, J.V. Humphries  
Amber Parsons, Kootenay River Secondary

**District Staff:**

T. Smillie, Superintendent  
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer  
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning Services  
C. Kerr, Director of Operations  
D. Leeming, MSSS Teacher  
S. Maloff, MSSS Principal  
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources  
K. Tamblyn, District Principal of International Education  
S. Bruszkowski, Executive Assistant

**Regrets:**

D. Holitzki, Director of Instruction – Equity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation  
S. Nazaroff, Trustee

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

**2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory**

**3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda**

Item 10B: Appointment for Recreation Commission 10 was added to the agenda.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

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

23/24-033

**THAT** the Agenda for this February 13, 2024 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

**5. Receiving Presentations – Nil**

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

**7. Consent Package – Nil**

**8. Adoption of Minutes**

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-034

**THAT** the minutes from the January 09, 2024 Meeting of the Board held in public  
**BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

**9. Future and Action Item Tracking**

**10. Education – Reports from the Superintendent**

A. Connected Learners Continuous Learning Report 2023-2024

Superintendent Smillie welcomed Director Eaton as well as students Soly Carpio, Eliza Early Janzen, and Sara Hurst from the Mount Sentinel Secondary School Performance and Media Academy who provided the Connected Learners Continuous Learning Report. The presentation outlined the alignment of the report to the Strategic Plan and included a video the students created with highlights from the Student Leadership Conference.

Recent developments and future actions items were presented to the Board.

Trustees thanked the students and staff for their amazing work. The video will be shared at Student Voice, the international program, and the district website.

B. International Education Annual Report

Superintendent Smillie welcomed District Principal of International Education, Kent Tamblyn who provided the International Education Annual Report. The International Education department hopes to increase enrolment over the next two years.

Chair Lang thanked District Principal Tamblyn for the presentation.

C. Board Authority Authorized Course Approval

Superintendent Smillie welcomed Director Eaton who presented two Board Authority Authorized Courses for approval as provided in the agenda package. Braille 11 was designed to allow visually impaired students expand their braille competency. The Adventure Tourism Leadership and Safety

(ATLAS) program was revised and addresses students with a strong personal or career interest in outdoor recreation.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-035

**THAT** the Board Authority Authorized courses

- Braille 11
- Adventure Tourism Leadership and Safety 12

**BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

D. School Completion Results 2022-2023

Superintendent Smillie highlighted that increased graduation rates can be seen as an indicator for the successful work of the district. Director Eaton presented the 2022-2023 First Time Graduation Rates and Six-Year Completion Rates. A long-term increase in first-time graduation rates can be observed in the district. While this rate dropped on a provincial level compared to the previous year, the first-time graduation rates remained constant within the district and now supersede the provincial average. Positive trends are observed in all areas, including first-time graduation rates among indigenous learners as well as learners with diverse abilities and six-year completion rates. Superintendent Smillie added that more work is to be done to continue these trends and to reach parity for Indigenous students.

Trustees expressed their enthusiasm about these trends and thanked staff for their continued hard work.

**11. Operations and Finance – Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer**

A. 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget

In a presentation, Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur compared the initial budget, which was created and approved based on best information available as of the spring 2023, to the 2023-2024 draft amended budget, which is based on the September 29, 2023 enrollment count and takes into consideration developments and adjustments that have occurred over the course of the 2023-2024 school year.

In response to a Trustee's question, director Kerr explained that the district has increased efforts towards upgrades that increase energy efficiencies.

Trustees thanked Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur for her presentation.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-036

**THAT** the Board of Education proceed to conclude three readings in one evening for the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2023/2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-037

- i. **THAT** the 2023-2024 Amended Budget Bylaw BE APPROVED as read a first time;
- ii. **THAT** the 2023-2024 Amended Budget Bylaw BE APPROVED as read a second time;
- iii. **THAT** the 2023-2024 Amended Budget Bylaw BE ADOPTED as read a third time.

The motion carried unanimously.

## 12. Governance and Policy

### A. Sustainability Policy Development Public Engagement Process

The Sustainability Policy Development Public Engagement process was presented by Superintendent Smillie for the Board's approval. As outlined in the Strategic Plan, the Board commits to respond to climate change. After the plan is approved, a committee will be formed to develop a proposed draft sustainability policy.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-038

**THAT** the Board of Education approves the Sustainability Policy Development Public Engagement Process.

The motion carried unanimously.

### B. Draft School Calendar 2026-2027 Approval for Consultation

Superintendent Smillie presented the draft school calendars 2026-2027.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-039

**THAT** the 2026-2027 school calendar **BE APPROVED** for posting on the website for field testing beginning on February 13, 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

### C. Policy Approval

- Policy 123: Board Representation and Liaison

Superintendent Smillie reported that the Policy Review Committee has redeveloped Policy 123: Board Representation and Liaison and asked the Board for approval of the revisions.

Discussion took place around the implications of the proposed changes.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-040

**THAT** Policy 123 **BE APPROVED**.

The motion carried with one opposed.

- Policy 621: Accumulated Operating Surplus

Policy 621: Accumulated Operating Surplus was amended to meet ministry requirements and was approved for field testing at the January 09, 2024 Meeting of the Board Held in Public. No feedback was received from the public during the field-testing period. The Policy Partner Advisory Committee met earlier in the day and recommended the approval of the revisions.

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

23/24-041

**THAT** Policy 621 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

**13. Human Resources – Nil**

**14. Other Items**

A. Response to BC Office of Human Rights – Chair

Chair Lang reported from a request of the BC Office of Human Rights to do a presentation on School Liaison Officers program. After consultations with other districts in the area, the request will be declined as none of them will be participating in the program.

B. Appointment for Recreation Commission 10

The role of the Recreation Commission 10 representative as well as the process for the appointment was discussed.

**15. Trustee Reports**

A. Trustees

- Trustee Chew reported from the work of the policy review committee. She attended the recreation commission meeting in Salmo.
- Trustee Trenaman echoed the outstanding work of the policy review committee and gave a shoutout to Dr. Christopher Horsethief who met with the Board in a working session on Indigenous learning on February 12.
- Trustee Shunter added that Dr. Horsethief chose the approach of storytelling which is a traditional way of learning through the heart. He suggested a future engagement of Dr. Horsethief at a professional development session.
- Vice-Chair Bremner attended DPAC meetings where she met very dedicated parents and gave a shoutout to the policy review committee.

- Trustee Blackmore echoed the learning in the working session with Dr. Christopher Horsethief.

B. Chair

Chair Lang completed the Indigenous Relations Academy. She attended several meetings with the Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB), including the KBB motion building session. She participated in several BCPSEA meetings, including AGM. Together with Superintendent Smillie she met with the Mayor of Salmo Mayor. After the BCSTA Advocacy meeting, she had a debrief with Superintendent Smillie and Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur.

C. BCSTA

Trustee Chew reported from sharing this role with Trustee Shunter who will attend Provincial council.

D. BCPSEA

Trustee Nazaroff sent her regrets.

E. RDCK

F. Other Committees

G. Student Trustees

- J.V. Humphries Student Trustee Micah Lucchetta reported that Semester 2 has started well. Skiing activities were planned for the next day. Student Trustee Daisy Lamoureux was unable to add to his report due to technical difficulties.
- Student Trustee Calvin Vander Horst from Mount Sentinel Secondary School highlighted the international Holocaust remembrance assembly at his school. A three-day chess tournament was held in the library. The middle years completed their ski program this week at Red Mountain. Valentine’s Day activities were scheduled for February 14.
- Kootenay River Secondary School Student Trustee Amber Parsons gave a shoutout to the student council Black History Month activities. Scholarships are being made available for graduates with money raised in the December dance event. The Green Team is working on a legacy project such as planning a tree or creating a butterfly garden. Preparations have begun for the pink shirt day assembly on February 28<sup>th</sup> as well as a basketball game which will be hosted at KRSS.

- Student Trustee Riordan Fisher from L.V. Rogers Secondary School reported from an impressive season for the basketball team. Photos of graduates are under way along with fundraisers and yearbook preparations. LVR is hosting an open house for students joining the school next year.

#### 16. Comments or Questions from the Public

Superintendent Smillie and Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur answered questions from the public, including about the Trustee assigned as DPAC representative in revised policy 123 is to ensure consistency. Other Trustees are welcome to attend and questions about the Wildflower calendar.

#### 17. Meeting Schedule and Reminders


##### A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board Held in Public is scheduled for March 12, 2024.

#### 18. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

  
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Board Chair

  
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Secretary-Treasurer