

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024**

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

Student Trustees: Amber Parsons, Kootenay River Secondary
Cassidy Popoff, Mount Sentinel Secondary
Calvin Vander Horst, Mount Sentinel Secondary

District Staff: T. Smillie, Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
T. Christiansen, Vice Principal
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning Services
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent
C. Kerr, Director of Operations
N. Muzzio, Manager of Information Technology
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
S. Bruszkowski, Executive Assistant

Regrets: K. Etheridge

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 14A “AP 1312: Media Relations” was added to the agenda.

Item 11E “Transactions over 50K” was added to the agenda.

4. Adoption of Agenda

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

23/24-042

THAT the Agenda for this March 12, 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:** 23/24-043
THAT the minutes from the February 13, 2024 Meeting of the Board held in public **BE**
ADOPTED, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Future and Action Item Tracking** – Nil
10. **Education** – Reports from the Superintendent

A. Caring and Inclusive Learning Communities Continuous Learning Report 2023-2024

Superintendent Smillie welcomed Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and her team to present the Caring and Inclusive Learning Communities Continuous Learning Report 2023-2024. The report demonstrates the districts' commitment for mental and physical wellbeing of all learners within the district as outlined in the strategic priorities.

Trustees thanked Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and her team for their work and for the report. In response to Trustees' questions, Assistant Superintendent Holitzki informed the Board that the district monitors how often and in what frequency support tools are used to ensure schools are provided with services they need. Support mechanisms are created to address the needs of vulnerable Kindergarten students.

B. Accessibility Legislation

Superintendent Smillie informed the Board of the implementation of the BC Accessibility Act. The district is working to ensure all people feel they belong in society. Assistant Superintendent Holitzki informed the Board that the district has started initiatives to remove barriers and increase accessibility and provide equitable support and meaningful engagement. The district conducted surveys with principals, trained inclusive education staff, and reviewed practices as well as policies for inclusive language, published a draft accessibility plan on the website, and developed and posted a feedback tool on website. An accessibility development working group was formed and an accessibility scan was developed. In a next step, a 3-year plan will be developed to outline priority areas and promote accessible and caring communities for all learners and staff members.

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

A. 2024-2025 Enrolment Projections and Projected Revenue

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the projected enrolment and its implications on the projected revenue. Enrolment is projected to decline by about 70 FTEs. As of the 2023-2024 per student FTE funding rates this would result in a 603,000 CAD reduction in operating grants. The Ministry of Education and Child Care will release preliminary enrolment-based funding allocations on their website on March 15, 2024, which will provide districts with details about operating funding and allow for budget planning. Enrolment projections are updated over time which will be reflected in budget drafts as well as the amended budget later in the year.

B. 2023-2024 Information Technology Annual Report

Manager of Information Technology, Muzzio, presented the annual information technology report which outlines how the department supports students and staff. The department monitors devices and initiated replacement planning for IT devices and supporting equipment as well as sustainability efforts to reduce environmental impacts.

In response to Trustees' questions, Manager Muzzio and Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur clarified that the video-surveillance system provides additional security and reduces vandalism. The district is moving towards a centralized server system for storage of the footage. Before creating its 3-year plan, the IT department conducts surveys to gather information and get feedback from schools.

C. 2024-2025 Trustee Remuneration

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur informed the Board that as per Policy 131: Trustee Indemnity, there will be an adjustment of the Trustee Remuneration in 2024-2025 which will match the CPI rate of 3.399%.

D. Quarterly Operations Update - Spring 2024

Director of Operations, Kerr, provided the Board with a quarterly update of capital operation projects as outlined in the memo. The district recently received 30 bear proof garbage bins which will be installed at schools this spring. Improvements at schools have a positive impact on the facility index. With a large influx of new students in the lower mainland, the district is not anticipating provincial funding for new school buildings in the near future.

E. Transactions over 50k

An explanation was sought for the \$145,000 payment to the Town of Creston which was provided by the Secretary Treasurer.

12. Governance and Policy

A. Approve 2026-2027 School Calendar

The draft 2026-2027 school calendar was posted for field testing. Feedback received was reviewed, including considerations for alignment with the SD20 calendar and alignment of early dismissal days.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-044
THAT the 2026-2027 school calendar **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Amend 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendars

Superintendent Smillie informed the Board of proposed adjustments in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school calendars to align early dismissal days with the new reporting order as well as the number of days in the Wildflower calendar.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-045
THAT the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school calendars **BE POSTED** for field testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Rescind Policies

Superintendent Smillie outlined why some policies were suggested to be rescinded:

1. Policy 210: Provision of Menstrual Products to Students

Rationale: the policy is of operational nature and was replaced by AP 3202 - Provision of Menstrual Products to Students.

2. Policy 270: Memorials for Deceased Members of the School Community

Rationale: the policy is of operational nature and was replaced by AP 1405 - Memorials for Deceased Members of the School Community.

3. Policy 720: Asbestos

Rationale: the policy is of operational nature and was replaced by AP 5901 – Asbestos and Appendix 5901 - Asbestos Management Plan.

4. Policy 760: Animal on School District Property

Rationale: the policy is of operational nature and was replaced by AP 1503 - Animals in Schools for Curricular Purposes, including Appendix 1503 A - Prohibited Animals, and Appendix 1503 B - Request to Introduce a Classroom Animal.

In response to one Trustee’s question, Superintendent Smillie outlines how APs are developed.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 23/24-046

THAT policies 210, 270, 720, and 760 **BE RESCINDED.**

The motion carried with one opposed.

13. **Human Resources** – Nil

14. **Other Items**

A. AP 1312: Media relations

AP 1312: Media relations will be revised and sections that regulate Board matters will be removed.

15. **Trustee Reports**

A. Trustees

- Trustee Trenaman participated in the PVP Pool interviews, went to Crawford Bay for a community consultation session organized by principal and staff which, and attended a JSAC meeting.
- Trustee Gribbin showed appreciation for Chair Lang keeping everyone on task by providing page numbers. He attended a French Advisory Council meeting.
- Vice Chair Bremner attended the DPAC meeting, the PVP pool interviews as well as two Policy Review Committee meetings.
- Trustee Shunter virtually attended the Provincial Council meeting.

B. Chair

Chair Lang attended multiple BCPSEA meetings over the past month.

C. BCSTA

Trustee Chew reported that the BCSTA has created an Advocacy Advisory Panel.

D. BCPSEA

Trustee Nazaroff attended BCPSEA training for representatives.

E. RDCK

Trustee Nazaroff reported that there is a shift of RDCK in the Slocan Valley. There is a focus on creating possibilities for public land use.

F. Other Committees – Nil

G. Student Trustees

- Mount Sentinel Secondary Student Trustee Vander Horst provided details on multiple MSSS students who participated in Skills BC and won gold, silver, and bronze medals. Some of them will take the next step and go to provincials, to further adapt their skills.
- Mount Sentinel Secondary Student Trustee Popoff reported that the Basketball season has concluded. The team has grown, thanks to their great coaches. The Green Team will coordinate a plastic awareness week and teach students in classroom visits how plastic affects their health. Student council coordinated activities around dressing up and school spirit.
- Kootenay River Secondary Student Trustee Parsons reported that scholarships were due the upcoming Friday. There will be a spring fling in April, and Drama Club is going to London over spring break.

16. Comments or Questions from the Public – Nil

17. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings


The next Meeting of the Board held in the public is scheduled for April 09, 2024.

18. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer