

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC AND INAUGURAL MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

Board:

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

Student Trustees:

L. Catherall, KRSS
L. Chevalier, MSSS
R. Cuff, JVH
K. Fitz-Earle, LVR
G. Klassen, KRSS

District Staff:

D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
C. Kerr, Director of Operations
C. Makeiv, District Teacher Coordinator
T. Malloff, District Principal – Innovative Learning
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Regrets:

T. Smillie, Superintendent

1. Call to Order – Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur

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

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Trustee Positions & Appointments

A. Election of Board Chair (12 month term)

Trustee Chew was acclaimed Chair of the Board of Education.

The meeting recessed at 5:02 PM and reconvened at 5:04 PM.

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

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

B. Election of Board Vice-Chair (12 month term)

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

C. Election of Provincial Representative and Alternates (12 month term)

- BCSTA Provincial Councilor

Trustee Shunter was appointed BCSTA Provincial Councilor.

- BCPSEA Representative

Trustee Gribbin accepted and Trustee Lang declined their respective nominations.

Trustee Gribbin was appointed BCPSEA Representative.

- BCSTA Provincial Councilor Alternate

Trustee Blackmore was appointed BCSTA Provincial Councilor Alternate.

- BCPSEA Representative Alternate

Chair Chew was appointed BCPSEA Representative Alternate.

D. Notice for Expression of Interest for Representing the Interests of the Board of Education in Roles at Other Committees (12 month term)

Chair Chew asked Trustees to express interest in the following roles within the upcoming two weeks via email:

- Accessibility Committee (1 seat)
- Joint Safety Advisory Committee (JSAC) (2 seats)
- Policy Review Committee: (1 Trustee seat in addition to Policy PAC chair and Board Chair)

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

All positions had been acclaimed and no ballots needed to be destroyed.

4. Changes to the Proposed Agenda

Item 5A *Letter from Chair Lang to the Minister of Transportation and Transit* from the correspondence package was added to the agenda.

Item 13A *KBB Draft Motions Final Review* was added to the agenda.

5. Consent Package Questions

A. Letter from Chair Lang to the Minister of Transportation and Transit

A Trustee brought to the presenters' attention, in relation to Item 7B, the Chair's letter to the Minister of Transportation and Transit, as included in the correspondence package of the agenda, noting its close connection to the group's request.

6. Adoption of Agenda

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

25/26-012

THAT the Agenda for this November 4, 2025 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Receiving Public Presentations

A. Nelson and Area Active Transportation Presentation

Guest speakers: Selena Davis, Andrew Murray, Brooke Jones

The Board of Education received a presentation from Nelson & Area Community Transportation (NACT) on *Nelson & Area Cycling Education*.

Trustees asked questions regarding the details of proposed action items related to promoting sustainability, cycling safety, and the associated funding model.

B. Highway 3 Bypass Presentation – KLTF

Guest speakers: Josh Nicol, Kat Takeda, Nadine Bala

The Board of Education received a presentation from KLTF on the planned Highway 3 Bypass in Creston.

The presenting group responded to questions from Trustees and requested that the information be shared with the Town of Creston. The group also asked to be included in future correspondence related to this matter.

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

9. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-013

THAT the minutes from the October 14, 2025 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. Numeracy Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki introduced the 2025-2026 Numeracy Continuous Learning Report, noting numeracy as a district-wide priority to improve proficiency for all learners. Together with District Principal Malloff and District Teacher Coordinator Makeiv, she presented the district's three-year action plan (2024-2027) focused on data-informed instruction, professional learning, and equitable outcomes.

The presentation highlighted the Numeracy Coherence Model, which integrates assessment tools such as the Early Numeracy Profile (ENP), Number Sense Assessment (NSA), and Graduation Numeracy Assessment (GNA) to inform school learning plans. Key initiatives include early numeracy work in K-3, development of a K-9 Numeracy Framework, and collaboration through Communities of Practice and School Learning Plan Grants.

Trustees commended the emphasis on early numeracy and data alignment and inquired about supports for priority learners and sharing best practices. In response, staff outlined how assessments identify learning gaps and guide supports for students and parents.

B. Winter Celebrations

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki reminded attendees of the upcoming winter celebrations in December and provided an update on the event date for Trafalgar Middle School which was moved from December 4th to December 3rd. She noted that all other events will proceed as outlined in the agenda package and that Trustees will receive individual invitations from schools.

12. Operations and Finance – Nil

13. Governance and Policy

A. KBB Draft Motions Final Review

SD8 is part of the Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB), a regional division. The Board was asked to support bringing two motions forward to the regional branch for consideration.

TITLE: BCSTA Policy Book Reference to Child Care and Learning

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-014

THAT the BCSTA:

- Review the BCSTA Policy Book to ensure that child care is represented in its foundational statements;
- Updates its Policy Book to make current the name “Ministry Education and Child Care”;
- Define roles and responsibilities of school districts; and,
- Ensure that advocacy for child care and learning is represented in its policy statements; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

TITLE: Child Care Funding to School Districts

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-015

THAT the BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care, Ministry of Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Finance considers a funding model that provides for the BC Education and Child Care funding model to provide for predictable, sustainable funding and capital project funding for development of child care spaces and expands 10-dollar-a-day child care and learning in school facilities; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

14. Human Resources – Nil

15. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees

• **LVR (Student Trustee Fitz-Earle)**

Student Trustee Fitz-Earle reported an energetic fall season at L.V. Rogers Secondary. The school raised \$3,300 for the Terry Fox Foundation through student and staff efforts, while athletics and intramural programs continue to thrive—highlighted by the girls’ junior volleyball team’s first place win in Oliver. LVR’s house system has fostered strong school spirit, and students have participated in a variety of community learning trips and upcoming art collaborations with Wildflower School. The school is also preparing

for its Remembrance Day ceremony and recently hosted more than 10 post-secondary recruiters for senior students.

- **KRSS (Student Trustee Klassen)**

Student Trustee Klassen reported an active fall at Kootenay River Secondary, with student leadership and clubs contributing to a vibrant school culture. Student Council hosted a spirited week of activities in late October and is planning a Winter Wonderland dance and November bake sale. The Art Club organized a silent auction supporting both local and national charities, while students are developing a new house system and debate club. The foods program continues to serve meals four days a week, complemented by a wide range of after-school clubs, sports, and leadership initiatives.

- **JVH (Student Trustee Cuff)**

Student Trustee Cuff reported a busy and engaging fall season at JVH. The school held a Halloween door decorating contest judged by intermediate students, followed by a high school-wide Halloween celebration organized by Student Parliament. Activities included a costume contest, pumpkin carving, candy toss, and musical chairs, all designed to foster school spirit and connection across grades. Safety drills for fire and earthquake preparedness were also completed during the week, ensuring a fun and proactive close to October.

- **MSSS (Student Trustee Chevalier)**

Student Trustee Chevalier reported a positive and active fall at Mount Sentinel Secondary. Students participated in a variety of community and school events, including Spirit Week, the Halloween costume contest, and several athletics tournaments. The Grad class is leading fundraising initiatives for upcoming activities, while leadership students are planning winter events to continue building school spirit. Academic engagement remains strong, with students taking part in cross-curricular projects and preparing for the upcoming reporting period.

B. Trustees

- Vice Chair Bremner attended the Student Leadership Conference in Creston, noting it was a valuable event focused on mental health. She also attended the Indigenous Education Council meeting, the first with full membership present, and looks forward to the committee's upcoming work and recommendations.
- Trustee Trenaman attended the Student Leadership Conference in Creston and expressed appreciation for the learning opportunity. She also attended Part 1 of a webinar on artificial intelligence and its impact on education.
- Trustee Blackmore attended the Student Leadership Conference in Creston and commended the keynote presentation on the Open Parachute program. She noted the district is well-resourced to support student mental health and wellbeing and commented on the user-friendly nature of the district's portal.
- Trustee Shunter attended the Student Leadership Conference in Creston and participated in a School Board Trustees Climate Caucus call.

- Trustee Nazaroff attended a BCSTA workshop on artificial intelligence, reflecting on the role of educational leaders in helping students flourish. She also attended the Student Leadership Conference in Creston and a meeting of a literacy council.

C. Chair

Former Chair Lang expressed appreciation to Vice Chair Bremner for her leadership and support while fulfilling additional responsibilities over the past few months. She noted it had been an honour to serve as Chair and extended congratulations to the newly elected Chair and re-elected Vice Chair.

Chair Chew noted that the upcoming BCSTA Academy will be held shortly.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

See above.

E. British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

Trustee Lang noted that she had previously forwarded information from BCPSEA to the Board. Trustee Gribbin will assume this role moving forward, with the understanding that certain information may be confidential and shared only with Trustees not in conflict.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)

Vice Chair Bremner reported that the AGM was deferred to November 20 at 6:00 p.m. PST due to a lack of quorum at the beginning of the last DPAC meeting. Parents had expressed concerns regarding effective methods of information sharing.

G. Other

16. Comments or Questions from the Public

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki responded to a question from DPAC Representative Nazaroff regarding the distribution of DPAC emails to parents. She noted that this is an operational matter and will be addressed by the Superintendent in collaboration with staff.

17. Meeting Schedule and Reminders


A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for December 9, 2025.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.


Board Chair


Secretary-Treasurer